

Retained firefighter appointed on or after 6 April 2006 and before the date the Firefighters' Pension Scheme (England) Order 2006 comes into force

Dear xxxxxxx

The Firefighters' Pension Scheme (England) Order 2006

With effect from 6 April 2006, the rules of the New Firefighters' Pension Scheme ("NFPS") allow retained firefighters¹ to become members. At the time that you took up your employment as a retained firefighter with the Fire and Rescue Service the legislation containing the rules of the NFPS had not been finalised and so you were not offered membership of Scheme. The above Order has now been issued, and comes into force early in January. You will automatically be admitted to the Scheme as a member at that time.

Although admission is automatic, membership is not compulsory. You can opt out of the NFPS if you prefer not to be a member.

If you do decide to remain a member, you can backdate your membership to the date on which you took up your employment if you wish, subject to you electing to pay contributions to cover that earlier period of membership and making the payment within six months of electing to pay. The contributions are those which you would have paid, had you been a member of the NFPS from the date you were employed as a retained firefighter up to the operative date of the above Order.

Whether or not you choose to remain a member of the NFPS you will have cover for injury awards and duty-related compensation as set out in the Firefighters' Compensation Scheme (England) Order 2006. (The injury awards are pro rated to reflect the hours you work as a proportion of whole-time.) A Guide to the Compensation Scheme is available on the intranet [*insert link*] or on the firepensions website at <http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1164954>.

To help you decide whether you wish to remain a member and, if so, whether to backdate your membership, enclosed with this letter you will find the following –

- a Guide to the NFPS. This will give you basic information about the Scheme.
- a supplement to the Guide which explains how benefits are assessed for retained firefighters.
- an opting-out form to complete and return if you do not wish to be a member of the NFPS. The enclosed Scheme guide explains the implications of opting-out.
- a form to complete and return to indicate whether or not you wish to backdate membership to your first day of employment.
- a New Starter Form/Pensions History Form (*or whatever the FRA's form is called*) for you to complete and return. This will help ensure an accurate pension record is created for you and gives you the opportunity to ask the Fire and Rescue Authority to

¹ "Retained firefighter" means a retained duty system firefighter, a day-crewing firefighter while undertaking retained duties, or a volunteer firefighter.

