

FPS Bulletin 77 – January 2024

Welcome to issue 77 of the Firefighters’ Pensions Schemes bulletin. The first of 2024.

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(s)	8 February 2024 and 20 February 2024
FPS Technical Working Group	12 March 2024
SAB	21 March 2024
LPB Training (MS Teams)	26 March 2024

Event	Date
FPS Communications Working Group	2 April 2024
LPB Training (MS Teams)	17 June 2024
LPB Training (in person)	18 September 2024
Firefighters AGM – Day one	18 September 2024
Firefighters AGM – Day two	19 September 2024
LPB Training (MS Teams)	23 January 2025

Table 2: [Isio Firefighters' Pension Training Sessions](#)

	First date	Second date
Session 1	Tuesday 6 February 2024, 2-4pm	Thursday 22 February 2024, 10am-12pm
Session 2	Tuesday 13 February 2024, 2-4pm	Thursday 29 February 2024, 10am-12pm
Session 3	Tuesday 20 February 2024, 2-4pm	Thursday 7 March 2024, 10am-12pm
Session 4	Tuesday 27 February 2024, 2-4pm	Thursday 14 March 2024, 10am-12pm

Actions arising

[The Police and Firefighters' Pensions \(Remediable Service\) \(Amendment\) regulations 2024](#): Readers should note the amendment regulations and ensure that any special members who have service within the remedy period are assessed for ill health under both the legacy and reformed schemes accordingly.

[Request for data](#): FRAs are asked to provide Matthew's project implementation data and opt out data to bluelightpensions@local.gov.uk by **21 February 2024**, using the separate data request spreadsheets.

[Matthews – GAD Calculator – Second version and query log:](#)

FRAAs should.

- Read the updated user guide and query log.
- Download the new version of the calculator from the beginning of February
- Ensure that they have the most up to date version of the calculator when they update the spreadsheet at the beginning of the month to allow for the latest interest rates.
- Should share this information with anyone who is carrying out the Matthews second options exercise.

[Firefighters' Pension Added Pension Compensation:](#) Scheme managers and administrators are recommended to read the guidance, follow the process, and use the template supporting documents to assist the process. This process should be completed by **31 March 2024**.

[Age Discrimination remedy – Data Sharing Agreement and guidance:](#)

- FRAAs should use the Data Sharing Agreement for cases where a firefighter was employed by a previous FRA in the remedy period.
- FRAAs are also advised to follow the guidance document when obtaining the data to ensure that the data is with administrators by **31 March 2024**.

[Age Discrimination remedy – Remediable Service Statement \(RSS\) factsheet:](#) We would recommend that scheme managers liaise with their pensions administrator to establish what plans are in place for producing an RSS for eligible individuals.

[Injury pension calculation for a retained firefighter appointed after 5 April 2006:](#) Administrators to review how they have calculated injury pensions for retained firefighter appointed after 5 April 2006 and consider whether a recalculation is required.

[SAB Levy 2023-24 – Request for purchase order numbers:](#) FRAAs to provide a valid purchase order number, stating the number of employees eligible to join one of the Firefighters' Pension Schemes as of 1 April 2023, using the form provided with the SAB 2023-34 levy letter.

[HMRC Pension Input aggregation consultation:](#) Readers are encouraged to read the consultation and provide any comments to HMRC by **26 February 2024**.

[HMRC Newsletter – January 2024:](#) HMRC have contacted all FRAAs with information bespoke to them, relating to the Matthews first exercise and national insurance refunds, and have asked that you reply accordingly. Please provide complete information to HMRC by **5th April 2024**, any information supplied after this date will not be progressed or chased.

[Local Pension Board \(LPB\) Training Sessions:](#) Readers are asked to make their LPB members aware of the training sessions and encourage them to book onto a session.

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FPS

The Police and Firefighters' Pensions (Remediable Service) (Amendment) Regulations 2024

On 18 January 2024, the [Police and Firefighters' Pensions \(Remediable Service\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2024](#) were laid, and will come into force on 9 February 2024.

These regulations amend the [Firefighters' Pensions \(Remediable Service\) Regulations 2023](#), to correct several drafting errors including instances whereby the word 'police' was used instead of 'firefighter'. Additionally, regulation 51A (entitlement to ill-health benefits where a remedy member's legacy scheme is the 2006 scheme) has been updated to include provisions for special members.

ACTION: readers should note the amendment regulations and ensure that that any special members who have service within the remedy period are assessed for ill health under both the legacy and reformed schemes accordingly.

Requests for data

Matthews exercise

In [FPS Bulletin 75 – November 2023](#) we gave readers advance notice that we would be requesting data on behalf of Home office and GAD to assist with monitoring the implementation of the Matthews exercise.

As FRAs are now 4 months into the implementation process, we would like to collect data from the first quarter (1 October 2023 to 31 December 2023) on the overall project implementation.

The second area of data in respect of positive elections is not needed at this time, collection of this data is expected in March 2024.

Opt outs – Member behaviour

As part of a piece of work that the Home Office are carrying out to review employee contributions, to influence the policy position they would like to understand opt out member behaviour.

We are therefore asking for data based on individuals who are opted out of the scheme as at 31 January 2024.

Please can we ask readers to complete the:

[opt out data request](#)

[Project implementation data request](#)

and return to bluelightpensions@local.gov.uk by **21 February 2024**.

ACTION: FRAs are asked to provide Matthews project implementation data and opt out data to bluelightpensions@local.gov.uk by **21 February 2024**, using the separate data request spreadsheets.

Matthews - GAD Calculator: Second version

Further to [FPS Bulletin 75 – November 2023](#) where readers were informed that GAD had published the first version of the Matthews calculator.

We are pleased to inform readers that we will be publishing the second version of the calculator tomorrow (1 February 2024), which will be available on the [Special members of FPS 2006 – GAD calculator](#) section of the [FPS regulations and guidance](#) website.

This version replaces the first version and now introduces support for members who purchased service under the first Matthews exercise.

An updated user guide and [query log](#) will be available alongside the new version of the calculator.

The guide provides detailed instructions on how to use the calculator. The guide details the cases which are covered by the calculator, data inputs required (both bulk and individual), and the output produced by the calculator. The guide also includes some worked examples and troubleshooting comments.

As for the first live version of the calculator, FRAs will have to upload the interest file each month and save a version of the calculator locally. We do however recommend that you check the website first to ensure that you are uploading interest to the most recent version of the calculator in case there have been any amendments.

Please ensure that you share this information with anyone who is carrying out the Matthews second options exercise on behalf of your Fire and Rescue Service.

Should you require access to the member area of the FPS regulations and guidance website, please email bluelightpensions@local.gov.uk.

ACTIONS:

FRAs should.

- Read the updated user guide and query log.
- Download the new version of the calculator from the beginning of February
- Ensure that they have the most up to date version of the calculator when they update the spreadsheet at the beginning of the month to allow for the latest interest rates.
- Should share this information with anyone who is carrying out the Matthews second options exercise.

Matthews - GAD calculator: Manual cases update

Whilst the Matthews second version calculator is expected to cover most cases, a minority will need to be processed manually. The types of cases not covered by the GAD calculator are set out in the new user guide.

The process for dealing with these manual case scenarios is under development. This will be informed by the level of complexity and anticipated case volume for different scenarios. In practice, we expect a range of approaches will apply, including:

- Supplementary guidance and or tools for FRAs to process more straightforward manual cases
- Forwarding more complex cases where an agreed policy approach already exists to GAD
- Cases without agreed policy approaches being escalated to Home Office

Once the process has been agreed and finalised, further details on availability of guidance, how to share cases, response times and formats will follow.

It is recommended that all FRAs stockpile these cases for now until instructions are provided. In line with guidance provided in [FPS Bulletin 73 – September 2023](#) these cases should still be acknowledged.

Age Discrimination remedy - Added Pension Compensation

When members are 'rolled back' to their relevant legacy scheme any Added Pension Contributions that have been paid between 1 April 2015 and 31 March 2022 **must** be returned to the member. This is because Added Pension arrangements do not exist in the legacy schemes and therefore it is not possible for these types of benefits to form part of the members pension benefits in the legacy scheme.

To provide clarity about the process for dealing with these cases, we have published some scheme manager and administration guidance.

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The guidance, as well as the supporting material you will need can be located in the [Retrospective remedy](#) section of the [FPS regulations and guidance](#) website.

ACTION: Scheme managers and administrators are recommended to read the guidance, follow the process, and use the template supporting documents to assist the process. This process should be completed by **31 March 2024**.

Age Discrimination remedy – Data Sharing Agreement and guidance

At the technical working group meeting on 12 December 2023, it was agreed that advice should be sought as to whether a data sharing agreement was needed in cases where a firefighter was employed by a previous FRA during the remedy period.

To allow for the leading FRA¹ to complete the GAD tax and contribution calculator, they will need to obtain pay, tax, service and contributions data from the previous FRA and a data sharing agreement will need to be in place to facilitate this. To assist FRAs with this we have uploaded:

- A Data Sharing Agreement (DSA),
- Data request spreadsheet, and
- A guidance document for scheme managers

to the [retrospective remedy section](#) of the [FPS regulations and guidance](#) website.

The leading FRA will need to complete the DSA as per the ‘notes to FRAs’ that are within the document, and this should then be sent to the FRA holding the relevant information before any data is shared. The DSA should only be used for individuals affected by the Age Discrimination remedy.

It is also recommended that an FRA should update their existing privacy notice to include additional wording as follows:

“As set out on the [Firefighters’ members website](#), from October 2023, an exercise will take place to allow eligible firefighters who have service between 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2022 (“the remedy period”) to choose which scheme (legacy or reformed) they wish their benefits to be calculated under during the remedy period.”

¹ Either the current or last employing FRA

If you are an eligible firefighter that has a choice under the remedy exercise, and you have service for more than one Fire and Rescue Authority (FRA) within the remedy period, we (i.e. the first FRA) will need to share information about you with that other FRA so they can identify you, including your name, national insurance number and date of birth. This is your personal data under data protection laws. The second FRA would then return that same data back to us along with your relevant service term(s) and pay information. We both need to exchange this information in order to determine your entitlement under the remedy exercise and this means that sharing this data is justified under data protection laws because [it's necessary for compliance with legal obligations].

If you have any queries about the information that is shared about you then please contact us.

For information about your data protection law rights and how to exercise them in relation to this data sharing by us, as well as other legal text needed – please see the main section of our privacy notice. This section above is strictly only about the data shared and what lawful reasons justify that.”

ACTIONS:

- FRAs should use the Data Sharing Agreement for cases where a firefighter was employed by a previous FRA in the remedy period.
- FRAs are also advised to follow the guidance document when obtaining the data to ensure that the data is with administrators by **31 March 2024**.

Age Discrimination remedy – Contingent Decisions guidance

Further to [FPS Bulletin 75 – November 2023](#), we have updated the [contingent decision guidance documents](#) to reflect confirmation from Home Office that there is no need for a contingent decision for transfers.

There are three scenarios that may affect a member with a transfer in the remedy period:

- 1) the transfer remains within FPS 2015, either because the member has elected to remain with the reformed scheme for the remedy period and/or because they have FPS 2015 membership after 1 April 2022.
- 2) the transfer has no home; as the member elected for legacy scheme benefits, therefore, the member will be provided with a compensation amount.
- 3) the transfer takes them over their maximum service in the legacy scheme, and the difference is either compensated for, or remains within the FPS 2015.

If a transfer out has taken place; the transfer value should be recalculated under the legacy scheme and any additional amounts should be paid to the receiving scheme.

The Home Office have confirmed that there are no circumstances where a member would need to make a contingent decision.

Age Discrimination remedy - Remediable Service Statements (RSS) factsheet

We have produced a [remediable service statement factsheet](#) to help scheme managers and pension administrators understand the regulatory requirements and deadlines associated with the production of an RSS.

By way of reminder, the responsibility of adhering to the timescales set out in the regulations sits with the scheme manager. It is therefore recommended that scheme managers liaise with their pensions administrator to establish what plans are in place for producing an RSS for all eligible individuals by the regulatory deadlines.

The RSS factsheet has been published in the [Age Discrimination remedy – Remediable Service Statement](#) section of the [FPS regulations and guidance](#) website.

ACTION: We would recommend that scheme managers liaise with their pensions administrator to establish what plans are in place for producing an RSS for eligible individuals.

Injury pension calculation for a retained firefighter appointed after 5 April 2006

We are aware that there is some confusion in relation to the calculation of an injury pension for a retained firefighter appointed after 5 April 2006. You may be familiar with a document which was published in January 2007 called 'A guide to the Firefighters Compensation Scheme 2006 – for retained firefighters appointed after 5 April 2006'. Pages 11 and 12 of the guide set out the process and provide an example for calculating an injury award, however, this does not align with what is set out in the [Firefighter's Compensation Scheme \(England\) \(Amendment\) Order 2006](#).

The example within the guide is based on [Schedule 1, Part 2 of the Firefighter's Compensation Scheme \(England\) Order 2006](#) for part time individuals. However, following an amendment in January 2007 (backdated to 6 April 2006) the regulations instruct you to apply the new [Schedule 1, Part 3 of the Firefighter's Compensation Scheme \(England\) Order 2006](#) for retained individuals. By following the guide, and not the amendment in the regulations which is specifically aimed at retained individuals, the injury entitlement is reduced, resulting in an underpayment of benefits.

The origins of the guide are unclear; however, we can confirm that it has not been endorsed by either the LGA or Home Office and has been removed from our website. We therefore strongly encourage readers **not** to refer to the guide for the purpose of calculating an injury pension for retained firefighter appointed after 5 April 2006. The regulations and any subsequent amendments to these regulations should be referred to in **all** cases.

ACTION: Administrators to review how they have calculated injury pensions for retained firefighter appointed after 5 April 2006 and consider whether a recalculation is required.

TPR six key processes factsheet

We advised readers in [FPS Bulletin 75 – November 2023](#) that the results of the [2022-23 Governance and Administration survey](#) had been published by the Pensions Regulator (tPR).

As part of the annual survey, tPR measures six processes as key indicators of public service pension scheme performance.

The six processes are:

1. Documented policy to manage board members conflicts of interest
2. Access to knowledge, understanding and skills needed to properly run the scheme
3. Documented procedures for assessing and managing risks
4. Process to monitor records for accuracy / completeness
5. Process for resolving contribution payment issues
6. Procedures to identify, assess and report breaches of the law.

In 2022-23, 67 per cent of Firefighters' schemes across the UK reported having all six processes in place. This had decreased from 74 per cent in 2021.

We have refreshed [six key processes factsheet](#) to reflect the most recent results and give guidance to FRAs and their Local Pension Boards (LPBs) to improve understanding and compliance in the next survey.

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.

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.

We have not received any queries in January 2024.

Matthews and Age discrimination remedy Query logs

We have set up three new query logs:

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

These logs record the technical queries we have been receiving in relation to age discrimination remedy, Matthews and the calculator queries that GAD have been receiving.

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

The queries have been anonymised. The logs will be updated monthly in line with the bulletin release dates.

FPS England SAB updates

SAB Levy 2023-24 – Request for Purchase Order numbers

Under arrangement for the Firefighters' Pension Scheme [2014 Regulations 4H\(1\)](#), the Scheme Advisory Board (SAB) is required to set an annual budget for approval by the Secretary of State.

We are pleased to confirm that the SAB budget for 2023-24 has been approved by the minister and the involving process will be rollout out on 1 February 2024.

In 2014, FRAs entered into a shared arrangement to fund a technical adviser post to support FRAs with their understanding and management of the Firefighter' Pension Schemes. The employers' voluntary subscription is included in the final levy.

The total levy for the 2023-24 year is £9.23 per firefighter, which is calculated at £6.74 for the SAB levy and £2.50 for the employers. A letter will be sent to Chief Fire Officers and HR Directors on 1 February 2024 advising them of this.

Devolved FRAs will also be sent levy requests with regards to the employer advice service provided to them by the LGA.

The first stage of the process is for FRAs to provide a valid purchase order number, stating the number of employees eligible to join one of the Firefighter' Pension Scheme as of 1 April 2023, using the form provided with the letter.

ACTION: FRAs to provide a valid purchase order number, stating the number of employees eligible to join one of the Firefighters' Pension Schemes as of 1 April 2023, using the form provided with the SAB 2023-34 levy letter.

SAB LPB effectiveness committee meeting 23 January 2024

The Local Pension Board (LPB) effectiveness committee last met on 23 January 2024 and the meeting covered the following areas:

- Committee Constitution
- Role of the LPB effectiveness committee
- LPB agenda review
- LPB LGA training proposal

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

Public Service Pension Increase 2024

The Government has today issued a [written ministerial statement](#) concerning the increases to apply to public service pensions in April 2024. As expected, this confirms that:

FPS pensions will increase by 6.7% from 8 April 2024 (a lower, pro-rata increase will apply to pensions that started after 23 April 2023).

This increase is in line with the increase in the Consumer Prices Index for the year up to September 2023.

Active FPS pension accounts will be revalued in line with changes in Average Weekly Earnings and will increase by 7.7% from 1 April 2024.

You can find the Pensions increase multiplier tables and a covering note in the 'Annual update SIs' section of the [Legal Landscape](#) page of the FPS regulations and guidance website. We will continue to update this page as the relevant 2024 statutory instruments are published.

The written ministerial statement also confirms the revaluation increases that will apply in the major public service pension schemes. These increases will apply to CARE benefits transferred to the FPS on Club terms.

Draft Guaranteed Minimum Pensions Increase Order 2024

The [Draft Guaranteed Minimum Pension Increase Order 2024](#) has been published by the Stationary Office.

The draft Order specifies the amount by which the Guaranteed Minimum Pension element of an individual's occupational pension entitlement (a Guaranteed Minimum Pension accrued in a formerly contracted-out occupational pension scheme between 1988 and 1997) must be increased with effect from 6 April 2024.

Pensions Dashboards Programme



Pensions Dashboards Programme (PDP) blog

The PDP has published a blog '[looking back on 2023](#)', in which the year has been described as a 'challenge' for the PDP.

In the blog, Chris Curry, Principal at PDP, discusses the progress made in 2023 and looks ahead to 2024.

The Pensions Dashboard Programme – Frequently Asked Questions Newsletters

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

In their [latest newsletter](#) they cover what is the central digital architecture, what are the different components of the ecosystem and how do dashboard users interact with the central digital architecture?

The Pensions Regulator (TPR)



The General Code

The [General code](#) was laid in Parliament on 10 January 2024. This brings together and updates ten existing codes of practice into one set of clear, consistent expectations on scheme governance and administration.

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The ten codes of practice which have been rolled into one are as follows:

- Reporting breaches of the law
- Early leavers
- Late payment of contributions (occupational pension schemes)
- Late payment of contributions (personal pension schemes)
- Trustee knowledge and understanding
- Member nominated trustees/member-nominated directors putting arrangements in place
- Internal controls
- Dispute resolution reasonable periods
- DC code
- Public service code

Whilst the new code looks different; with TPR's expectations summarised within focused modules, many of the standards set out are not.

The new format is set out in such a way, with the intention to make it easier for scheme managers to understand TPR's expectations and to self-measure whether, and how, they are meeting them.

PLSA Lifetime Allowance Abolition Webinar

The Pensions and Lifetime Savings Association (PLSA) are holding a [webinar](#) on the Lifetime Allowance Abolition.

The webinar will explore and clarify HMRC's expectations and the legal aspects, consider the issues that schemes are encountering and discuss how to tackle them.

HMRC

Pension Input Aggregation Consultation

HMRC is [consulting on provisions aimed to implement PIA aggregation or negative PIA policy](#) that was part of the pension tax measures announce in the Spring Budget 2023.

The aim of this policy is to allow FPS members to offset notionally negative pension growth for Annual Allowance purposes in closed legacy schemes against positive growth in active reformed schemes, beginning from the 2023-24 tax year.

HMRC has now published the draft SI amending the Finance Act 2004 to this effect.

HMRC would welcome response from administrators and stakeholders by **26 February 2024**.

ACTION: Readers are encouraged to read the consultation and provide any comments to HMRC by **26 February 2024**.

Lifetime Allowance guidance newsletter – December 2023

On 20 December 2023, HMRC published a [guidance newsletter on Lifetime Allowance](#).

The newsletter has articles on:

- pension commencement lump sums
- taxable lump sums and PAYE for employers payroll reporting
- dependants' or nominees' flexi-access drawdown pension or annuity (BCE 5C and BCE 5D)
- enhancement factors
- lifetime allowance protections and enhancements — application deadlines
- scheme administrator reporting
- lump sum death benefits
- lump sum death benefits from before 6 April 2024 crystallised funds
- international — overseas transfer allowance
- international — member payment charges
- transitional arrangements
- protection look-up service

HMRC Newsletter - January 2024

On 25 January 2024, HMRC published its [January newsletter](#).

The newsletter has articles on:

- lifetime allowance (LTA) abolition — legislative changes
- relief at source
- pension flexibility statistics
- retained firefighters
- Government Gateway — enrolment recovery
- Managing pension schemes service

Please note the article on retained firefighters which relates to the Matthews first options exercise and national insurance refunds.

HMRC have previously contacted all FRAs in England, Wales and Northern Ireland asking for information in relation to National Insurance refunds for retrospective entry into the pension scheme.

FRAs need to apply to register and obtain a verified Contracted out Election Certificate to allow the membership into their scheme. Without the correct registration and certificates, customer records will not be amended by HMRC.

FRAs will need to:

- supply the start and end date of every customer's retrospective period of membership — without the correct information, customer records will not be amended by HMRC
- provide the employers bank account details and not their members. HMRC will write to members direct requesting their bank account details when processing their refund — without the employer's bank details, customers records will not be amended by HMRC

HMRC will not action cases if all information is not supplied.

ACTION: HMRC have contacted all FRAs with information bespoke to them, relating to the Matthews first exercise and national insurance refunds, and have asked that you reply accordingly. Please provide complete information to HMRC by 5 April 2024, any information supplied after this date will not be progressed or chased.

Events

Local Pension Board (LPB) Training Sessions

Further to [FPS Bulletin 76 – December 2023](#) where we let readers know that we were looking to change the way in which we deliver the LPB training.

We are excited to release the dates of the training and the proposed speakers.

- Tuesday 26 March 2024 10:00 – 14:00 (MS Teams)
- Monday 17 June 2024 13:00 – 17:00 (MS Teams)
- Wednesday 18 September 2024 11:00 – 15:30 (In person - 18 Smith Square)
- Thursday 23 January 2025 10:00 – 14:00 (MS Teams)

Attendees will hear from a range of speakers including:

LGA – to provide an overview of the FPS scheme(s) and current pension related hot topics e.g. Matthews and McCloud

SAB (England) Chair – to give an introduction and overview of the work that SAB are involved in.

Fire LPB Effectiveness Committee Chair – to provide input on LPB effectiveness and what the committee have been working on.

The Pensions Regulator – to provide an update on the Administration and Governance survey and how the results relate to Fire, as well as covering the importance of the Public Sector Pensions toolkit and any current developments e.g. the General Code.

The Pensions Dashboard Programme (PDP)/ The Pensions Regulator (TPR) – to provide an update on the programme and requirements on scheme managers/to provide detail of the tools that scheme managers can use to help them prepare for dashboards e.g. checklists.

To book:

Please email bluelightpensions@local.gov.uk for the MS Teams sessions and we will announce when the booking link goes live for the in-person session at the LGA offices, 18 Smith Square, Westminster, SW1P 3HZ.

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

FPS coffee mornings

Our MS Teams coffee mornings are continuing in February 2024. The informal sessions lasting up to an hour allow practitioners to catch up with colleagues and hear a brief update on FPS issues from the LGA Bluelight team.

On 8 February 2024 we will be holding a session on automatic compensation at 10:00 - 11:00.

On 20 February 2024 we will be holding a session on the treatment of death cases under the Matthews remedy at 11:00 - 12:00.

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

10 January 2024 – [Firefighters' Pension Scheme \(England\) - 2020 Valuation results](#)

30 January 2024 – [TPR Governance and Administration 2022/2023 survey results](#)

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.

Useful links

- [The Firefighters' Pensions \(England\) Scheme Advisory Board](#)
- [FPS Regulations and Guidance](#)
- [FPS Member](#)
- [Khub Firefighters Pensions Discussion Forum](#)
- [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](#)

Legislation

Statutory Instruments

[The Police and Firefighters' Pensions \(Remediable Service\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2024](#) [SI 2024/59]

[The Firefighters' Pension Schemes and Compensation Scheme \(Amendment\) \(Wales\) Order 2024](#) [SI 2024/13 (W.5)]

[The Firefighters' Pension Schemes \(Scotland\) Amendment Order 2024](#) [SSI 2024/26]

[The Pensions Dashboards \(Prohibition of Indemnification\) Act 2023 \(Commencement\) Regulations 2023](#) [SI 2023/1414]

Contact details

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.

Claire Johnson (Senior Firefighters' Pensions Adviser)

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