Dear

**The Retained Firefighters’ Pension Settlement – Second Options Exercise**

In March 2022, after a lengthy legal process as well as negotiations between the government and respective unions, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was agreed by all parties about the retained firefighters’ pension settlement and upcoming second options exercise. Full details of which can be found on the FPS Member Website ([www.fpsmember.org](http://www.fpsmember.org)).

The MoU sets out the criteria of who is in scope for the second options exercise. Individuals must meet one of the following criteria:

1. Retained firefighters employed on any date between 7 April 2000 and 30 June 2000 (inclusive);
2. Retained firefighters employed on any date between 7 April 2000 and 30 June 2000 (inclusive) as well as on any date between 1 July 2000 and 5 April 2006 (inclusive);
3. Retained firefighters employed on any date between 1 July 2000 and 5 April 2006 (inclusive), but not on any date between 7 April and 1 July 2000, who were eligible to take part in the first options exercise but were not given opportunity to do so.

Retained firefighters employed on any date between 1 July 2000 and 5 April 2006 (inclusive), but not on any date between 7 April and 1 July 2000, who were given opportunity to take part in the first options exercise but did not elect to do so within the statutory time limits are **not in scope** for the second options exercise.

Our records indicate that you do have service which is deemed in scope and you are therefore eligible to take part in the second options exercise. This means that you will be able to buy pension service as a special member for any service you built up between 7 April 2000 and 5 April 2006, as well as any continuous service up to 7 April 2000 and/or any continuous service from 5 April 2006.

Unfortunately, we are unable to provide any more information to you at this stage, this is because the government is currently in the process of drafting the scheme rules which are needed for the second options exercise. These rules will be subject to consultation before they are laid before Parliament.

The government has a maximum period of 18 months to draft, consult, and introduce the scheme rules which are needed to bring the changes into law. This is expected to happen by 1 October 2023.

Once the changes become law, we will then be expected to start the second options exercise and contact eligible members as soon as possible. **We have 18 months to complete this exercise and can confirm that your individual options will be made available to you no later than March 2025.**

At this stage, you do not need to do anything further. We are aware that you are in scope and, as mentioned above, we will contact you with individual options no later than March 2025. We do suggest that you keep us informed of any address changes as all correspondence will be sent in writing to the address we have on record. You can update us of any address changes by emailing [INSERT EMAIL ADDRESS].

Yours sincerely