

Double accrual guarantee

In the 1992 scheme, a firefighter's pension scheme membership over 20 years is doubled. For example, the pension for a member with 30 years' service in the 1992 scheme would be calculated at 40/60ths (20 + 10 + 10). This is more commonly known as 'double accrual'.

The new regulations give members who move from the 1992 scheme into the 2015 scheme a proportion of the double accrual they could have expected to receive had they stayed in the 1992 scheme. Full continuous pensionable service (that is, before and after membership of the 2015 scheme) is taken into account to calculate the benefits to be awarded under the 1992 scheme.

The Firefighters' Pension Scheme (England only) regulations have introduced a formula in Schedule 2, Part 2, Part 2A **(A ÷ 60) x (B ÷ C) x APP** to calculate this.

[Part 2A -

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2015/589/schedule/3/paragraph/9/made>]

A = Maximum 60^{ths} a member could have built up to their estimated retirement date had there been no change to the 1992 Scheme

B = 1992 service up to 31 March 2015, or the taper date.

C = Calendar years' service in both the 1992 and 2015 schemes

APP = Final salary pensionable pay

Example

A firefighter who joins the scheme at 1 April 1999 has 16 years' service at 31 March 2015.

They then build up a further nine years of service in the 2015 scheme to age 55.

Total service = 25 years.

So, if there had been no change to the 1992 scheme, they would have expected their pension to be calculated on 30/60ths.

(A ÷ 60) x (B ÷ C) x APP

A = 30

B = 16 years in the 1992 scheme

C = 25

APP = £20,000

(30 ÷ 60) x (16 ÷ 25) x £20,000 = £6,400