

FPS Bulletin 82 – June 2024

Welcome to issue 82 of the Firefighters’ Pensions Schemes bulletin.

If you are looking for information on a certain topic, issue and content indexes are held on the [main bulletin page](#) of the website and are updated following each new issue.

If you have any comments on this bulletin, suggested items for future issues, or a job you would like to advertise, please email bluelightpensions@local.gov.uk.

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Calendar of events

Please see below a calendar of upcoming events relevant to the Firefighters' Pension Schemes. Only those events which are hyperlinked are currently available to book. If you have any events you would like to be included in a future bulletin, please email bluelightpensions@local.gov.uk.

Table 1: Calendar of events

Event	Date
FPS Coffee Morning	9 July 2024 23 July 2024
FPS Technical Working Group	27 August 2024 25 November 2024
SAB	12 September 2024 12 December 2024
FPS Communications Working Group	25 September 2024 3 January 2025
Firefighters' AGM	18 and 19 September 2024
Local Pension Board training	2024 dates: 18 September 2024 (In person) 2025 dates: 23 January 2025 (MS Teams) 25 March 2025 (MS Teams) 16 June 2025 (MS Teams) 17 September 2025 (in person) 22 January 2026 (MS Teams)

Actions arising

For Scheme Managers

[Age Discrimination Remedy – NS&I rate update](#): - Scheme managers should:

- ensure that those individuals who are working on the age discrimination remedy GAD calculations are using the updated version of the tax and contributions calculator and supporting documents.
- provide an updated output for any cases with a calculation date on or after 23 May 2024, which has already been provided using the earlier version of the calculator.

[Age Discrimination Remedy – Data Sharing](#): Scheme managers should ensure that:

- those individuals who are working on the age discrimination remedy GAD calculations are acknowledging receipt of data requests and are responding in a timely manner in line with the guidance.
- the contact for their FRA is kept up to date.

[Age Discrimination Remedy - Immediate Choice Remediable Service Statements roll out](#): - Scheme managers:

- Should consider the cases set out in the ‘traffic light’ categories and decide whether they agree and instruct their administrator accordingly.
- Are encouraged to send out the member communication to those members in the red category and should consider whether they also wish to contact those in the amber and green categories.

[Age Discrimination Remedy – Remediable Service Statements](#): Scheme managers should liaise with their administrators to agree a timeframe for the CD RSS to be provided once they have informed them of a positive CD claim.

[Age Discrimination Remedy – Annual Benefit Statement Remediable Service Statements testing](#): scheme managers are encouraged to support their administrators to be involved in the testing of the ABS RSS’.

[Age Discrimination Remedy – Compensation](#): Scheme managers should consider how the LGA could support a peer working group for compensation claims.

[Matthews – Managing expectations](#): Scheme managers should request that those involved in the Matthews exercise to:

- share appropriate anonymised cases with the LGA to facilitate further development of the guide.

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- escalate any cases that they are struggling with the LGA for further support/guidance.

[Firefighters' Pension AGM 18 and 19 September 2024](#): scheme managers are encouraged to book onto the AGM.

For Administrators

[Age Discrimination Remedy – NS&I rate update](#): - Administrators should ensure that they:

- input the new NS&I rate into the 'Assumptions' tab of the standalone interest calculator.
- they take instructions from their software suppliers on how the rate change will affect the data they have already received and communicate it with their clients accordingly.

[Age Discrimination Remedy - Immediate Choice Remediable Service Statements roll out](#): - Administrators are encouraged:

- to discuss which cases they can process with their FRA clients and process accordingly.
- to consider the suggested template wording and include in their retirement letters where appropriate.

[Age Discrimination Remedy – Remediable Service Statements](#): are strongly encouraged to use the template CD RSS and provide the statements to members within the mutually agreed timeframe.

[Age Discrimination Remedy – Annual Benefit Statement Remediable Service Statements testing](#): - are strongly encouraged to be involved in the testing of the ABS RSS'.

[Firefighters' Pension AGM 18 and 19 September 2024](#): administrators are encouraged to book onto the AGM.

For Local Pension Boards

[Local Pension Board training](#): - Local Pension Board members are encouraged to book onto one of the training sessions.

[Firefighters AGM – Day one 18 September 2024](#): - Local Pension Board members are encouraged to book onto day one (Governance) of the Firefighters AGM.

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FPS

Firefighters' Pensions Top Up Grant

On 18 June 2024, Home Office [emailed](#) claim administrators/certifiers to notify them that due to the increase in employer contributions from April 2024, an adjustment will need to be made to the forecasts provided in August 2023 to correct the understated amounts.

Age Discrimination Remedy – NS&I rate update

The National Savings & Investment (NS&I) rate has been updated from 3.65% to 4% from 23 May 2024.

<https://www.nsandi.com/historical-interest-rates>

The change in rate will affect all Sargeant remedy interest calculations which are based on NS&I rates. This affects both the GAD Tax and Contributions calculator and the standalone interest calculator.

An updated version of the tax and contribution calculator, data input csv. File and user guide have been published on the [Age Discrimination Remedy – GAD Tax and Contribution calculator section](#) of the member area of the [FPS regulations and guidance](#) website.

In our [email](#) to scheme managers, internal pensions, and finance contacts of 5 June 2024, we confirmed that GAD had updated the standalone interest calculator, however this was incorrect, as that calculator related to settlements for the devolved nations periodical contribution cases, and not England where this provision is not available.

GAD have confirmed that they will not be updating the Standalone interest calculator, and that users will need to add the new NS&I rate on the 'Assumptions' tab of the calculator. As a reminder the link to the standalone interest calculator held on GADs website and the password is available in the [Age Discrimination Remedy – Useful information](#) section of the member area of the website.

FRAs are reminded to use the tax and contribution calculator published on the website and are recommended **not** to save a local version. This is to ensure that they are using the most up-to-date version.

FRAs who have already provided the tax and contribution outputs to their administrators with a calculation date on or after 23 May 2024 on an earlier version of the calculator will need to provide an updated calculation.

Administrators should take instructions from their software suppliers on how the rate change will affect the data they have already received and communicate it with their clients accordingly.

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Age Discrimination Remedy – Data Sharing

In [FPS Bulletin 77 – January 2024](#), we published a data sharing agreement, data request and guidance for scheme managers setting out the recommended process and timescale of how FRAs should share data between FRAs in a timely manner.

In [FPS Bulletin 79 – March 2024](#), we published updated guidance to reflect reasonable timescales and stressed the importance of providing data in a timely manner, as this can result in a delay in payment of a members retirement benefits, and could result in a member complaint and/or a breach in law.

We understand that LPPA still have several requests for data outstanding which is holding up retirement calculations for several members. Please could we ask that any requests received from LPPA are dealt with as a matter of urgency.

As a reminder the relevant contacts that FRAs should send their data requests to for each FRA, are held within the [Firefighters' Pension Contacts](#) section of the member area of the [FPS regulations and guidance](#) website. Please ensure that these are kept up to date, to avoid any delays.

ACTIONS: -

Scheme managers should ensure:

- that those individuals who are working on the age discrimination remedy GAD calculations are acknowledging receipt of data requests and are responding in a timely manner in line with the guidance.
- That the contact for their FRA is kept up to date.

Age Discrimination Remedy - Immediate Choice Remediable Service Statement rollout update

On 3 June 2024, we met with Chief Fire Officers, scheme managers, and internal pension contacts to discuss the current position with regards to the rollout of Immediate Choice Remediable Service Statements (IC RSS).

To confirm, the outstanding issue identified **only** affects members who have received an unauthorised lump sum i.e. members with legacy FPS 1992 membership who when they retired received an unauthorised lump sum and paid a tax charge.

We continue to liaise with HMRC and HM Treasury (HMT) on this and will keep you up to date with any developments. It is worth noting that as we have now entered a pre-election period, we are unlikely to receive any substantial updates until after the General Election.

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In the interim, there are several cohorts of members which remain unaffected and can receive their IC-RSS, these have been split these into three ‘traffic light’ groups as follows:

Green	Amber	Red
<p>Legacy FPS 2006 member with no eligibility for Matthews 2 or outstanding election</p> <p>Legacy RDS modified members with no eligibility for Matthews or outstanding election</p> <p>Legacy FPS 1992 members who retired with restricted commutation (ie. Age 50 with 25 years service)</p> <p>Legacy FPS 1992 members who remain within authorised limits (ie. No lump sum or lump sum within HMRC limits)</p>	<p>Higher tier ill health (single source ill health)</p> <p>Protected and *taper protected legacy FPS 1992 members who elected for maximum lump sum (ie. paid an unauthorised tax charge) *who at the point of retirement had not tapered into FPS 2015</p> <p>Legacy FPS 2006 members with an outstanding Matthews 2 election</p> <p>Legacy RDS modified members with an outstanding Matthews 2 election</p>	<p>Unprotected and *taper protected legacy FPS 1992 members who elected for maximum lump sum (ie. paid and unauthorised tax charge) *who at the point of retirement had tapered into FPS 2015</p>

FRAs are encouraged to write to members who fall into the **red category** so they remain reliably informed. A [template](#) with suggested wording has been provided. . A local decision is required on whether you would like to adapt it and arrange for it to be shared members who fall into the **amber category**.

At our LGA drop-in session on 17 June 2024, some FRAs confirmed that they have made the decision to contact the **green category** as well. [Cheshire and Tyne and Wear FRAs](#) have very kindly shared their follow up letters for others to use should they deem appropriate.

On 19 June 2024 we sent an [email](#) to administrators providing some suggested template wording to be included within retirement letters to explain the tax spreading mechanism available to members who may be put into a higher tax bracket following receipt of arrears of pension and lump sum.

The follow up member communications are available on the [retrospective remedy](#) section of the [FPS regulations and guidance](#) website.

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We have also updated the [member FAQs](#) to reflect our understating of the current position. These are available on the [FPS member](#) website.

ACTIONS: -

Scheme managers:

- Should consider the cases set out in the 'traffic light' categories and decide whether they agree and instruct their administrator accordingly.
- Are encouraged to send out the member communication to those members in the red category and should consider whether they also wish to contact those in the amber and green categories.

Administrators are encouraged:

- to discuss which cases they can take forward with their FRA clients and process accordingly.
- to consider the suggested template wording and include in their retirement letters where appropriate.

Age Discrimination Remedy - Remediable Service Statements

We are pleased to inform you that we have published the following Remediable Service Statements (RSS):

- Annual Benefit Statement RSS (ABS RSS) for deferred members
- Contingent Decision RSS (CD RSS)

Both RSS' have been published on the [Age Discrimination Remedy – Remediable Service Statement](#) section, within the member area of the [FPS regulations and guidance](#) website.

ABS RSS

The ABS RSS should be provided to all deferred members who are eligible for remedy in line with the [statutory deadline](#) factsheet. The ABS RSS documents published include:

- Conditional text document
- Design document – deferred members (available in both word and RTF versions)
- Design document – deferred members with no dark backgrounds (available in both word and RTF)
- Data specification document

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As a reminder:

- The conditional text document shows the rules that should be followed to generate an Annual Benefit Statement. Conditional elements are indicated with square brackets. In some cases, full pages are conditional depending on the members circumstances. This document should be used in conjunction with the data specification and the design document.
- ABS RSS data specification (providing details of the data items required and how these should be calculated)
- ABS RSS design – deferred members (providing a template that should be populated with the correct conditional text items).

CD RSS

A CD RSS must be provided to a member within a mutually agreement timeframe between the scheme manager and administrator, following a positive CD claim in line with the contingent decision guidance. This statement is to be provided in addition to an RSS and will show the total value of benefits including the opted-out service or added years.

The CD RSS will need to be accompanied by the [CD RSS election form](#) to allow the member to make a choice with twelve months of receipt of the statement.

ACTIONS: -

Scheme managers: should liaise with their administrators to agree a timeframe for the CD RSS to be provided once they have informed them of a positive CD claim.

Administrators: are strongly encouraged to use the template CD RSS and provide the statements to members within the mutually agreed timeframe.

Age Discrimination Remedy – Divorce Factsheet

We are pleased to confirm that we have published a [divorce factsheet](#) on the FPS member website, to assist members in gaining a better understanding of what happens if they are affected by remedy.

Age Discrimination Remedy – Compensation

In [FPS Bulletin 81 – May 2024](#) we confirmed that the [scheme manger](#) and [funding guidance](#) was now available. This announcement was followed by a coffee morning dedicated to the topic of compensation. It was suggested at the coffee morning that scheme mangers may benefit from further peer support when considering some claims.

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With the above in mind the LGA ask for feedback on whether it is appropriate for them to support peer working and if so, how would you like us to do this.

Please send any suggestions you have to the Bluelight inbox (BluelightPensions@local.gov.uk).

ACTIONS: -

Scheme managers: should consider how the LGA could support a peer working group for compensation claims.

FPS regulations and guidance website updates

We have been making some changes to the website, so do not be alarmed if you start to see some of the pages in a different format. We are doing this, in a hope, to try to make things easier for stakeholders to reference items, now that there is a lot more content on some of the pages, particularly for the Sargeant and Matthews remedies.

We have also added two new pages to the [Regulations](#) section of the website, these are:

- [Age Discrimination Remedy regulations](#)
- [Special Members of the FPS 2006 regulations.](#)

Each page sets out the relevant regulations that are required to implement the particular remedy, so that they are all in one place for ease of reference.

Matthews – Managing expectations

We thought it would be helpful for us to reconfirm the expectations of the Matthews exercise. As you will be aware, the legislative timeframe for implementing the Matthews exercise i.e. communicating with members, providing calculations and dealing with positive elections etc. started on 1 October 2023 and will end on 31 March 2025, this means that we are now at the half way point. We know from feedback we have received that the sector is at varying degrees of completeness, and we appreciate that some scenarios are more complex than others.

To support the sector, the LGA agreed to review the existing support material that was already available to the sector and see if they could help you better understand firstly how to use the calculator and secondly how to interpret the output and explain to members. Work on this has begun, however, we cannot continue this piece of work without further support from the sector. We have put together a [list of outstanding scenarios](#) which we would like the guide to include, but without receiving some anonymised examples from FRAs we have come to a roadblock. Our ask is that should you have any cases which fit the outstanding scenarios then please do

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share them through the normal communication channels.

Whilst the guide is under construction, the LGA are committed to supporting FRAs with this exercise. Please therefore **do not** pause your Matthews implementation in anticipation of the guide. We suggest that you use the existing material which is available to you, this can be found on the dedicated [Second Options Exercise](#) page of the [FPS Regs and Guidance website](#), and deal with the case accordingly. Should you have any issues or questions with this, then please do not hesitate to contact us for further assistance.

Once the guide is available it will be published on the dedicated [Second Options Exercise](#) page of the [FPS Regs and Guidance website](#).

Not dealing with the Matthews exercise in the legislative timeframe will result in a breach which, if deemed material, will require reporting to The Pension Regulator (TPR).

ACTIONS: -

Scheme managers: Should request that those involved in the Matthews exercise to:

- share appropriate anonymised cases with the LGA to facilitate further development of the guide.
- escalate any cases that they are struggling with the LGA for further support/guidance.

Matthews – Application of interest

A number of FRA's and Administrators have recently asked for clarification on the application of interest in respect of purchasing their service by lump sum or periodic contributions.

The FPS 2006 regulations deal with interest under [Part 11, 6A \(13e\)](#), specifically references the calculation date:

The two main points to note are:

- If the member is purchasing their service by lump sum (either from own funds or pension commencement lump sum) then interest should be calculated up to the date the lump sum is paid.
- If the member is paying by periodic contributions interest is calculated to the date the member elected to join the scheme i.e. the date they signed and returned their claim form.

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ACTION - Scheme managers and Administrators should agree a consistent process for calculating interest when a member elects to pay by lump sum.

Matthews – Project implementation data request

Further to our request in [FPS Bulletin 79 – March 2024](#) we would now like to collect data for the period 1 April 2024 to 30 June 2024.

In [FPS Bulletin 79 - March 2024](#) we also covered a second area of data that we would be collecting in respect of positive elections. We would now like you to provide us with this data.

In addition to this, GAD would like to know the nature of the cases you have stockpiled waiting to be referred. Additional fields have been added to the collection spreadsheet for you to complete accordingly.

Please complete the [Project implementation data request](#), return to bluelightpensions@local.gov.uk by **19 July 2024**.

ACTION: FRAs to complete the Project Implementation data request and return to bluelightpensions@local.gov.uk by **19 July 2024**

Matthews – GAD calculator bulk upload

Further to several requests from FRA's relating to the GAD calculator bulk upload functionality, GAD will be providing an hour's session starting at 11am on Wednesday 10 July. If you are interested in attending, please email the BluelightPensions@local.gov.uk.

Matthews – Solicitors letter

We are aware of several FRA's who have been contacted by members asking about their eligibility, after recently receiving a letter from Thompson Solicitors who act on behalf of the FBU. We believe this letter has been sent out generically and not specifically targeted to those in scope for this second options exercise.

Please note, there has been no change to the regulations and only cases which are in-scope can be dealt with in the second options exercise.

Should you receive a request from a member who is not in-scope, we suggest you refer them to Thompson's. A template letter is available to send to [out of scope individuals](#) which you may find useful in circumstances such as this.

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Update your contact details

Readers will be aware that we carried out an exercise to update your contact details in [FPS Bulletin 76 – December 2023](#).

Going forward if you need to update your contact details, please complete the [contact details form](#) and return to bluelightpensions@local.gov.uk.

General technical query log

The [current log of queries and responses](#) can be accessed by practitioners in the member-restricted area of the FPS Regulations and Guidance website. The queries have been anonymised and divided into topics. The log is updated monthly in line with the bulletin release dates.

We have not received any general queries during June 2024.

Matthews and Age discrimination remedy Query logs

We have three query logs:

- Age Discrimination remedy technical query log
- Matthews technical query log
- Matthews GAD calculator query log

These logs record the technical queries we have been receiving under the age discrimination remedy, the Matthews exercise and the calculator queries that GAD have been receiving for in respect of the Matthews exercise.

Due to the number of queries that have now been received, we have updated the query logs to be organised in topic index, to allow for ease of reference.

The technical query logs can be accessed by practitioners in the restricted area of the FPS regulations and guidance website under the sections '[Age Discrimination remedy technical queries](#)' and '[Special members of the FPS 2006 technical queries](#)'.

The Matthews GAD calculator query log can be accessed through the tab 'Calculator query log' in the Special members of [FPS 2006 - GAD calculator](#) section of the FPS Regulations and Guidance website.

The queries have been anonymised. The log is updated monthly in line with the bulletin release dates.

If you do not have access to the member restricted area of the FPS regulations and guidance website, you can request access by contacting the bluelightpensions@local.gov.uk inbox.

As a reminder if you have a query relating to either the [Age Discrimination remedy](#) or

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[Matthews](#) GAD calculators you can email GAD using their dedicated inboxes

FirePoliceMcCloudTaxInterest@gad.gov.uk

Firematthewscalculator@gad.gov.uk

FPS England SAB updates

SAB website

The Scheme Advisory Board (SAB) last met on 18 June 2024 and their meeting covered:

- Home Office
 - Employee contribution rates review
 - Impact of General Election on work in progress
- TPR - Pensions Dashboards

You can use the links below to find out about the latest updates on the work of the SAB and its committees on the SAB website:

- [SAB membership](#)
- [SAB meeting and agenda papers](#)
- [Committee meetings and agenda papers](#)

Other News and Updates

The Pensions Administration Standards Association (PASA)



Data Presence and Accuracy Guidance

PASA have published guidance on data presence and accuracy. The guidance sets out why data should not just be present but accurate and provides suggestions on how stakeholders can improve and maintain their data accuracy.

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The [guidance](#) is available on PASA website.

Pensions Dashboards Programme



The Pensions Dashboard Programme – Frequently Asked Questions Newsletters

PDP publish regular [FAQ newsletters](#) about the Pensions Dashboards and the Programme which you can find on their [website](#).

In their June 2024 [newsletter](#) they cover: - IT Health Check

The Pensions Ombudsman

Volunteers' week

The week beginning 3 June 2024 was national volunteers' week. To celebrate, the Pensions Ombudsman (TPO) published testimonials from some of its current volunteers.

You can read the testimonials on the [News page of TPO's website](#).

Dominic Harris Blog on the TPO operating model

In this [blog from the pensions ombudsman](#), Dominic Harris talks about:

- how the TPO operating model review will benefit the industry and members
- changes that mean a member must exhaust a scheme's formal complaints process before bringing a case to TPO.

HMRC

Public Service Pensions Remedy Newsletter – June 2024

On 14 June 2024 HMRC published their [Public Service Pensions Remedy Newsletter – June 2024](#).

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The newsletter has articles on:

- the Calculate your public service pension adjustment service
- interim process for members
- how you can help us make improvements

This includes information about the updates to the member tax calculator and their proposed timescales for it to be back online. HMRC also confirm the interim process for members, which we have included on the FPS member website.

Events

Local Pension Board (LPB) Training Sessions

Further to [FPS Bulletin 77 – January 2024](#) where we let readers know that we launched our new LPB training.

We held our second training session in the new format on Monday 17 June 2024, which was another full house (virtually).

After introductions we welcomed our first speaker, Joanne Livingstone, Scheme Advisory Board (SAB) Chair, who gave an overview of the work that SAB have been involved in, and ended leaving the group with a question “How can we have a mutually beneficial relationship?”

Tony Curry, Chair of the LPB Effectiveness Committee, updated the group on the areas that the committee have been working on, including implementing the new look LPB training, and reviewing the need for a standard agenda template for LPB’s to use. He left the group with the question “How can the LPB Effectiveness Committee better support them in their roles on LPBs?”

In our first training session, we got some great responses to these through the feedback request after the event, including for members of the SAB and LPB effectiveness committee to attend LPB sessions. This is definitely something that both are open to, so if you would like them to attend your LPB meeting please do contact bluelightpensions@local.gov.uk and we can arrange for this, subject to their availability.

Nick Gannon, Policy Delivery Lead, from the Pension Regulator (TPR), then covered the role of the TPR, and their role in respect of public service pensions.

We then had a well-earned break, before welcoming Chris Curry, from the Pension Dashboards Programme (PDP) and Angela Bell from TPR. They both gave an update on where they are with pensions dashboards, and highlighted the tools that are available to LPBs and scheme managers to ensure that they are compliant with meeting the connection deadline and ensuring that LPBs are sighted on the progress of implementation.

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Our final session was one on the hot topics of Sargeant and Matthews remedies, and we covered what questions LPBs should be asking.

I think my favourite saying of the session, made by one of the attendees, was “How can we ensure consistency when we are all sat in a different boat?”.

That is the exact reason why we provide the training sessions, so that whilst there may be 43 fire authorities, we can share best practice, and suggest the right questions for LPB members to ask to ensure consistency within the fire sector.

All attendees will have the opportunity to provide feedback on the session and we will ensure that their comments are reflected within future sessions.

If you want to sign up for one of the LPB training sessions our next one is:

- Wednesday 18 September 2024 11:00 – 15:30 (In person – 18 Smith Square) (*bookings live on [LGA events page](#)*)

This session is ahead of ‘day one’ of the [Firefighters’ AGM](#) which is also aimed at Local Pension Board members and scheme managers. We encourage you to attend both the training and the governance session, but please note you will need to book the two sessions separately through the *LGA events* page:

Day One – Firefighters AGM

Day Two – Firefighters AGM.

We are also pleased to release our 2025 dates as follows:

- Thursday 23 January 2025 10:00 – 14:00 (MS Teams) (*Fully booked*)
- Tuesday 25 March 2025 10:00 – 14:00 (MS Teams) (*5 spaces left*)
- Monday 16 June 2025 13:00 – 17:00 (MS Teams)
- Wednesday 17 September 2025 11:00 – 15:30 (in person – 18 Smith Square)
- Thursday 22 January 2026 10:00 – 14:00 (MS Teams)

To book:

Please email bluelightpensions@local.gov.uk for the MS Teams sessions and we will announce when the booking link goes live for the 2025 in-person session at the LGA offices, 18 Smith Square, Westminster, SW1P 3HZ.

ACTION: Readers are asked to make their LPB members aware of the training sessions and encourage them to book onto a session.

Firefighters Pensions AGM – 18 and 19 September 2024

We are pleased to announce that bookings have opened for our AGM.

The two-day programme allows delegates to network with fellow colleagues and hear the latest news on the Firefighters' Pension Scheme (FPS) from the scheme's key stakeholders.

You will hear important updates, from:

- The Home Office
- The Pensions Regulator
- First Actuarial
- The SAB legal advisor
- The Pension Dashboards Programme

Day one – Wednesday 18 September 2024 16:30 – 18:30

This will follow the [Local Pension Board training session](#) and is primarily for Scheme Managers and Local Pension Board members, day one of the conference will provide practical guidance on the role of the scheme manager and will offer the opportunity to network with counterparts in other FRAs.

Following this session there will be a drinks reception on the terrace from 18:45.

Day two – Thursday 19 September 10:00 – 15:30

Day two of the conference provides delegates with an annual update on the Firefighters' Pension Scheme from key stakeholders.

Bookings are open on the LGA Events page:

[Day One](#)

[Day Two](#)

FPS coffee mornings

Our MS Teams coffee mornings are continuing in July 2024. The informal sessions lasting up to an hour allow practitioners to catch up with colleagues and hear a brief update on FPS issues from the LGA Bluelight team.

We are pleased to confirm that we will be holding a coffee afternoon on 9 July 2024 from 14:00 till 15:00, where we will be covering statutory deadlines.

We will also be holding a coffee morning on 23 July 2024 at the usual time of 10:00 till 11:00.

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We are pleased to include the presentations from recent sessions below:

11 June 2024 – PSPJOA 2022 Compensation Mechanism

- [LGA slides](#)
- [Home Office Slides](#)

If you do not already receive the meeting invitations and would like to join us, please email bluelightpensions@local.gov.uk. Please note that attendance at the coffee mornings is generally restricted to FPS practitioners and managers.

Heywood Drop in Sessions

Heywood is hosting informal Sargeant drop-in sessions on the third Thursday of every month.

The sessions are an opportunity for Heywood customers to discuss overall progress on the Sargeant implementation project, share experiences, provide feedback, and enable Heywood to provide support in real time.

If you are a Heywood administrator and would like to receive the joining details and meeting link, please contact your Heywood Customer Relationship Manager.

Useful links

- [The Firefighters' Pensions \(England\) Scheme Advisory Board](#)
- [FPS Regulations and Guidance](#)
- [FPS Member](#)
- [Khub Firefighters Pensions Discussion Forum](#)
- [FPS1992 guidance and commentary](#)
- [The Pensions Regulator Public Service Schemes](#)
- [The Pensions Ombudsman](#)
- [HMRC Pensions Tax Manual](#)
- [LGA pensions website](#)
- [LGPS Regulations and Guidance](#)
- [LGPC Bulletins](#)
- [LGPS member site](#)

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- [Scottish Public Pensions Agency - Firefighters](#)
- [Welsh Government Fire circulars](#)
- Pensions Dashboards
 - [TPR guidance and checklist](#)
 - [DWP guidance on connection](#)
 - [PASA connection readiness guidance](#)

Legislation

Statutory Rules

SR 2024/130 - [The Firefighters' Pension Schemes and Compensation Scheme \(Amendment\) Regulations \(Northern Ireland\) 2024](#)

Contact details

Raising a query

If you have a technical query, please complete the 'query form', that is available on the [member area](#) of the FPS regulations and guidance website and email bluelightpensions@local.gov.uk and one of the team's Firefighters' pension advisers will get back to you. To avoid delays in receiving a response, please avoid emailing advisers directly.

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