

For Publication

Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Authority
Human Resources Policy and Challenge Group
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Item No. 14

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SUBJECT: FIREFIGHTER PENSION – 2017 REGULATION AMENDMENTS

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Background Papers:

- The Firemens Pension Scheme 1992
 - The New Firefighters Pension Scheme 2006
 - The Firefighters Compensation Scheme 2006
 - The Firefighters Pension Scheme 2015
 - Statutory Instruments 2017/892 & 2017/888
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Implications (tick ✓):

LEGAL		FINANCIAL	
HUMAN RESOURCES	X	EQUALITY IMPACT	
ENVIRONMENTAL		POLICY	
CORPORATE RISK	Known	OTHER (please specify)	
	New	CORE BRIEF	

Any implications affecting this report are noted at the end of the report.

PURPOSE:

To advise HR Policy & Challenge of recent changes in fire pension's legislation and the measures put into place to ensure compliance.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Members endorse the action taken following legislation changes.

Background

The Authority has responsibility for a number of fire pension schemes. The Scheme Manager responsibilities are delegated through the Chief Fire Officer. From time to time the Government makes changes to the regulations governing the schemes. This is usually done by way of amendment orders via the issuing of statutory

instruments. The Home Office laid 2 statutory instruments (SI) before Parliament on 11 Sept 2017 both of which came into force on 6th October 2017. Most of the changes take retrospective effect from 1 April 2015.

New Amendment Orders

The new SIs makes a number of minor technical amendments to the rules. The main changes that will have an impact are as follows:

SI 2017/892

This amendment mainly gives effect to the government decision announced in the March 2015 budget in that widows, widowers and surviving civil partners of firefighters who died or die on duty would, in certain circumstances, no longer lose their survivor benefits if they remarry or form a civil partnership. This will apply when:

- a. the member dies as a result of injuries sustained performing their duties or as a result of injuries sustained during the journey necessary to report for duty or return home after duty; and
- b. the remarriage or civil partnership took place on or after 1 April 2015.

This order primarily makes amendments to the 1992 scheme and compensation scheme.

Action taken - The Health & Safety Team have confirmed that details of all accidents are kept on the service internal 'RIVO' system. Details are held indefinitely. This means that all circumstances regarding an injury are recorded, irrespective of whether an injury pension is awarded. This information can therefore be used in order to later assess eligibility to pension on remarriage or on entering into a new civil partnership.

SI 2017/888

This amendment order primarily deals with the position of transitional members (e.g. moving from the 1992 or 2006 scheme to the 2015 scheme) who are being considered for ill health retirement by an independent qualified medical practitioner (IQMP). Under the new rules such members are to remain in their existing pension scheme until a final decision (including any appeal) is made by the IQMP.

This order primarily makes amendments to the 2015 Firefighters pension scheme.

Action taken – The HR and Payroll team are fully au fait with the legislation. Procedures are in place to ensure that payroll will NOT transition the member into the new scheme if an IQMP assessment is currently taking place.

Conclusion

Procedures are in place to ensure the new legislation is complied with.

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