

QUESTIONS FOR CSC AGM

I consider that my compulsory entry into DFRDB was a condition of employment and one of these conditions was that on my demise my spouse would receive 62.5% of my entitlement had I not commuted. Following the 1977 amendment to the DFRDB Act my spouse's benefit is being progressively reduced. Is CSC aware of this issue and has it ever been raised with the Minister?

At the time of my discharge there was no planned Resettlement Seminar, and I was briefed on my DFRDB entitlements, including Commutation by an untrained pay clerk. As the administrators of the scheme, I consider CSC had a responsibility to ensure that anyone providing information was fully trained. Is the training of Unit resettlement Officers and NCO's required to inform members of their entitlements a CSC responsibility if not who was responsible?

The CSC brochure I received in 1986 did not include any statement that could be interpreted by ADF members that Commutation resulted in a life-long penalty. Thousands of ex ADF members were clearly misled by these brochures and yet it took CSC until 2004 to clarify their interpretation of the Act. Has CSC ever raised this issue with the Minister?

At my resettlement seminar the CSC presenter issued a single page document to members wishing to commute, that is the covering instruction pages had been removed. The reasons given were that all required information had been provided during the briefing. There was no mention of Commutation being a lifelong penalty. Does CSC consider this to be misleading information and what action has ever been taken?

I did not commute and duly received my full superannuation entitlement until the first indexation when an amount equal to the annual amount my superannuation would have been reduced had I commuted was deleted from indexation. Has CSC ever raised this completely unfair application of the Act with the Minister?

Are there any other superannuation schemes administered by CSC where a lump sum option is available, and some form of life expectancy is applied to the amount of annual reduction?

As a DFRDB recipient I request you provide information on what penalties apply in the case of lump sums to all superannuation schemes administered by CSC?

At my resettlement seminar the CSC presenter clearly stated that anyone who did not commute was a fool. Was the presentation of misleading information condoned by CSC and did the presenter receive any form of commission based on the number of commutation applications received?

CSC as the administrators of the scheme must have been aware of the complexity of the DFRDB Act 1973 (the Jess committee stated the legislation was incomprehensible and reference was made by the Ombudsman to the difficulties of interpretation of the Act by members not trained in law). Has CSC ever raised this issue with the Minister?

On what grounds would CSC consider they have administered the Act with fairness by representing their members in a responsible manner?

My contributions into DFRDB went into the Consolidated Revenue Fund, no interest or employer contributions. Had these conditions been applied then the compound interest over 20+ years would have been substantial. The Government decided in 1972 that they would operate the scheme by guaranteeing future payment obligations (deferring the debt) On what grounds can CSC represent the DFRDB scheme as being generous?

The DFRB Act 1948 was an investment fund where interest was earned and based on this indexation was applied to only 5/7th of a member's entitlement. My understanding is that somehow this 5/7th has been carried on into the DFRDB scheme. On what section of the DFRDB Act 1973) has this action been taken?

Is indexation applied to my total superannuation entitlement or is there some formulae that reduces the amount to be indexed? If indexation does not apply to my full entitlement what section of the DFRDB Act 1973 provides CSC with the authority to take such action?

Like many of other DFRDB superannuants planned my retirement on the benefits I was told I was entitled to. I decided to take commutation based on readily available information from Service Chiefs (DoD) that on attaining life expectancy and repaid the Commonwealth in full for my advance of future entitlements that my superannuation would revert to full entitlement. I now find that written Defence Instructions have been disregarded by CSC. As the administrators of the Act did CSC ever raise this issue with the Minister?

DFRDB members have been writing to CSC on Commutation issues since about 1973 yet it took until 2004 for CSC to issue a handbook that clearly stated that Commutation was a lifelong penalty. Surely this lack of clarification during the period when most DFRDB members were taking discharge amounts to "misleading information". Is CSC prepared to advise the Minister that for 31 years they misled the DFRDB community?

As the administrator of the DFRDB scheme, CSC must understand the purpose of the governing legislation, the DFRDB Act. Therefore, please explain:

- (1) Why the entitlements to retirement pay, Class C invalidity pay, spouse's pensions, children's pensions and orphan's pensions are being progressively reduced by;
 - (a) the exclusion from indexation of a part of retirement pay and Class C invalidity pay; and
 - (b) linking the indexation increases directly to the Consumer Price Index, known for its failure to maintain pace with the cost of living?

As the administrator of the DFRDB scheme, CSC must understand the purpose of the governing legislation, the DFRDB Act. Therefore, please explain:

Why arbitrary life expectancy factors, from outdated life expectancy tables, are used to determine the reduction of retirement pay and invalidity pay after commutation

As the administrator of the DFRDB scheme, CSC must understand the purpose of the governing legislation, the DFRDB Act. Therefore, please explain:

Why the reduction of retirement pay and invalidity pay after commutation is permanent rather than proportionate to that arbitrary life expectancy?