

FIREFIGHTERS' PENSION SCHEMES 2015/07

WHO SHOULD READ:	Chief Fire Officer of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Administration staff
ACTION:	Information on changes to survivors' pensions in the Firefighters' Pension Scheme 1992
SUBJECT:	Pensions for survivors of firefighters who die or die as a result of an injury received whilst on duty

The purpose of this circular is to:

- confirm a change to the pensions paid to the survivors of firefighters who die or die as a result of an injury received on duty

The Scottish Government has confirmed a change to the pensions paid to the survivors of Police officers and firefighters who are killed in the line of duty.

Although the 2006 and 2015 firefighters' schemes allow for lifetime awards of adult survivor benefits, pensions paid to widows, widowers and civil partners under the 1992 regulations can be withdrawn on remarriage, registering for a civil partnership and cohabitation.

This change means that survivors' pensions in respect of 1992 scheme members will no longer be subject to this particular rule where the firefighter dies or dies as a result of an injury on duty. In addition those wives, husbands, or civil partners of firefighters who died on duty who have already had their pension withdrawn because of remarriage, forming a civil partnership or cohabitation will have their pension reinstated as from 1 October 2015.

Only those paid as Special or Augmented awards qualify for this change. An ordinary pension paid to a widow, widower, civil partner under the 1992 firefighters' order is **not** covered and will still be subject to withdrawal on remarriage or registering a civil partnership.

What happens next?

Any person currently in receipt of a Special or Augmented award from the Compensation scheme order (formerly contained in the 1992 order) will continue to be entitled to that pension for life i.e. it will not be affected by any remarriage, civil partnership or cohabitation.



For those individuals who have had their survivor pension withdrawn, entitlement to this benefit will resume from 1 October 2015. The pensions will be price indexed from the date of withdrawal and put back into payment. Entitlement does **not** cover the period from the date the pension was withdrawn up to the day before 1 October 2015.

What action is required to reinstate a Special or Augmented pension?

SPPA took over responsibility for the administration of police pensions from 1 April 2015. It will make every effort to establish details of those eligible pensions that have been withdrawn but it is possible that details may be held by the authorities which previously administered the scheme. SPPA may need to contact those authorities for details of those eligible to have their pension reinstated. However due to data retention policies within each of the former police authorities there may be some records that are quite reasonably no longer held.

If SPPA is unable to establish previous pension entitlement then people who may be affected are encouraged to contact SPPA, supplying any evidence of the pension and when it was withdrawn. SPPA will only be able to reinstate a withdrawn Special or Augmented pension where there is sufficient evidence of entitlement so it is important that, where there are no longer any official records of an award being made, relevant evidence is provided. This could be the initial award letter or correspondence relating to the withdrawal of that benefit.

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5 October 2015

Contact information

Please contact Claire.McGow@gov.scot if you have any enquiries about this circular.

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