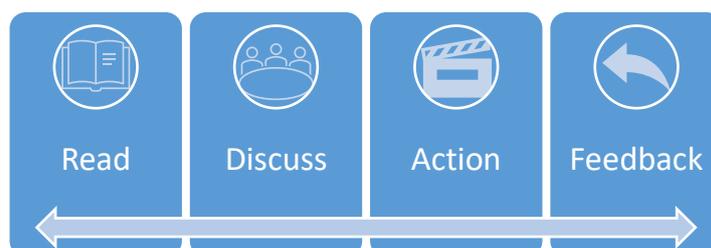


FPS Bulletin February – 2026

Welcome to issue 102 of the Firefighters’ Pensions Schemes bulletin.

We would encourage you to read this bulletin, taking note of and carrying out any relevant actions. This may entail escalating items, alerting colleagues where necessary, and circulating and discussing this bulletin in other forums including but not limited to others within your FRAs i.e. HR or Finance colleagues, Local Pension Boards and third-party administrators/payroll providers.



If you are looking for information on a certain topic, issue and content indexes are held on the [main bulletin page](#) of the website and are updated following each new issue.

If you have any comments on this bulletin, suggested items for future issues, or a job you would like to advertise, please email bluelightpensions@local.gov.uk.

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Calendar of events

Please see below a calendar of upcoming events relevant to the Firefighters' Pension Schemes. Only those events which are hyperlinked are currently available to book. If you have any events you would like to be included in a future bulletin, please email bluelightpensions@local.gov.uk.

Table 1: Calendar of events

Event	Date
FPS Coffee Morning	We will be hosting targeted Coffee Mornings this month, and invitations will be sent to the relevant attendees in due course.
FPS Technical Working Group	25 March 2026
SAB	18 March 2026
FPS Communications Working Group	07 April 2026
Local Pension Board training	New dates for 2026/2027 are now available to book – full details and booking links
LPB Chair Forum	20 March 2026
Administrator Forum	24 March 2026
LGA FRA drop-in session	23 March 2026
IDRP Training	New date for 2026 now available to book – full details and booking links
Induction Training	New dates for 2026 are now available to book – full details and booking links
Ill Health Retirement Training	New dates for 2026 are now available to book – full details and booking links
Scheme Manager Training	New dates for 2026 are now available to book – full details and booking links

Actions arising

Scheme Managers

[Training and Development](#): are encouraged to:

- allow their employees to attend the relevant training on offer, where it will help with their role and ongoing development.
- inform us of any specific areas of pensions training that they would like to see.

[Updated Project Implementation Data Request Template](#): are encouraged to familiarise themselves with updated Project Implementation Data Request Template in advance, to ensure they are prepared to provide the required data in March.

[Member contribution review – scheme manager and payroll guidance](#): are strongly encouraged to follow this guidance to ensure administrative consistency, compliance with the regulations, and a fair and transparent approach for all members.

Local Pension Boards

[Local Pension Board Training Sessions](#): are encouraged to book onto the relevant session for them

Matthews exercise updates

Updated Project Implementation Data Request Template

The data request template has been updated to reflect feedback received in a recent LGA Drop-In session and following a request from GAD to provide three additional pieces of data. The new template is available at [Project Implementation data request](#).

The changes made include:

1. The facility for FRAs to input all quarterly data returns on the same Excel template.
2. A column for the number of periodic payments set up on payroll (or other systems) for recovery
3. A column for the number of backdated lump sums paid to members
4. A column for the number of ongoing pensions commenced in payment

The data for the quarter January 2026 to March 2026 will be requested in March's bulletin but we are providing a copy of the new template in advance of this to allow FRAs to plan ahead for the additional information that will be required.

Please note that although the amended template allows you to enter data for multiple quarters, we still require you to provide the *current cumulative position* each time you provide this data. This means you should report the overall position as at that quarter, rather than just the cases you dealt with during that period.

ACTION:

Scheme managers are encouraged to familiarise themselves with updated Project Implementation Data Request Template in advance, to ensure they are prepared to provide the required data in March.

GAD guidance update

In [FPS Bulletin 87 – November 2024](#), we updated readers that GAD would be providing new factors to apply to eligible firefighters' converting non-accrued standard benefits in connection with their Matthews second exercise election.

Whilst this has taken longer than first thought due to their complexity, we are pleased to confirm that these will be published in the next couple of weeks. Once these are available we will update administrators and the relevant [GAD Guidance](#) section of the [FPS regulations and guidance](#) website.

FPS

Member contribution review - scheme manager and payroll guidance

On 26 February 2026, we [emailed](#) scheme managers, internal pensions, HR and payroll contacts to confirm that we had published a guidance document and template policy.

These documents have been published in the [Guides and sample documents](#) section of the [FPS regulations and guidance](#) website.

ACTION:

Scheme managers are strongly encouraged to follow this guidance to ensure administrative consistency, compliance with the regulations, and a fair and transparent approach for all members.

Opt Out form template

Following [FPS Bulletin 101 – January 2026](#) in which we introduced a new national pension scheme opt-out form for sector-wide use, we received feedback noting that the section to be completed by the FRA had not been included. This section has now been added, and the updated [version](#) is available in the guides and sample document section of the [FPS regulations and guidance](#) website.

Transfer values following GMP equalisation exercise

We have been informed that some administrators have started to receive additional transfer value payments following the former pension scheme's GMP equalisation review and we have been asked if this transfer value can be accepted.

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This matter has been raised with HM Treasury by MHCLG as it will affect all public sector pension schemes. Once we have received clarification, we will update the sector.

FPS member website FRA contacts

In [FPS Bulletin 101 – January 2026](#) we launched the new [member website](#). The current [contacts page](#) lists who members should approach if they need to contact their administrator. As we continue to develop the site, we plan to add contact details for each FRA. While we already hold generic inboxes for some FRAs, we will be sending tailored emails to scheme managers where this information is missing.

We encourage all scheme managers to respond to this request to ensure members can easily contact their FRA as part of our wider improved communications strategy.

General technical query log

The [current log of queries and responses](#) can be accessed by practitioners in the member-restricted area of the FPS Regulations and Guidance website. The queries have been anonymised and divided into topics. The log is updated monthly in line with the bulletin release dates.

There have been no technical queries received in February 2026.

Matthews and Age discrimination remedy Query logs

We have three query logs:

- Age Discrimination remedy technical query log
- Matthews technical query log
- Matthews GAD calculator query log

The technical query logs can be accessed by practitioners in the restricted area of the FPS regulations and guidance website under the sections '[Age Discrimination remedy technical queries](#)' and '[Special members of the FPS 2006 technical queries](#)'.

The Matthews GAD calculator query log can be accessed through the tab 'Calculator query log' in the Special members of [FPS 2006 - GAD calculator](#) section of the FPS Regulations and Guidance website.

The logs are updated monthly in line with the bulletin release dates.

As a reminder if you have a query relating to either the [Age Discrimination remedy](#) or [Matthews](#) GAD calculators you can email GAD using their dedicated inboxes

FirePoliceMcCloudTaxInterest@gad.gov.uk

Firematthewscalculator@gad.gov.uk

Training and Development

Training and Development

Details of our training sessions are included on the [Training and Development](#) section of the [FPS regulations and guidance](#) website. The section sets out the training topics, dates that are available and how to book.

If there are any specific areas of training that you would like to see, please let us know via bluelightpensions@local.gov.uk or be part of our training working group.

ACTION:

Scheme managers are encouraged to:

- allow their employees to attend the relevant training on offer, where it will help with their role and ongoing development.
- inform us of any specific areas of pensions training that they would like to see.

Local Pension Board (LPB) Training Sessions

Details of the LPB training sessions are included on the [‘Training and Development’](#) section of the [FPS Board](#) website. The section sets out the dates that are available and how to book.

ACTION:

Readers are asked to make their LPB members aware of the training sessions and encourage them to book onto a session.

Events

FPS coffee mornings

We will be hosting targeted Coffee Mornings in March, and invitations will be sent to the relevant attendees in due course.

We are pleased to include the presentations from recent sessions below:

9 February 2026 – [Sargeant – Remediable Power to Reduce or Waive Liabilities](#)

24 February 2026 – Pensions Dashboards (there were no slides for this session)

If you do not already receive the meeting invitations and would like to join us, please email bluelightpensions@local.gov.uk. Please note that attendance at the coffee mornings is generally restricted to FPS practitioners and managers

FPS England Scheme Advisory Board (SAB) updates

SAB website

You can use the links below to find out about the latest updates on the work of the SAB and its committees on the SAB website:

- [SAB membership](#)
- [SAB meeting and agenda papers](#)
- [Committee meetings and agenda papers](#)

Other News and Updates

Pensions Dashboards Programme



Dashboard Programme – Publications

PDP publish regular [publications](#) about the Pensions Dashboards and the Programme which you can find on their [website](#).

PDP draft reporting standards

The Pensions Dashboards Programme (PDP) has published an updated draft version of the reporting standards for pension providers in scope for pensions dashboards. This sets out the technical requirements for submitting the required data to the Money and Pension Service (MaPS).

The approved reporting standards (version 2.0) will continue to be legally binding until a new version is formally approved.

PDP is seeking feedback on implementing the updated standards. The consultation will close on 25 March 2026. Use the links below to find out more:

- [updated reporting standards: draft version 2.1](#)
- [PDP consultation on reporting standards draft version 2.1](#)
- [reporting standards blog](#).

Pensions dashboards – news in brief

- PDP has published a [blog on making the MoneyHelper Dashboard accessible](#)
- PDP have published a recording of their [December 2025 Pensions dashboards progress webinar](#) and answers to questions asked at the event
- PDP has published a [blog on preparing data for dashboards](#)
- PDP has made updates to its connection guidance. You can access the guidance through the [Connection hub](#). Each piece of guidance includes a change log which sets out a comprehensive list of the updates made.

The Pensions Regulator (TPR)



TPR survey on communication preferences

The Pensions Regulator (TPR) is carrying out a survey to find out how its audiences consume different types of information it supplies.

The [TPR communications survey](#) should take three minutes to complete. It closes on **6 March 2026**. If you have any questions about the survey, please contact TPRSurveys@tpr.gov.uk.

TPR pension fraud webinar

TPR will host a free Pension Scams Action Group (PSAG) webinar on fighting pension fraud on Wednesday 18 March 2026 from 2.30pm to 3.30pm. The event is aimed at pension professionals, administrators and advisors. It will showcase how PSAG partners and industry pledgers are combating pension scams. You can [register for the TPR fighting pension fraud webinar](#) online.

The Pensions Ombudsman

The Pensions Ombudsman (TPO) Technical Forum

TPO is holding its annual Technical Forum online on Tuesday 10 March from 10am to 12.30pm. The session is for technical specialists in the pensions industry. The aims of the event are to:

- share information and guidance

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- achieve a better understanding of the needs and challenges of the industry
- enhance the service that the public and industry receive from TPO.

Those who attend the forum will be able to ask the Pensions Ombudsman questions.

You can [register to attend the TPO technical forum](#) online.

HMT

Confirmation of annual revaluation, earnings and pensions increase

On 26 February 2026, HM Treasury (HMT) published a [written ministerial statement](#) confirming the rates of annual revaluation, earnings and pensions increase due to apply from April 2026. The statement confirms:

- public service pensions will increase on 6 April 2026 by 3.8%, in line with the Consumer Prices Index for the year up to September 2025
- revaluation of 4.8% will be used in April 2026 to revalue CARE accounts in public service pension schemes that use earnings as the measure of revaluation.
- revaluation of 4.8% plus any local addition will be used in April 2026 to revalue CARE accounts in public service pension schemes that use prices as the measure of revaluation

The following rates will apply when revaluing earned pension credited from a Club transfer:

Police 5.05%

LGPS 3.8%

Civil service 3.8%

National Health Service (NHS) 5.3%

Teachers 5.4%

Armed forces 4.8%

Judicial 3.8%.

The Government will legislate for these changes in the coming weeks. We will publish the relevant Statutory Instruments when they become available on the [Annual update SIs](#) section of the [FPS regulations and guidance](#) website.

2026 Pensions Increase multiplier tables

On 26 February 2026, HMT published the 2026 Pensions Increase multiplier tables and a covering note. You can find the [2026 public service pensions increase](#) note and tables on the gov.uk website. The Government will legislate for these changes in the coming weeks. We will published the relevant Statutory Instruments when they become available on the [Annual update SIs](#) section of the [FPS regulations and guidance](#) website.

Useful links

- [The Firefighters' Pensions \(England\) Scheme Advisory Board](#)
- [FPS Regulations and Guidance](#)
- [FPS Member](#)
- [FPS1992 guidance and commentary](#)
- [The Pensions Regulator Public Service Schemes](#)
- [The Pensions Ombudsman](#)
- [HMRC Pensions Tax Manual](#)
- [LGA pensions website](#)
- [LGPS Regulations and Guidance](#)
- [LGPC Bulletins](#)
- [LGPS member site](#)
- [Scottish Public Pensions Agency - Firefighters](#)
- [Welsh Government Fire circulars](#)
- Pensions Dashboards
 - [TPR guidance and checklist](#)
 - [DWP guidance on connection](#)
 - [PASA connection readiness guidance](#)

Contact details

Update your contact details

Readers will be aware that we carried out an exercise to update your contact details in [FPS Bulletin 76 – December 2023](#).

Going forward if you need to update your contact details, please complete the [contact details form](#) and return to bluelightpensions@local.gov.uk.

Raising a query

If you have a technical query, please complete the 'query form', that is available on the [member area](#) of the FPS regulations and guidance website and email bluelightpensions@local.gov.uk and one of the team's Firefighters' pension advisers will get back to you. To avoid delays in receiving a response, please avoid emailing advisers directly.

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While every attempt is made to ensure the accuracy of the bulletin, it would be helpful if readers could bring any perceived errors or omissions to the attention of the Bluelight team by emailing bluelightpensions@local.gov.uk.