



**Hampshire
& Isle of Wight**
FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY

HIWFRA Firefighters Pension Board

Purpose: Noted

Date: **18 APRIL 2024**

Title: **LEGISLATION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
(LGA) UPDATE REPORT**

Report of Chief Financial Officer

SUMMARY

1. This report, together with attachments, provides the framework for this agenda item.

FPS BULLETINS

2. The LGA issue a bulletin at the end of each month, they are emailed out to a variety of contacts but can also be accessed via the www.fpsregs.org website. The bulletins contain a lot of information, and the key items are highlighted in this report.
3. There have been three bulletins issued since the last Fire Pension Board reports were written. Bulletins 77 and 78 can be found in APPENDICES A – B.

REQUESTS FOR DATA (BULLETIN 77)

4. The LGA requested data on the implementation of the Matthews exercise. The deadline for supplying this data was met. Additionally, data on member opt outs was requested as the Home Office are reviewing employee contribution rates. This data was partially supplied as it was not possible to populate all fields within the time available.

MATTHEWS GAD CALCULATOR (BULLETIN 77)

5. An updated version of the Government Actuaries Department calculator for members who purchased service under the first options exercise has been released. A list of scenarios that will need to be calculated by GAD have also been released. Currently no members who meet these scenarios have been identified.
6. The bulletin also contains information about query logs.

McCLOUD AGE DISCRIMINATION REMEDY (BULLETIN 77)

7. The bulletin also contained a number of actions relating to the age discrimination remedy. Some of these, such as Added Pension Compensation and injury pension calculations for retained firefighters appointed before 5 April 2006 are not relevant to our service as we have no cases.
8. Data sharing for the McCloud remedy was also covered. Data sharing agreements have been produced and data sharing is underway with relevant other Fire and Rescue Services. This will allow remedy to progress for people who moved services during the remedy period.
9. Board members may recall that the position on Contingent Decisions relating to transfers in or out of pensions was unresolved. This bulletin resolved this position by stating that contingent decisions are not required for transfers.
10. The bulletin contains a fact sheet on remediable service statements. This doesn't present new information, just brings existing information into one place. It also links to query logs for the McCloud remedy.

THE PENSION REGULATOR – SIX KEY PROCESSES (BULLETIN 77)

11. TPR have produced six fact sheets on key processes that are indicators of public sector scheme performance. It is recommended that a review of these fact sheets to assess compliance is undertaken within the next six months and before the next Governance and Administration survey.

PUBLIC SECTOR PENSION INCREASE (BULLETIN 77)

12. FPS pensions will increase by 6.7% from 8 April 2024, with a lower, pro-rata increase for pensions that started after 23 April 2023. This in line with CPI. Active FPS pension accounts will be revalued in line with Average Weekly Earnings and will increase by 7.7% from 1 April 2024.
13. These changes will be implemented by Pension Services.

TRAINING SESSIONS FOR PENSION BOARD MEMBERS (BULLETIN 77)

14. There are training sessions for Board members on the following dates:
 - (a) 17 June 2024 13:00 – 17:00 (MS Teams)
 - (b) 18 September 2024 – 11:00 – 15:30 (In person, London)
 - (c) 23 January 2025 10:00 – 14:00 (MS Teams).
15. Board members are invited to consider their availability to attend.

MATTHEWS GAD CALCULATOR CORRECTIONS (BULLETIN 78)

16. Some corrections to the GAD calculator are highlighted in this bulletin. These corrections are following feedback from FRAs and highlight the challenges and complexity of completing the calculator. There have also been updates to the statements of details used when notifying members of their entitlements.

SCHEME MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE SURVEY (BULLETIN 78)

17. An extensive survey was issued as a temperature check for pensions administrators on the progress in implementing the remedy. There were a large number of granular questions and it was not possible to complete the survey in the required timeframe. Hampshire Pension Services did feedback separately on progress.

APPOINTMENT TO THE BLUE LIGHT TEAM (BULLETIN 78)

18. Sandra Sedgwick joins the team as Firefighters Pension Adviser. She previously worked for Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service.

LIFETIME ALLOWANCE GUIDANCE (BULLETIN 78)

19. HMRC have published guidance on the detailed practical implications of the abolition of the lifetime allowance. These mainly relate to scenarios which are very unlikely to affect the vast majority of members of the FPS.

RECOMMENDATION

20. That the content of the report be noted by the HIWFRA Firefighters' Pension Board

APPENDICES ATTACHED

21. APPENDIX A – [FPS Bulletin 77 January 2024 \(fpsregs.org\)](https://www.fpsregs.org) (January 2024)
22. APPENDIX B – [FPS Bulletin 78 - February 2024 \(fpsregs.org\)](https://www.fpsregs.org) (February 2024)

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