

Sent by email to: Scheme managers, Local Pension Board chairs

Cc: Local Pension Board lead contacts, Chief Fire Officers

Published on www.fpsboard.org

27 October 2022

Dear FPS scheme manager/ Local Pension Board chair

Message from the Firefighters' Pensions (England) Scheme Advisory Board (SAB) regarding pension dashboards

I am writing to you as we have you recorded as the Scheme Manager/ Local Pension Board chair for your local Fire Pension Scheme. If this is the case, can I thank you very much for your service and, if this is not the case, please can you advise the LGA who the Scheme Manager should be.

It is part of the SAB's role to provide advice to scheme managers and Local Pension Boards in relation to the effective and efficient administration and management of the Firefighters' Pension Scheme 2015 and any connected scheme. The SAB therefore agreed to issue a reminder to scheme managers of their duties with respect to the new [Pensions Dashboards](#). Pensions Dashboards are a government initiative to allow pension scheme members in Great Britain to view all of their pension entitlements online in one place. There is a legislative requirement for fire schemes (along with all other public sector schemes) to connect to the dashboard by 30 September 2024, with a further requirement to be able to provide information about benefits (value data) by 1 April 2025 at the latest.

While we expect scheme managers to be able to delegate many of the actions required to set their Scheme up on the dashboard to their administration provider, it is our understanding that scheme managers are ultimately responsible in law for ensuring that dashboard duties are met. These include:

- Working towards your staging date. The Pensions Regulator (TPR) is keen that schemes start planning now to be able to match dashboard requests to scheme records and return the required information to the dashboard. You will need to understand how your provider will be able to pick out those requests which correspond to your members and ensure that they are providing information to the right individuals.

- Ensuring the infrastructure is in place to hold and share data with the dashboard: Your administrator should be able to tell you how they are planning to connect whether through the existing software providers or through some other route.
- Reviewing scheme data: We understand that the data which is used for the dashboard is likely to be based on information currently being provided as part of Annual Benefit Statements (ABSs). The SAB is keen to encourage the parties to agree consistent information for those documents, particularly given the challenges arising from the Sargeant remedy and second special members options exercise (Matthews). We understand that forums are being provided to discuss such matters and that the LGA will ensure that further information is available in due course.
- Co-operation with the Money and Pensions Service (MaPS). You can get more information on this from [Pensions dashboards: initial guidance | The Pensions Regulator](#)

If you have not already, please get in touch with your administrator to discuss their plans for connecting to the dashboard. You may also want to start thinking about whether you will need to allocate additional resources to make sure your data is fit for purpose.

Please contact the SAB secretariat at bluelight.pensions@local.gov.uk if you have any questions on this or would like to feed back any comments to the SAB.



Joanne Livingstone
Chair of the Firefighters' Pensions (England) Scheme Advisory Board