



## **GUIDANCE NOTE (GN 06/22): THE PRINCIPLES OF NATURAL JUSTICE**

**REVISED DECEMBER 2025**

Where a person's legal rights are concerned, the principles of natural justice are bolstered by Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights which is now incorporated into domestic law by the Human Rights Act 1998.

The principles of natural justice concern procedural fairness and ensure a fair decision is reached by an objective decision-maker.

There are three central principles of natural justice:

- (a) the right to have a case heard by an unbiased and impartial tribunal;
- (b) the right to a fair hearing; and
- (c) the right to reasoned decisions.

All applications to the Troubles Permanent Disablement Payment Scheme (the Scheme) will be considered in accordance with the principles of natural justice, within the provisions of the Victims' Payments Regulations 2020 (the Regulations).

At each stage of determination, applicants will be afforded the following:

- the right to have the determination made by an impartial, independent panel of Board member(s);
- the right to have all relevant evidence considered and irrelevant evidence not taken into account;
- the right to a summary of the reasons for the determination;
- the right to know the information upon which a determination has been made;
- the right to an oral hearing where a panel considers there are exceptional circumstances which make it necessary to do so in the interests of justice.

At the appeal stage, the following will additionally apply:

- the right to be provided with the same information as under consideration by the appeal panel and upon which the determination will be made;
- the right to an oral hearing;

- the right to provide additional evidence and written submissions in accordance with the Oral Hearing Protocol;
- prior to a decision being made, the right to refute or comment on any information upon which an unfavourable decision may be based.

This guidance provides a framework to support the principles of natural justice in the context of the Regulations but is not intended to restrict or fetter the ability of panels to exercise judgement on a case-by-case basis.