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| **Private and Confidential**  |
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Dear xx

**The Retained Firefighters’ Pension Settlement - Second options exercise**

Further to your application under the second options exercise for retained employees. I am writing to provide you with further information regarding your opportunity to *[join/pay more for eligible service in]* the modified FPS 2006.

The information you supplied on your ‘expression of interest form’, along with the information we already hold, has been used to provide your individual statement of: -

* past pensionable service which you may be entitled to purchase, and
* a quote on how much it will cost for you to purchase that service.

Fire and Rescue Authorities can only provide a statement of cost and information about your options and cannot offer any financial advice. It is therefore your responsibility to seek independent financial advice as to how you wish to proceed.

You will find enclosed with this letter a document entitled ‘The Retained Firefighters’ Pension Scheme - modified pension arrangements and terms of payment for eligible individuals.’ This is an informal guide which provides more information about the scheme and your entitlements. It also contains the statement of individual details and the election form.

The modified FPS 2006 will be subject to the reforms that apply to all public service schemes from 1 April 2015.  Members of the modified FPS 2006 who are also then affect by the age discrimination remedy (2015 remedy) because of joining the modified FPS 2006 will be written to once they have decided under this options exercise. Further information regarding the age discrimination remedy is available at [www.fpsmember.org/2015-remedy](http://www.fpsmember.org/2015-remedy)

If you wish to progress the option to join the Modified FPS 2006, you are now required to return the signed options election form, and a signed copy of this letter, **within 6 months of the date of this letter**, otherwise your option to join the Modified FPS 2006 may be lost. Once the options exercise has concluded there will be no further opportunity to *[join/pay for more eligible service].*

**NB \* please return the options exercise form as soon as possible either way to confirm/decline if you wish to *[join/pay for more eligible service in]* this scheme**.

As detailed in previous correspondence, the employee contribution rate for purchasing the backdated service will reflect the contribution rate payable in FPS 1992 i.e. 11% of pensionable pay before April 2012 and the relevant contribution tariff in FPS 1992 for any period on or after April 2012.

By signing the option form to confirm you wish to *[join/pay for more eligible service in]* the modified FPS 2006 you are committing to paying the backdated contributions, including interest as outlined in the statement of calculations. The interest amount will increase once an actual election to proceed is received.

Payment can be made by periodic contributions or by lump sum as outlined in the guidance document. The election to join takes effect on the day on which the notice of election (on the options election form) is received by the FRA **and is irrevocable once the first contribution, or the lump sum, has been paid**.

There may be options to transfer pension rights from a previous pension arrangement, including FPS2006. This will be dealt with after you have *[joined/paid for more eligible service in]* the Modified FPS 2006, although there will be associated time limits and so this will need to be dealt with promptly if you express an interest in a transfer of, or conversion of, pension rights.

If you have changed your mind or wish to obtain further information, please contact XXXX

Yours sincerely,

xxx