

Firefighters' Consultees

7 Tweedside Park
Tweedbank
GALASHIELS
TD1 3TE

www.sppa.gov.uk

Tel: 01896 892471
Fax: 01896 893214
firepensionsreform@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Your ref:
Our ref:

Dear Colleague

Firefighters' Pension Scheme (FPS) and New Firefighters' Pension Scheme (NFPS) Consultation – Employee contribution increases – draft amendment regulations

The Scottish Government recently published a consultation on proposals for potential increases in the level of contributions scheme members will be required to make to the Firefighters' Pension Scheme (FPS) and the New Firefighters' Pension Scheme (NFPS) in Scotland from 1 April 2012, which ran from 7 October 2011 to 17 November 2011.

Responses from that consultation have been reviewed and considered and the attached amendment Orders outline the proposed rates for 2012/13. An analysis of the responses received will be available on the SPPA website shortly. These rates contained in these draft amendment Orders mirror the rates we expect the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) to introduce for the schemes in England. However DCLG's consultation on their proposed increases ended on 2 December and we do not anticipate (DCLG) will form a final decision on contribution rates until early in the New Year. Consequently please be aware that any change to the proposed CLG contribution rates will have to be considered for the Scottish amendment Orders to retain parity with CLG rates.

The Scottish Government continues to face a very tight timetable to achieve effective legislation to introduce employee contribution increases by April 2012. However, it is offering this further consultation on the draft regulations until 3 February 2012. During that time, the Scottish Government will continue to monitor the UK Government's plans to identify and consider any further changes the UK Government may make.

If you ask for your response not to be published we will regard it as confidential and we will treat it accordingly. All respondents should however be aware that the SPPA is subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 and would therefore have to consider any request made to the Agency under the Act for information relating to responses made to this consultation exercise.

The Scottish Government expects affected employers to prepare for the introduction of employee increases on the basis of these draft regulations. Given the commitment above



to monitor UK Government plans, any change to these rates that the Scottish Government determines may be necessary, will be communicated to affected employers and other stakeholders as timeously as possible.

Further consultations will take place in 2012 with regard to the employee contribution rates for 2013-14 and 2014-15.

Any responses to these regulations should be sent by email to: firepensionsreform@scotland.gsi.gov.uk or by mail to the following address no later than 3 February 2012:

Fire Pension Reform
Policy Branch
SPPA
7 Tweedside Park
Tweedbank
Galashiels
TD1 3TE

A copy of the consultation documentation will also be available on the Agency's website at www.sppa.gov.uk/fire/consultations.

Yours faithfully



Chad Dawtry
Director of Policy
SPPA

