**CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM**

**CONSULTATION on implementing the Matthews 2nd Choice 2023 for the Firefighters’ Pension Schemes**

***1. Name/Organisation***

**Organisation Name**

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**Title**

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**Surname**

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**Forename**

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***2. Postal Address***

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| **Postcode** | **Phone** |  |
| **Email** | | |

***3. Permissions* - I am responding as…** (please complete either sections (a), (b) and (d) or sections (c) and (d):

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|  |  |  | **Individual** | | | | **or** | **Group/Organisation** | | | |  |  |  |
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| **(a)** | Do you agree to your response being made available to the public (in Scottish Government library and/or on the Scottish Government web site)?  ***Please state yes or no:*** | | | | | |  | **(c)** | The name and address of your organisation ***will be*** made available to the public (in the Scottish Government library and/or on the Scottish Government web site). | | | | | |
| **(b)** | Where confidentiality is not requested, we will make your responses available to the public on the following basis | | | | | |  |  | Are you content for your ***response*** to be made available? | | | | | |
|  | ***Please state yes to one of the following:*** | | | | | |  |  | ***Please state yes or no: ……………*** | | | | | |
|  | Yes, make my response, name and address all available | | | | | **..........** |  |  |  | | | | |  |
|  |  | | | | | ***or*** |  |  |  | | | | |  |
|  | Yes, make my response available, but not my name and address | | | | | **……...** |  |  |  | | | | |  |
|  |  | | | | | ***or*** |  |  |  | | | | |  |
|  | Yes, make my response and name available, but not my address | | | | | **………** |  |  |  | | | | |  |
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| **(d)** | We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?  ***Please state yes or no: ……………………………………….*** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

***4. About you***

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| I am responding …  as a member of the 1992 Scheme (old scheme)  as a member of the 2006 Scheme (new scheme) as a member of the 2015 Scheme (CARE scheme)  on behalf of an Employer Organisation  on behalf of a Trade Union/Staff Association  other (please specify) |

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| What is your gender?    I am a woman  I am a man  Other  Prefer not to say |

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| I am employed as…  a firefighter  other (please specify)  I’m retired |

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| What is your working pattern?  I work part-time  I work full-time  Not applicable |

**CONSULTATION COMMENTS**

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Please use this space to provide any comments on the amendments.

**Question 1** – Are the categories of individuals that have been identified as being eligible to join the modified scheme as part of the 2023 Options Exercise appropriate?

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**Question 2** – Do the categories of individuals that have been identified as being eligible to join the modified scheme as part of the 2023 Options Exercise include everyone who ought to be included?

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**Question 3** – Do the proposed amendments to the Firefighters’ Pension Scheme (Scotland) Order 2007 achieve the policy intention of ensuring all individuals in Cohort 1 can purchase any of their uninterrupted retained service in the modified scheme and place these members in the position they would have been had they been entitled to purchase their service at the time?

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**Question 4** – Do the proposed amendments to the Firefighters’ Pension Scheme (Scotland) Order 2007 achieve the policy intention of ensuring all individuals in Cohort 2 can purchase any of their uninterrupted retained service in the modified scheme and place these members in the position they would have been had they been entitled to purchase their service at the time?

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**Question 5** - Do the proposed amendments to the Firefighters’ Pension Scheme (Scotland) Order 2007 achieve the policy intention of ensuring all individuals in Cohort 3 can purchase any of their uninterrupted retained service in the modified scheme and place these members in the position they would have been had they been entitled to purchase their service at the time?

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**Question 6** – Are there any changes to the proposals required for those individuals who are entitled to both the 2023 Options Exercise and 2015 Remedy?

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| Comments: |

**Question 7** – It is proposed that where there is an absence of pay data for pre-July 2000 membership, SFRS can assume that the retained firefighter earns 25% of the pay of a whole time firefighter, and that they will be employed at the rank of firefighter. Do you agree with this policy?

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| Comments: |

**Question 8** – The scheme will also provide an additional top up to the special death grant in respect of an individual’s pre-7 April 2000 service. The special death grant will provide eligible survivors with a single lump sum payment equal to 0.1 times the deceased member’s pensionable pay for each full qualified year of service that the deceased member had prior to 7 April 2000. Do you agree with this policy?

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| Comments: |

**Question 9** – Members who joined the modified scheme as part of the 2014 Options exercise and who had pre-July 2000 service but have subsequently died will receive an additional death grant in relation to such members’ pre-July 2000 service. The additional death grant will provide eligible survivors with a single lump sum payment equal to 0.1 times the deceased member’s pensionable pay for each full qualifying year of service that the deceased member had prior to 1 July 2000. Do you agree with this policy?

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| Comments: |

**Question 10** – Do the proposed changes to the special death grant and additional death grant sufficiently address the scenario where the deceased member had pre-2000 service?

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| Comments: |

**Question 11** – Are there any additional points not covered in this consultation paper that need to be considered as part of the proposed changes to the Firefighters’ Pension Scheme (Scotland) Order 2007?

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| Comments: |

Please e-mail your response to [SPPAPolicyConsultationResponses@gov.scot](mailto:SPPAPolicyConsultationResponses@gov.scot)

or post to:

Scottish Firefighters’ Pension Scheme Consultation

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**Please note that the closing date for responses is 8 November 2023**