



**HAMPSHIRE
FIRE AND
RESCUE
AUTHORITY**

Purpose: Noted

Date **15 July 2020**

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

Report of Chief Finance Officer

SUMMARY

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

FPS BULLETINS

2. LGA issue a bulletin at the end of each month; there have been six bulletins issued since the last Fire Pension Board report. The bulletins are emailed out to a variety of contacts but can also be accessed via the www.fpsregs.org website.
3. Bulletins 28 to 33 can be found in APPENDICES A to F. There is a lot of information contained within these bulletins; the key items are set out below.

SARGEANT CASE – IMMEDIATE EVENTS (BULLETIN 28)

4. LGA requested data about members with immediate events as these cases are a priority to resolve for remedy.
5. They have also suggested that for Ill Health Retirements from the 2015 scheme that these are reviewed. This is because the medical assessment will have been based on the 2015 Fire Pension Scheme rules, and remedy may require them to be put back into their previous final salary scheme which means that their Ill Health Retirement will need to be assessed under the 1992 or 2006 Fire Pension Scheme rules.
6. Data for the numbers of immediate events for Hampshire FRA was submitted, and the table of information is below:

Type	Claimants	Non-Claimants
Ill-Health		
No ill-health pension in payment because 2015 scheme lower ill-health criteria not met	0	0
Tier 1 in payment only (refused higher tier in 2015 scheme)	0	2
Tier 2 in payment under 2015 scheme	0	0
Immediate retirements		
Meet 50+ >25 yr service between 01/01/2020 and 31/12/2020	0	106
Taper		
Due to taper between 01/01/2020 and 31/12/2020	0	23
TOTAL	0	131

MEDICAL APPEALS (BULLETIN 29)

7. The Home Office appointed Duradiamond Healthcare (DHC) as the new Board of Medical Referees (BMR) contractor from 1 October 2019. This Board would be used to consider any medical appeals.
8. Each FRA is required to sign the call-off contract and complete a new account form with DHC so that they can be set up as a client for invoicing purposes; HR are in the process of doing this.
9. The cost of any medical appeal going to the BMR is charged directly to the FRA, but if the appeal is found to be in favour of the FRA then some or all of the cost of the appeal hearing can be passed to the member, the member is informed of this (and the cost) at the outset. The schedule of charges is set out below.

TABLE A – Service charges	Cost Per Appeal
Service provided	
A1 - Standard Appeal heard by 3 Board Member (total cost of Appeal)	£ 6,315.54 +VAT
A2 - Additional cost (per appeal) per member if additional consultant physician(s) required (as per – Statement of Requirements)	£ 800.00 +VAT

REFUNDS OF NICs TO 2006 MODIFIED SCHEME MEMBERS (BULLETIN 29)

10. When a member was part of a Contracted-Out pension scheme, they paid a lower rate of National Insurance contributions, this was the case until 5 April 2016, when Contracting Out was ceased.

11. The 2006 Fire Pension Scheme was Contracted Out from 6 April 2006. The 2006 Modified Fire Pension Scheme backdated this to 1 July 2000. Part of the work involved in the Modified Fire Pension Scheme was to notify HMRC about all the members.
12. To enable HMRC to pay refunds of National Insurance contributions to those members, HMRC needed a revised Contracted Out certificate completed to show the new start date of the scheme as 1 July 2000. This was completed and sent to HMRC in February 2020.

ANNUAL ALLOWANCE (BULLETIN 30)

13. In the spring budget on 11 March 2020, the Chancellor announced changes to the threshold income and adjusted income limits that are used to work out a tapered Annual Allowance.
14. From 6 April 2020, the adjusted income limit will rise to £240,000 (increased from £150,000) and the threshold income limit will rise to £200,000 (increased from £110,000). The Chancellor also reduced the minimum tapered Annual Allowance from £10,000 to £4,000.
15. The threshold income is broadly your total taxable income from all sources after any pension contributions. These changes mean that you won't be subject to the tapered annual allowance if your threshold income for that year is £200,000 or less, no matter what your adjusted income is.

INTERNAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCEDURE (BULLETIN 30)

16. The SAB have agreed that data on Internal Dispute Resolution Procedure (IDRP) should be collected on an annual basis, to collect numbers and any emerging themes.
17. We reported to LGA that for the year 2019/20 HFRA received one Stage One IDRP. The reason for the IDRP was maladministration and the IDRP was upheld. This case was reported to the Fire Pension Board at the meeting held on 7 February 2020.
18. The LGA have issued some updated guidance for IDRPs which is in line with our established IDRP processes.

2015 SCHEME ADDED PENSION FACTSHEET (BULLETIN 32)

19. The Fire Communications Working Group (FCWG) have produced a factsheet for the purchase of additional pension within the 2015 scheme. This can be found on the www.fpsregs.org website and in APPENDIX G.

RECOMMENDATION

20. The Board are asked to note the contents of this report.

APPENDICES ATTACHED

21. APPENDIX A - [FPS Bulletin 28 January 2020](#)
22. APPENDIX B - [FPS Bulletin 29 February 2020](#)
23. APPENDIX C – [FPS Bulletin 30 March 2020](#)
24. APPENDIX D – [FPS Bulletin 31 April 2020 \(interim\)](#)
25. APPENDIX E – [FPS Bulletin 32 April 2020](#)
26. APPENDIX F – [FPS Bulletin 33 May 2020](#)
27. APPENDIX G - [2015 FPS Added Pension factsheet](#)

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