

Firefighter Pension Calculator Frequently Asked Questions

Introduction

This calculator is for estimated purposes only and is not a guarantee of future benefits. It is not intended to provide you with financial advice. If you require financial advice, you should contact an independent financial adviser.

What does the Calculator Provide?

The calculator offers an illustration of benefits, presented in today's money terms, that may become payable at a retirement date selected by you. It shows benefits payable for each scheme you have been a member of and also includes an estimate of the maximum lump sum that could be payable.

The calculator also makes available a printable copy of the results

Using the Calculator

Notes are provided alongside the input fields to give guidance on the inputs required. Notes should also be read to fully understand the results produced. The illustration reflects the information you input, which includes pensionable pay, service (part time and full time) and selected retirement date. You may also need to know how much service you transferred into the FPS or NFPS. If you are unsure of this information, you could check on a recent Annual Benefit Statement or contact the SPPA.

What assumptions does the Calculator make?

The calculator assumes you remain in active service and on your current part time or full time hours up to your selected retirement date. The calculator notes provide more information on the assumptions used, which include long term inflation at 2% CPI, and salary growth at three different rates. Short-term salary growth (to 2020) is set at 1% per annum.

Which circumstances aren't addressed?

It has not been practicable to include every scenario in this initial version, however the calculator does provide results applicable in most cases. Any change to your future hours (full time/part time or pay), will affect the results, and any other provision such as added years or added pension is not included. In addition, your benefits may be subject to tax charges, such as scheme debits for annual allowance or lifetime allowance. The calculator does not produce an illustration for retirement on the grounds of ill-health.

How are Benefits calculated?

Benefits are calculated using your service and pensionable pay, and the assumption used to revalue CARE benefits. The results produced depend on your scheme membership, and full information on the rate that benefits are accrued

is available in the scheme guides on the SPPA website.

If you have membership in the 2015 scheme and have selected a retirement date before your 60th birthday, the benefits will be actuarially reduced to reflect the fact they would be payable before Normal Pension Age. The factors used to calculate lump sums and early retirement are those that currently apply. Factors are subject to review by the scheme actuary and those in force when you come to retire may lead to different results

Normal Pension Age

Your normal pension age depends on which scheme(s) you hold membership in:

- The 1992 scheme provides you with a right to retire upon reaching 30 years' service from age 50, or on reaching age 50 with 25 years' service.
- The normal pension age for the 2006 scheme is 60, although you can retire from age 55 with actuarially-reduced benefits.
- The normal pension age for the 2015 scheme is 60, although you can retire from age 55 with actuarially-reduced benefits.

If you have a mixture of 1992 and 2015 membership, you can still claim the portion of your 1992 benefits on reaching your earliest pension age in that scheme. However you will not be able to claim your 2015 benefits until you are at least age 55, and they will be actuarially reduced by reference to your State Pension Age.

Questions?

If you have any questions about the information contained in this factsheet, please contact the SPPA by:

Post:

7 Tweedside Park,
Tweedbank,
Galashiels
TD1 3TE.

Email: sppafirepensions@gov.scot

Telephone: 01896 893080

