

Statement : persons to consult before making regulations in respect of the firefighters' pension schemes

Issue

1. This paper seeks the Firefighters' Pensions Committee's views on the attached statement which lists the persons that the Secretary of State should consult before making regulations in respect of the firefighters' pension schemes (made under the Public Service Pensions Act 2013).

Background

2. Section 21 of the Public Service Pensions Act 2013 requires the Secretary of State to:
 - consult, before making regulations in respect of the firefighters' pension schemes, persons that appear to be affected by the regulations.
 - publish a statement indicating the persons that have been consulted.

Proposals

3. The attached statement provides for two situations and sets out that:
 - in most cases, full, open, consultations on scheme regulations will be undertaken, and made available on the gov.uk website. If this is the case then the statement specifies the persons that the consultation will be drawn to the attention of.
 - In limited circumstances, where the Secretary of State determines that a full public consultation is not required, then the statement specifies the persons who will be consulted.

Firefighters' Pension Scheme Regulations – information on persons to be consulted

1. Before making regulations in exercise of the power in section 1 of the Public Service Pensions Act 2013 to establish pension schemes for fire and rescue workers in England, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (“responsible authority”) is required by section 21(1) of that Act to consult such persons (or representatives of such persons) as appear to the Secretary of State likely to be affected by those regulations. This statement sets out those persons whom the Secretary of State will normally expect to consult.
2. In most instances, consultations will be full open consultations available to members of the public via the Gov.uk website. In these instances, the consultation will be drawn to the attention of the following persons:
 - Employee representatives:
 - Fire Brigades Union
 - Fire Officers Association
 - Association of Principal Fire Officers
 - Retained Firefighters’ Union
 - Prospect
 - Employer representatives:
 - Local Government Association
 - Chair of Fire and Rescue Authorities in England
 - Chief Fire Officers of Fire and Rescue Authorities in England
 - Professional body representatives:
 - Chief Fire Officers Association
 - Association of Local Authority Medical Advisors
 - The scheme actuary to the firefighters’ pension schemes
3. In other limited circumstances where, for example, detailed technical issues relating to the pension schemes need to be raised, the Secretary of State may determine that a full open public consultation is not needed. In such instances, the following persons will be consulted as a minimum:
 - Employee representatives:
 - Fire Brigades Union
 - Fire Officers Association
 - Association of Principal Fire Officers
 - Retained Firefighters’ Union
 - Employer representatives:
 - Local Government Association
 - The scheme actuary to the firefighters’ pension schemes
4. This statement will be kept up to date.