

Firefighters' Pension Scheme 2020/02

Who should read:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chief Fire Officer of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service• Pensions Administrators• Scheme members
Action:	For information
Subject:	Public Service Pension Indexation and CARE Scheme revaluation 2020
Date:	5 March 2020

The purpose of the circular is to confirm that, in common with other public service pension schemes, there will be a 1.7% increase in the value of firefighters' pensions in payment (or deferred pensions) from Monday 6 April 2020.

Please note that the rate to be used for the annual revaluation of benefits accrued in the 2015 Firefighters' Pension Scheme by active members will be 4%.

Public Service Pensions Indexation

Public service pensions in payment, together with those that are deferred for payment at a future date, are indexed annually based on the annual change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) measured as at the previous September.

In the 12 months to September 2019, CPI was 1.7%. As a result, an increase of 1.7% is to be applied from Monday 6 April 2020 for pensions in payment and deferred pensions.

The UK Government expects to lay the Pensions Increase (Review) Order 2020 during March 2020.

CARE Scheme Revaluation

The Firefighters' Pension Scheme (Scotland) Regulations 2015 were made under the Public Service Pension Act 2013 (the Act). The 2015 pension scheme is a Career Average Revalued Earnings (CARE) scheme and Section 9 of the Act deals with the annual "in-service" revaluation of CARE scheme benefits, preserving their value in line with rises in the cost of living. The SPPA's website provides [further information](#) on the principles of CARE scheme revaluation.

The Firefighters 2015 Scheme provides for annual revaluation for active members by reference to average weekly earnings. Pensions for deferred members are revalued at the rate of CPI included in any Pensions Increase (Review) Order.

Section 9(2) of the Act requires the change in earnings used for such revaluation to be such percentage increase or decrease as is specified in an order made by HM Treasury. The Public Service Pensions Revaluation (Earnings) Order 2020 will fulfil that requirement in relation to earnings and reflects the increase in Average Weekly Earnings in the 12 months to September 2019. The Chief Secretary to the Treasury has issued a [written statement](#) to this effect, with the Public Service Pensions Revaluation Order 2020 coming into force on 1 April 2020.

The in-service revaluation for the 2015 Firefighters scheme in respect of 2019/20 will be 4%.

Online Pensioner Services

Our new member [online portal](#) allows members to log in and view their monthly payslips and P60 documents. Please update your retirement guidance to inform retiring members of this service.

Any questions?

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

If you have any queries relating to the administration of the Scheme, please contact the administration team via email at sppafirepensions@gov.scot or call us on 01896 893080.

Claire McGow
Policy Manager
5 March 2020