EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO

THE PERSONAL INJURIES (CIVILIANS) SCHEME (AMENDMENT) ORDER 2026

2026 No. 261

1. Introduction

1.1 This Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared by the Ministry of Defence and is laid before Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

2. Declaration

2.1 Louise Sandher-Jones MP, Minister for Veterans and People at the Ministry of Defence confirms that this Explanatory Memorandum meets the required standard.

2.1 James Greenrod, Head of Armed Forces People Support, at the Ministry of Defence confirms that this Explanatory Memorandum meets the required standard.

3. Contact

3.1 Laura Dearnley at the Ministry of Defence can be contacted by email at the following address with any queries regarding the instrument: AFCompensationPolicy@mod.gov.uk. Alternatively, the department can be contacted by post: [Central Correspondence Unit, MoD Main Building (Zone 5A), Whitehall London, SW1A 2HB].

Part One: Explanation, and context, of the Instrument

4. Overview of the Instrument

What does the legislation do?

4.1 The Personal Injuries (Civilians) Scheme 1983 ("the PI(C)S") provides for the payment of pensions and allowances to or in respect of civilians or civil defence volunteers who were killed or injured in World War Two.

4.2 The Personal Injuries (Civilians) Scheme (Amendment) Order 2026 provides for the increase of the rates of retired pay, pensions, gratuities and allowances payable under the PI(C)S. The Order will amend Schedules 3 and 4 of the PI(C)S to give effect to the increases.

Where does the legislation extend to, and apply?

4.3 The extent of this instrument (that is, the jurisdiction(s) which the instrument forms part of the law of) is the United Kingdom.

4.4 The territorial application of this instrument (that is, where the instrument produces a practical effect) is the United Kingdom.

5. Policy Context

What is being done and why?

5.1 The instrument provides for the uprating of pension and allowances payable under the PI(C)S. There are no other amendments to any of the articles. Although uprating is discretionary, the long-established practice is to increase the rates annually in April. The rates are increased in accordance with the principles that the Department for Work and Pensions use for uprating social security disability benefits. The basic war pension

and war widow(er)s pension will therefore rise by 3.8 per cent together with all of the allowances payable with effect from 6 April 2026. The scheme provides for a very small cohort of elderly recipients.

What was the previous policy, how is this different?

5.2 The PI(C)S (Amendment) Order is uprated annually, in line with the Department of Work and Pensions rates. No material changes are usually made to this scheme.

6. Legislative and Legal Context

How has the law changed?

6.1 The instrument substitutes the tables in Schedules 3 and 4 of the PI(C)S, in order to affect an annual uprating to the rates prescribed for pensions and allowances in respect of disablement or death.

Why was this approach taken to change the law?

6.2 This change can only be affected by law. Amending the PI(C)S is a necessary and proportionate means of ensuring claimants under the scheme do not lose value on their pensions and allowances.

7. Consultation

Summary of consultation outcome and methodology

7.1 No consultation was required, as MOD is not seeking to amend any articles in the PI(C)S Order.

8. Applicable Guidance

8.1 All persons in receipt of a pension or allowance will be notified of the annual increase in the rates by letter.

Part Two: Impact and the Better Regulation Framework

9. Impact Assessment

9.1 A full Impact Assessment has not been prepared for this instrument because there is no significant impact on the public sector, businesses, charities or voluntary bodies.

Impact on businesses, charities and voluntary bodies

9.2 There is no, or no significant, impact on business, charities or voluntary bodies.

9.3 The legislation does not impact small or micro businesses.

9.4 There is no, or no significant, impact on the public sector.

10. Monitoring and review

What is the approach to monitoring and reviewing this legislation?

10.1 The approach to monitoring this legislation is that these provisions are subject to continued monitoring and review.

10.2 The instrument does not include a statutory review clause.

Part Three: Statements and Matters of Particular Interest to Parliament

11. Matters of special interest to Parliament

11.1 None.

12. European Convention on Human Rights

12.1 As the instrument is subject to negative procedure and does not amend primary legislation, no statement is required.

13. The Relevant European Union Acts

13.1 This instrument is not made under the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018, the European Union (Future Relationship) Act 2020 or the Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Act 2023 ("relevant European Union Acts").