

Retained firefighter appointed before 6 April 2006

Dear xxxxxxxx

The Firefighters' Pension Scheme (Scotland) Order 2006

Option for retained firefighters¹ to join the New Firefighters' Pension Scheme

When you joined the Fire and Rescue Service, although you were covered by the same injury and compensation provisions as applied to regular firefighters, you could not join the Firefighters' Pension Scheme.

The New Firefighters' Pension Scheme ("NFPS"), made under the Firefighters' Pension Scheme (Scotland) Order 2006, has been introduced and has retrospective effect from 6 April 2006. The NFPS provides pension cover for regular firefighters and retained firefighters who are appointed on or after 6 April 2006. It will also apply to any retained firefighter appointed before 6 April 2006 and serving on that day.

What does this mean for you?

Because you were serving as a retained firefighter before 6 April 2006 you can elect, if you wish, to join the NFPS –

(a) with effect from 6 April 2006, or

(b) with effect from a later date.

If you elect to join you will pay pension contributions at the rate of 8.5% of pensionable pay. Consequently, if you wish to backdate membership, you will be required to pay arrears of contributions.

If you have a contract as a regular firefighter, either with the same or a different fire and rescue authority, and are a member of the NFPS in both the regular and retained employments, there is a limit to the service you may accrue in the scheme under the two contracts. This has been set at 45 years. The Department for Communities and Local Government will be keeping this limit under review to see whether it can be justified. If you should exceed the cap you will be entitled to a repayment of excess contributions.

Whether or not you elect to join as a retained firefighter you will retain the cover of the injury and compensation provisions as set out in the Firefighters' Compensation Scheme 2006. Retained firefighters appointed on or after 6 April 2006 are covered by the Compensation Scheme on similar terms to those which apply to part-time regular firefighters. However those like yourself, who before 6 April 2006 had cover similar to that which applies to whole-time firefighters, will retain that whole-time level of cover. A Guide to the Compensation Scheme is available on the intranet [\[insert link\]](#) or on the firepensions website at <http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1164954>

Contents of the pack

¹ "Retained firefighter" means a retained duty system firefighter, a day-crewing firefighter while undertaking retained duties, or a volunteer firefighter.

GROUP C: Letter Final

If you have any questions about membership of the NFPS or would like further information about this options exercise, please contact –

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Yours sincerely

Please note:

Whether or not you decide to be a member of the NFPS this will not prejudice your position in regard to the outcome of the Employment Tribunal reconsideration of the case brought under the Part-Time Workers (Prevention of Less Favourable Treatment) Regulations and any option that might become available as a consequence of that reconsideration