

**Rule A16 explains the meaning of the expression “to retire”.**

**The meaning of  
“retire”**

To say that a person retires on a particular day can cause misunderstanding. For example, if a person says he will retire on 16th June, does he mean that the 16th June is his last day of service or his first day of retirement?

Rule A16 clarifies the meaning of “retire” as used in the FPS – an employee of a fire and rescue authority is taken to have retired immediately after his or her last day of service.

So, if you had said that you would retire on 16th June, as a firefighter this means that the 15th June would be your last day as an employee of the authority and 16th June would be your first day as a pensioner.

**Points To Note**

1. This may seem a minor point but the expression “retire” is used throughout the FPS and its correct meaning should be borne in mind, particularly when
  - working out entitlement to an award, or the right to commute or allocate,
  - checking award calculations, and
  - looking at examples in this Commentary.

Often when someone is said to have “retired” it is meant that the person is entitled to receive immediate payment of pension. This is not the case with the expression “retired” in the FPS. It simply means that a person has left an employment as a firefighter.

2. It is also important to remember how to work out your age for pension purposes. You attain a particular age at 00.00 hours between the day you celebrate the anniversary of your birth and the day before. For example, if you were born on 25 August 1951 and you decided to retire at normal pension age (55), your last day of service would be 24 August 2006. You would “retire” on 25 August 2006. This point is particularly important for working out which commutation factor would apply to you – see the explanation of Rule B7.