

Firefighters Pension Scheme

2023/01

Who should read:

- Chief Fire Officer of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
- Pensions Administrators
- Scheme members

Action: For information

Subject: Public Service Pensions Indexation

Date: 24 February 2023

- **The purpose of this circular is to: Confirm that, in common with other public service pension schemes, there will be a 10.1% increase in the value of firefighters' pensions in payment (or deferred pensions) from 10 April 2023**
- **Advise that the rate to be used for the annual revaluation of benefits accrued in the 2015 Firefighters' Pension Scheme by active members will be 7%**

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 2022, CPI was 10.1%. As a result, an increase of 10.1% is to be applied from 10 April 2023 for pensions in payment and deferred pensions.

The UK Government expects to lay the Pensions Increase (Review) Order 2023 during March 2023.

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 Firefighters Pension Scheme (Scotland) Regulations 2015 provide for annual revaluation by reference to average weekly earnings; for deferred members 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 2023 will fulfil that requirement in relation to earnings and reflects the increase in Average Weekly Earnings in the 12 months to September 2022. The Chief Secretary to the Treasury has issued a [written statement](#) to this effect, with the associated Public Service Pensions Revaluation Order 2023 to be made in due course.

The in-service revaluation for the 2015 Firefighters Scheme in respect of 2022/23 will be 7%.

Any questions?

Please contact Karen.gilchrist@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 Customer Services team via e-mail at sppafirepensions@gov.scot.

Karen Gilchrist

Firefighter Pensions Policy Manager

24 February 2023