

Personal and Confidential

01 May 2018

Dear xx

Re: The Retained Firefighters' Pension Settlement- Introduction to the new modified scheme

I am writing to provide you with further information regarding your opportunity to join the modified pension scheme. Our records confirm that you were serving as a Retained Firefighter during the relevant period (2000- 2006). By returning the expression of interest form you have expressed an interest in joining the modified Scheme.

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 proceed if you wish to do so.

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 options election form.

As previously outlined, the modified scheme will be subject to the reforms that apply to all public service schemes from 1st April 2015. Members of the modified scheme who are not protected will transfer to the 2015 Firefighters' Pension Scheme on 1 April 2015 or later if they are taper-protected.

If you are considering the option to convert service in the modified scheme to 2006 scheme membership and were between age 45 and age 50 on 1st April 2012, please be aware that this may impact your protected status. The Normal Retirement Age is 55 in the Modified



Scheme and 60 for the 2006 scheme. Therefore members of the modified scheme as at 1st April 2012 who were within 10 years of age 55 will be protected, this changes to 10 years of age 60 for protection criteria of members of the 2006 scheme at 1st April 2012.

If you wish to progress the option to join the Modified Pension Scheme, you are now required to return the signed options election form, and a signed copy of this letter, **within four months of the date of this letter**, otherwise your option to join the Modified Scheme may be lost. Once the options exercise has concluded there will be no further opportunity to join.

NB * please return the options exercise form as soon as possible to confirm/decline if you wish to join this scheme.

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

By signing the options form 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.

If you have any questions about the process, please contact me on the number above.

Payment can be made by periodic contributions or by lump sum as outlined in the 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 the FPS and NFPS. This would be dealt with after you have joined the Modified Scheme, 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.

Please sign the declaration below, and return this letter with the signed options election form.

If you have changed your mind, or wish to obtain further information please contact me on the number above.

Yours sincerely,

xxx
HR Adviser



I have read and understand the information contained within this letter and accompanying documents.

Name:

Signed:

Date

