

FIREFIGHTERS' PENSION COMMITTEE

FIREFIGHTERS' PENSION SCHEME

NOTE BY ODPM

We have previously advised the Committee of the need for amendment of the current Firefighters' Pension Scheme. FPC(06)7 included a copy of the drafting instructions. A draft of the Firefighters' Pension Scheme (Amendment)(England) Order 2006 is attached.

The amendments cover the following key areas:

- To provide for the closure of the current scheme and for new entrants after 5th April to cease to be members on the day on which a new scheme is brought into operation under section 34 of the 2004 Act.
- Removal of the non-contributory, compensatory provisions covering duty related death and injury from 1st April 2006.
- Amendments necessary as a consequence of changes in the tax regime for pension schemes (Tax Simplification) from 6th April 2006.
- To provide for the new financing arrangements for firefighters' pensions from 1st April 2006.
- Introduction of new arrangements for two-tiered ill-health awards from 1st April 2006.

In addition to the above, the opportunity has been taken to correct two minor drafting errors that arose in amending instruments made in 2005.

The draft order incorporates an Explanatory Note which provides a useful summary of the amendments.

Committee members are invited to comment on the draft.

***ODPM
March 2006***