

Retained Firefighter Bulletin

HMRC recently sent out emails to Fire Authorities in England, Wales and Northern Ireland asking for further information in relation to National Insurance refunds for retrospective entry into the pension scheme.

Each Fire Authority scheme has received information bespoke to them. The details below provide further clarity around the information HMRC has requested.

- Start and end dates of retrospective entry into the pension scheme. HMRC do not require any further information other than these dates, the refund will be calculated based on entitlement during the tax years included.
- HMRC has recently introduced Faster Payments for Class 1 National Insurance contributions. All Class 1 NICs for Primary (employee) and Secondary (employer) will be refunded to bank accounts. Fire Authorities only need to provide their bank account details and not their members. HMRC will write to members direct requesting their bank account details when processing their refund.
- Instalment agreements – the information HMRC has obtained, indicates Fire Authorities allowed members to pay by instalments. To calculate the members, refund entitlement, HMRC require confirmation if the amount has been paid or if they have stopped paying.
 - For members who have paid by lump sum or have finished paying by instalment, update **column F** on the spreadsheet indicating Yes.
 - If the member has stopped paying and have not paid in full update **column G** on the spreadsheet with the date the instalment payments stopped.
 - HMRC has been advised Fire Authorities are unable to determine which Tax years the instalments have been paid for, therefore leave **column H** on the spreadsheet blank.
- Fire Authorities who have not yet sent HMRC their application for a backdated contracting-out certificate, will need to notify their Pension Scheme Administrator. Unless HMRC receives an application to enable the issue of a backdated certificate, HMRC will not be able to process their National Insurance refunds.
- HMRC has not included a deadline for the return of the information requested on the spreadsheet in the emails sent to the Fire Authorities. However, could all information requested be returned to HMRC by 31 July 2023, this will allow HMRC to begin to assess the Fire Authorities and members refund position. If any Fire Authority is unable to meet this deadline, please contact us at wmbc.policeandfiresectorpbq@hmrc.gov.uk.