

2006 Modified and 2015 Firefighter's Scheme notes – Deferred benefit statement

Introduction

These notes accompany your 2023 Deferred benefit statement. Some of the information applies to all the Firefighter's schemes but some information differs between the schemes. Please read all the notes relevant to the scheme you are in.

News

Age discrimination court case

You can find details of this case on our website at:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/hampshire-services/pensions/local-government/about-the-scheme/mccloud-age-discrimination-case>

Please be assured that if you are affected by the remedy for this case then Pension Services will contact you.

Taking pension before or after NPA (2015 scheme)

If you take your pension before your Normal Pension Age (NPA), reductions will be applied to your pension. If you take your pension after your NPA, increases will be late payment enhancements. 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. Please be aware that the government is gradually increasing the State Pension Age (SPA) and this will reach 67 by 2028.

Protect yourself from pension fraud

You are not permitted to transfer your deferred pension to a scheme offering flexible benefits (e.g. a personal pension). However, if you wish to transfer to a defined benefit scheme, you should be aware that pension fraud is increasing. Scam tactics include:

- websites impersonating well known brands,
- promise of high/guaranteed returns,
- pressure to act quickly,
- free pension reviews,
- access to your pension before age 55,
- contact out of the blue.

Many scammers are using social media and other online channels to offer people "too good to be true" incentives such as free pension reviews, early access to their money, or time limited offers. Lured by these attractive offers, people are coerced into transferring their savings into a scam scheme designed to fleece them of their savings.

Please read the guidance document produced by [The Pensions Regulator](#).

Giving up pension for lump sum

You can give up some of your pension for a lump sum. How much lump sum you get will depend on your age and how much pension you give up. Visit the Pension Services website to find out more.

Note that HM Revenue and Customs set the limit for the maximum amount of pension that can be exchanged for lump sum.