

X FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

NEW FIREFIGHTERS' PENSION SCHEME 2006

**RETAINED FIREFIGHTER APPOINTED ON OR AFTER 6 APRIL 2006
ELECTION TO OPT OUT OF NEW FIREFIGHTERS' PENSION SCHEME
DURING OPTIONS EXERCISE**

On the coming into force of the Firefighters' Pension Scheme (Scotland) Order 2006 you have been brought automatically into the New Firefighters' Pension Scheme ("NFPS") in respect of your employment as a retained firefighter¹. If you do not wish to be a member, first read the information given in the covering letter, the enclosed guides, and below. Then if you decide you do wish to opt out, complete the reverse side of this form and return it to:

XX
XX

Please consider your position carefully before rejecting the NFPS. It –

- is a final salary, occupational pension specially designed for firefighters and which offers a guaranteed level of retirement benefits to its members; contributions to the scheme attract tax relief;
- provides early payment of benefits in the event of retirement on grounds of permanent ill-health; if the ill-health prevents any further regular employment, the benefits would normally be enhanced;
- provides early payment of benefits in the event of the Fire and Rescue Authority terminating employment at age 55 or over in the interests of the management of the service;
- allows early payment of actuarially reduced benefits to a person aged 55 or over who elects for a member-initiated early retirement pension;
- provides death benefits for a surviving spouse, civil partner, nominated partner and/or children, plus a death-in-service lump sum death grant of three times pensionable pay;
- is a public service pension scheme which allows inflation-proofing of pension fully in line with the Retail Price Index;
- is a pension scheme towards which your employer pays contributions.

There are limits on re-joining if you opt out of the NFPS and then change your mind.

If you choose to remain a member of the NFPS, you may still elect to cease to be a member at a later date. This is not your only opportunity. However this form is designed for those who wish to opt out during the Options Exercise, i.e. the period immediately following the coming into force of the NFPS and ending on 31 March 2007. If you wish to opt out after this period you should contact the Pension Scheme administrator at the above address for the appropriate form.

If you complete this form within 3 months of receipt, any pension contributions that you have paid will be returned to you.

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

First read the other side of this form

DECLARATION

I HAVE READ the literature issued to me relating to membership of the New Firefighters' Pension Scheme and I have decided that I do not wish to be a member of the Scheme in respect of my employment as a retained firefighter.

I UNDERSTAND that I am giving up my right to benefits from the New Firefighters' Pension Scheme and that having opted not to be a member I shall have only a limited right to future entry.

I FURTHER UNDERSTAND that if my decision not to be a member of the New Firefighters' Pension Scheme proves to be financially to my detriment, neither I nor my dependants will have any right to claim compensation or any form of gratuity in lieu of pension rights from the Fire and Rescue Authority.

Signed Date

Complete in **BLOCK CAPITALS**:

Surname

Forename(s)

Address

.....

National Insurance number

Work location

Date of commencement of employment

Employee number