

AGENDA ITEM 10

FPS Bulletin Update

Pensions Management Team 20th July 2022

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Matthews – Second Options Exercise

LGA request for data; identification of numbers in scope, those where aggregation of Wholetime and Retained service and service dates. A questionnaire was sent to all FRA's, deadline for return has been extended to 30th June 2022.

Complete – HR submitted completed questionnaire by original deadline

FRA Pension Contacts

LGA request for updated points of contact within FRA's for communications purposes by 31st May 2022.

Complete – HR provided LGA with contact details for all main points of contact in CFB by deadline

Annual Allowance Changes

The Government has changed the annual allowance rules. The changes apply in certain situations where annual allowance calculations for previous years are retrospectively amended. The LGA has provided their interpretation of the changes to FRA's and the responsibilities on the employer and administrator where an employer becomes aware that information provided previously for a Pension Input Period was insufficient to enable the annual allowance to be calculated correctly.

For information

FPS AGM

The Fire Pensions Annual Conference will be held on 25th and 26th October 2022 in London. The two-day programme allows delegates to network with fellow colleagues and hear the latest news on the Firefighters' Pension Scheme (FPS) from the scheme's key stakeholders. Full programme and booking link will be available shortly.

Complete – Save the date added to MR and ED diaries

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Abatement Guidance

There is currently no prescribed guidance on how abatement should be applied or calculated, as previous guidance issued by the relevant Secretary of State at the time is now out of date. The Home Office is also unable to provide formal direction on the application of abatement, as it is the legal responsibility of each FRA to interpret and apply the rules of the scheme.

In order to support a consistent national approach, the LGA have now published informal abatement guidance for FRAs in the “Guides and sample documents” section of www.fpsregs.org.

Complete – Guidance reviewed, and MR has made amendments to the current abatement policy for review at today’s PMT

Annual Benefit Statements 2022

As ABS’s in 2022 will be based on current scheme regulations up to 31 March 2022, it was proposed that the same process as last year is followed, and the statements caveated in a similar way.

Administrators were asked to consider whether projections for former protected members could be included this year on a fully CARE basis but it was agreed that administrators will make the final call on whether to include projections or not. It is the expectation that administrators will notify the FRAs they administer on their decision.

For information – XPS to confirm their decision

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Home Office collection of FPS forecasts for 2022-23 to 2027-28

On 21 June 2022, the Home Office emailed all FRAs in England to request submission of their pension income/expenditure forecasts for the period 2022-23 to 2027-28. The forms can be accessed on DELTA from 1 July 2022. The deadline for submissions is Friday 19 August 2022. Payment of the 2022 Top Up grant will be conditional on its completion and incomplete tables will be returned to FRAs.

Action – Lyn Younger to complete and submit by deadline

Immediate Detriment Framework costing and assumption guidance

The LGA in collaboration with Ian Hayton, Cleveland FRS CFO and NFCC pensions lead, hosted a session via MS Teams relating to the Financial Assessment for Immediate Detriment. The session was open to all FRAs.

The LGA has been working closely with Cleveland FRS to establish a calculator which should enable FRAs to estimate their financial liabilities when considering adoption of the Framework. The template spreadsheets and guidance documents have been published on the FPS Regulations and Guidance Website.

Complete – Costings for CFB have been calculated using this format

Annual Benefit Statements 2022 – Information factsheet

The Fire Communications Working Group (FCWG) discussed whether it would be beneficial to provide members who are affected by age discrimination remedy with any additional information alongside their annual benefit statement.

A factsheet has been created and is available to access via the guides and sample documents page of the FPS Regulations and Guidance website. All administrators are encouraged to send the document to members impacted by remedy, with the 2021/22 benefit statements.

Action – XPS to include fact sheet with relevant members ABS