



# Matthews Consultation



**SURREY**  
COUNTY COUNCIL

# Retained Fire fighters' Pensions

Government consultation 2023  
Consultation ends 9 June 2023



# Matthews Consultation introduction

The McCloud consultation which can be found [here](#) requests for parties interested to complete 11 questions to aid with the Home Office's preparations of implementing the legislation in October 2023.

Surrey Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) will respond via email to the Home Office and SFRS' feedback can be found on the following slides.





# Consultation Question 1

1. Are the categories of individuals that have been identified as being eligible to join the modified scheme as part of the 2023 Options exercise appropriate?

Yes	No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please explain your answer.

The three cohorts as identified in the consultation appear appropriate if members can be placed in more than one cohort.



# Consultation Question 2

2. Do the categories of individuals that have been identified as being eligible to join the modified scheme as part of the 2023 Options exercise include everyone who ought to be included?

Yes	No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Please explain your answer.**

**It does appear that eligible members include those who ought to have been included. However, should an eligible member be accidentally excluded, the removal of the backstop date will allow members to be enrolled into the Modified Pension scheme in exceptional circumstances.**



# Consultation Question 3

3. Do the proposed amendments to the Firefighters' Pension Scheme (England) Order 2006 achieve the policy intention of ensuring all individuals in Cohort 1 can purchase any of their uninterrupted retained service in the modified scheme and place these members in the position they would have been had they been entitled to purchase their service at the time?

Yes	No
✓	

Please explain your answer.

Cohort 1 members (service between 7 April 2000 and 30 June 2000) are able to purchase continuous service up to 7 April 2000 (no limit on back tracking). This should put members in the position they should have been in, had it been possible to purchase service at the relevant time.



# Consultation Question 4

4. Do the proposed amendments to the Firefighters' Pension Scheme (England) Order 2006 achieve the policy intention of ensuring all individuals in Cohort 2 can purchase any of their uninterrupted retained service in the modified scheme and place these members in the position they would have been had they been entitled to purchase their service at the time?

Yes	No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please explain your answer.

Cohort 2 members (service between 7 April 2000 and 5 April 2006) are able to purchase continuous service up to 7 April 2000 (no limit on back tracking) and continuous service from 6 April 2006 to 31 March 2022. This should put members in the position they should have been in, had it been possible to purchase service at the relevant time.



# Consultation Question 5

5. Do the proposed amendments to the Firefighters' Pension Scheme (England) Order 2006 achieve the policy intention of ensuring all individuals in Cohort 3 can purchase any of their uninterrupted retained service in the modified scheme and place these members in the position they would have been had they been entitled to purchase their service at the time?

Yes	No
	✓

Please explain your answer.

Cohort 3 members (service between 1 July 2000 and 5 April 2006) are able to purchase continuous service from 6 April 2006 to 31 March 2022. However, if members in cohort 3 can be included in other cohorts, then this should put members in the position they should have been in, had members been able to purchase service at the correct time.





# Consultation Question 6

6. Are there any changes to the proposals required for those individuals who are entitled to both the Matthews remedy and McCloud/Sargeant remedy simultaneously?

Yes	No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Please explain your answer.**

**Surrey Fire and Rescue Service believe no significant changes are required to the proposals for those individuals who are entitled to both the Matthews remedy and the McCloud remedy. However, examples of scenarios where members are affected by both remedies would be helpful to the Fire Sector.**



# Consultation Question 6 continued

6. Are there any changes to the proposals required for those individuals who are entitled to both the Matthews remedy and McCloud/Sargeant remedy simultaneously?

Please explain your answer.

In addition to the feedback provided on the previous slide, could eligible members be affected if one remedy is implemented before another remedy? For example, if the Matthews remedy is implemented before the McCloud remedy, could a member be disadvantaged financially or in any other way? Will the remedy that achieves a greater benefit to a member be prioritised first?



# Consultation Question 7

7. Do the proposed changes to the special death grant and additional death grant sufficiently address the scenario where the deceased member had pre-2000 service?

Yes	No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please explain your answer.

A top up to the special death grant provides eligible survivors with a single lump sum payment equal to  $0.1 \times$  member's pensionable pay for each qualifying year of service that the deceased member had prior to 7 April 2000. This action recognises deceased members who served for a longer period of time are compensated accordingly.



# Consultation Question 8

8. Are there any additional points not covered in this consultation paper that need to be considered as part of the proposed changes to the Firefighters' Pension Scheme (England) Order 2006?

Yes	No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please explain your answer.

Questions for the Home Office will be provided separately.



# Consultation Question 9

9. The scheme will also provide an additional top up to the special death grant in respect of an individual's pre-7 April 2000 service. The Special death grant will provide eligible survivors with a single lump sum payment equal to 0.1 times the deceased member's pensionable pay for each full qualifying year of service that the deceased member had prior to 7 April 2000. Do you agree with this policy?

Yes	No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please explain your answer.

This question is similar to question 7. Surrey Fire and Rescue Service agree with the policy.





# Consultation Question 10

10. Members who joined the modified scheme as part of the 2014 Options exercise and who have pre-July 2000 service but have subsequently died will receive an additional death grant in relation to such members' pre-July 2000 service. The additional death grant will provide eligible survivors with a single lump sum payment equal to 0.1 times the deceased member's pensionable pay for each full qualifying year of service that the deceased member had prior to 1 July 2000. Do you agree with this policy?

Yes	No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please explain your answer.

Similar to questions 7 and 9. Surrey Fire and Rescue Service agree with the policy.



# Consultation Question 11

11. It is proposed that where there is an absence of pay data for pre-July 2000 membership, FRAs can assume that the retained firefighter earns 25% of the pay of a WT firefighter, and that they will be employed at the rank of a firefighter. Do you agree with this policy?

Yes	No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Please explain your answer.**

**In the absence of pay data pre July 2000, SFRS will use the data held on record, however 25% appears to be a reasonable figure in the absence of data.**

**Please see additional question in relation to the 25% calculation.**

