

2006 Modified and 2015 Firefighters' Pension Scheme

2023 active benefit statement

Introduction

These notes provide more explanation of the information contained in your 2023 annual benefit statement.

News

Age discrimination court case

Important: Please note that this year's Annual Benefit Statement provides an estimate of your pension benefits built up in your current scheme membership to 31/03/2023.

On 1 April 2022 the Public Service Pensions and Judicial Offices Act 2022 (PSPJOA) came into force, and confirms that members will be returned to their final salary schemes for the period 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2022 in powers that will be enacted by 1 October 2023. This is known as the retrospective remedy.

We understand that it will be disappointing to members that the current values of this year's statement will not be able to reflect the return to the legacy scheme for the remedy period, however the secondary legislation required to do this will not be in force until 1 October 2023.

Your return to the legacy scheme will be reflected in your 2024 statement issued by 31 August for the year 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 after the legislation has passed

When can I take my benefits?

The information provided in this statement is based on your leaving active membership the day before your Normal Pension Age (NPA). You can choose to retire from age 55, however, your 2015 pension benefits will be reduced if you take them before your NPA.

If you leave the 2015 scheme before benefits are payable, your NPA will change to age 65 for your 2006 Modified scheme benefits and state pension age for your 2015 scheme benefits.

This pension cannot be paid until you have left service.

You can choose to retire from age 55, however, your 2015 pension benefits may be reduced if you take them before your NPA. If you take your pension after your NPA, increases will be applied. At any time, the Government may change the factors and methodology used to calculate the reductions and increases which may result in a corresponding change to the pension you are paid at retirement.

What options do I have when I take my pension?

When you claim your pension, you will have the option to exchange some of your pension for a tax free lump sum. We have shown the benefits based on not giving up annual pension and on giving up the maximum pension possible. You can also choose a lump sum value between the two lump sums shown in your statement.

Partner's pension

If you have a spouse or civil partner, they automatically qualify to receive a pension if you were to die in service. This is a scheme benefit that is paid to surviving partners and will not reduce or affect your pension even if you do not have a partner.

If you have a partner and meet certain conditions, your partner may be eligible for a pension even though you are not married or in a civil partnership. You cannot nominate anyone else to receive a partner's pension.

If you are in a civil partnership or are not married and wish to nominate a cohabiting partner, you can do so using a nomination of cohabiting partner form, available from our website www.hants.gov.uk/pensions.

A surviving partner's pension is shown if our records indicate you are in a partnership. This figure is only for illustration purposes and the actual amount paid may differ from the one shown depending on your circumstances and on the regulations that apply when a pension becomes payable. For example, if you are currently married but subsequently re-marry after you retire, your new spouse may not be entitled to as much pension as your original spouse was.

Your dependent children may also be eligible to receive a pension if you die in service and they meet certain conditions. Please see our website for more information.

Deductions from your benefits - Pension sharing order

The amount of surviving partner's pension shown includes all benefits due from your membership of the scheme, including any additional contributions which bought additional survivor's benefits, but will exclude any deductions due to a pension sharing order.

Death grant lump sum

If you die while contributing to the scheme, a death grant lump sum will be paid to:

- your spouse or civil partner, or
- your declared partner, at the discretion of the Fire Authority, or
- a nominee, if you do not have a partner, at the Fire Authority's discretion, or

- your personal representative, as part of your estate.

You can provide a nomination or update an existing on the Member Portal. Alternatively, you can complete a Death grant expression of wish form available from our website.

Your pensionable pay

Your pensionable pay was provided by your employer. If you do not agree with the amount shown on your statement, please contact your employer.

Lifetime Allowance

The LTA applies to the value of your combined UK registered pension schemes and some overseas schemes. The value shown relates **only** to the pension benefits on this statement.

Most people's benefits will not exceed the LTA, but we need to provide this information to everyone.

The information shown here is not a transfer value. To obtain a transfer value, please complete a cash equivalent transfer value form, available from our website.

Annual Allowance

HM Revenue and Customs sets an annual allowance, which is the amount by which your benefits can increase in a year without being subject to tax. The standard annual allowance is currently £40,000. If you have exceeded the standard annual allowance limit in the year you will receive a Pension Savings Statement by 6 October 2023.

A tapered annual allowance may apply for people with adjusted income of £150,000 and over. If you think this applies to you, please contact us.

You can find more information about annual allowance on our website.