

FIREFIGHTERS' PENSION COMMITTEE: CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2014-15

Issue

- To set out the timetable relating to the consultation on 2014-15 contribution rates.

Recommendation

- That the Committee:
 - notes the proposed timetable for consulting on the 2014-15 contribution rates, and
 - is asked to reaffirm its commitment, as agreed at the 44th meeting of FPC, to the opt out review and that the most up to date data collected on behalf of the Committee during 2013-14 should be fed into the Government before final decisions are taken on future employee contribution rates from 2014-15.

Timetable

- The Government committed to reviewing the impact of the 2012-13 contribution increases on scheme members before taking final decisions on how future increases in 2013-14 and 2014-15 will be delivered.
- At the 44th meeting of the FPC, the Committee agreed to undertake a data collection exercise to review the impact of employee contribution increases on the Firefighters' Pension Schemes in England, and that the outcome of the FPC review should be submitted as evidence to the Government before future decisions were taken on contribution increases.
- The outcome of the opt out review for 2012-13 is set out in FPC 13(6). The Department is currently collecting opt out and non-joiner data from fire and rescue authorities from April 2013. The deadline for authorities reporting monthly opt out data to DCLG is the middle of the following month, although not all data from FRAs is received by that point.
- Based on data received up until August, DCLG will model possible options for contribution rates. This will take into account the opt out rates in the first three/four months of the year.
- DCLG will seek the views of unions and employers on the possible rates to apply during September, ahead of a formal consultation expected to be published in October. This will take into account the views of unions and employers and the most up to date opt out information at that time.