

# General update

# Agenda



Team update



How do we support the sector?



Training and Development



Post 31 March 2025

Sargeant remedy  
Matthews remedy



Member contribution review consultation



Pension Dashboards

# Team update

## Bluelight team

**Tara Atkins**

Senior Firefighters' Pension Adviser

**Jill Swift (commences 9 June 2025)**

Firefighters' Pensions Adviser

**Vivian Jones**

Programme Support Officer

**Clair Alcock (commences 19 May 2025)**

Pensions Manager

**Claire Johnson (on maternity leave)**

Senior Firefighters' Pension Adviser

[Bluelightpensions@local.gov.uk](mailto:Bluelightpensions@local.gov.uk)

# Role and responsibilities

To support scheme managers with their responsibilities for the administration and management of the FPS.

- Provide central guidance and support on national issues.
- Provide regular training and access to [forums and groups](#), and [events and conferences](#).
- Provide technical support on matters relating to the FPS.

To provide effective and professional support for the governance arrangements of the Firefighters (England) Scheme Advisory Board and its members.

- Support the facilitation of meetings of the Board and its sub committees.
- Ensure that the Board has relevant advisors at its disposal.
- Support the Board with their duties in relation to LPBs

# The Bluelight Team

## DO:

Advise

Guide

Help

Steer

## DO NOT:

Police

Inspect

Regulate

Report

Whistle blow

Do it for you

# LGA framework and support services

- Forums and Groups
  - [Firefighters' Technical Working Group](#) (FTWG)
  - [Firefighters' Communications Working Group](#) (FCWG)
  - [Regional groups](#)
  - Administrator forum
  - LPB Chair forum
  - FRA Drop in session
- [Events](#)
- [Technical Support](#)
- [Coffee mornings](#)

# Training and Development

## FPS Board website

- [Training and Development](#)
  - LPB training
  - LPB refresher training

## FPS regs and guidance

- [Training and Development](#)
  - Induction training
  - IDRP training
  - Ill Health training

## Qualifications

- Award in Pensions Essentials

## Training Working Group

- Training programme
- Content
- Pensions Qualification

# Post 31 March 2025





# Sargeant



31 MARCH 2025



SARGEANT – STATUTORY  
DEADLINE FACTSHEET

# Breaches



Record immediately

LPB report  
Internal breaches log



Assess for materiality



[Material Breach Assessment factsheet](#)

# Internal Dispute Resolution procedure (IDRP)

**Are you starting to receive them?**

- What is it?
  - [Dispute resolution processes TPR code module | The Pensions Regulator](#)
    - Dispute resolution process
    - Reasonable Periods
    - Decision making
    - Informing members
- Is yours current?
- What could you do to prepare
  - Communicate well
  - [How to avoid the Ombudsman | The Pensions Ombudsman](#)
  - [Mcloud factsheet July 2022 v3.pdf](#)

# Resources



Already available

[IDRP factsheet](#) (subject to review)

[Why might my Remediable Service Statement be delayed factsheet](#)



In FPS Bulletin 91 – March 2025 launched

[IDRP guidance for decision makers](#)



To be launched in FPS Bulletin 93 – May 2025

IDRP guidance for members

IDRP updated factsheet



IDRP training

[28 May 2025](#)

# Opt-out

## Which scheme?

- Section 5 of PSPJOA allows for remedy period service to be reinstated but does not provide the power to reinstate any service pre/post remedy period.
- Scheme managers to use ‘existing powers’, if available, to allow for reinstatement for pre/post remedy period.

## Existing powers

- FPS 1992: Once a member opts out, they cannot opt back in. If they want to re-join then they re-join FPS 2006.
- FPS 2015: [Scheme manager discretion](#).

# Distinctions in membership

Based on Home Office's update of 23 January 2025

The closing date for all legacy police and fire pension schemes is 31st March 2015 (see section 18(4)(b) of the Public Service Pensions Act 2013). This is also the closing date for the purposes of the PSPJOA – see section 1(8)(a).

Opted out on or before 31 March 2015 and did not rejoin during the remedy period

currently cannot return to the older 1992 legacy schemes and their relevant legacy scheme is 2006 scheme

Opted out after the closing date (31 March 2015) but rejoined before the remedy period's end (31 March 2022)

currently cannot return to the older 1992 legacy schemes and their relevant legacy scheme is 2006 scheme.

Opted out after the closing date (31 March 2015) and did not rejoin during the remedy period

currently their relevant legacy scheme is the older 1992 legacy schemes.

**Home Office are still in ongoing discussions to establish the final position, which will be agreed with the Fire Minister**

# GAD guidance



## Prospective divorce guidance

Issued to administrators and software suppliers on 24 March 2025

Published on [Divorce Pension Credit](#) section of the FPS regulations and guidance website



## Retrospective divorce guidance

Issued in parts to administrators for feedback on 24 March and 22 April 2025

GAD Q&A session on 21 May



# Matthews Deadline



Home Office update 2 April 2025



12-month extension – from date amendments come into force



Update June Scheme Advisory Board



# Member contribution review consultation



# Member contribution review



Consultation closed 29 January 2025



12-week implementation period



Liaising with GAD



Update June Scheme Advisory Board

# Pensions Dashboards



# Pensions Dashboards



All occupational pension schemes in scope will need to have connected to the pension's dashboards ecosystem by the legal connection deadline of **31 October 2026**



Public Sector schemes included the Firefighters' Pension Scheme are due to connect by **31 October 2025**



[Pensions Dashboards Programme](#)

ARE  
**YOU**  
READY?



Does your scheme manager understand that the legal responsibility to connect is theirs, even if they are using their administrator to administer this.



Do you know where you can obtain information relating to scheme manager responsibilities?

# Resources



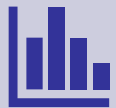
[Connection guidance](#)



TPR

[Hot topics from TPR](#)

[TPR connection checklist](#)



Pension Dashboard  
Programme

[Dashboard Standards](#)

[Connecting using a third party](#)

[Change connection plans](#)

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**Thank you for listening!**

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