



Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority

Amendments to the Firefighters' Pension Scheme 1992 and the
New Firefighters' Pension Scheme 2006 – Effective 1 July 2013

Discretions that the Authority now has available:	
Firefighters' Pension Scheme (1992) Rule B7	POLICY DECISION
Commutation – discretion to permit maximum payment	Discretion adopted but individual proposals to be examined on a case by case basis depending on the needs of the service and agreed by the Chief Fire Officer/Chief Executive on advice from the Director of Finance & Assets and Director of People and Organisational Development.
This proposal will allow employers the ability to permit those 1992 scheme members with less than 30 years' service and under age 55 years to commute the maximum of a quarter of their pension for a lump sum on retirement. Under the new provision, the employer would be liable for any additional cost should they exercise this discretion. A full business case would be needed demonstrating the economical, effective and efficient management of its functions with associated costs.	
Firefighters' Pension Scheme (1992) Rule G3A	POLICY DECISION
Age Discrimination – contributions holiday	This will be dependent on further clarification from the Department of Communities and Local Government.
This proposal would allow those members of the 1992 scheme under the age of 50 and who have accrued maximum pensionable service to take a contributions holiday from the time they accrue 30 years pensionable service until they attain age 50. The legal position is still to be clarified by CLG who are seeking a decision from the Courts. This will provide clarity, certainty and ensure the scheme complies with equality legislation.	

Firefighters' Pension Scheme (1992) Rule K4	POLICY DECISION
<p>Withdrawal of a pension whilst employed by a fire and rescue authority (abatement)</p>	<p>Discretion adopted that abatement will apply in all cases of reemployment of members of the 1992 and 2006 schemes.</p>
<p>To amend the 1992 scheme to widen the employer's discretion to abate a pension paid to a member who is reemployed in any role by any fire and rescue authority; and to require the employer that is paying the pension to pay into the pension fund the amount of pension that is paid that could have been subject to abatement under the scheme rules. The requirement for the employer to be liable for the costs where they do not exercise the discretion to abate a members' pension would apply to both the 1992 and 2006 schemes. This will only apply to members of the 1992 scheme in respect of new instances of re-employment since 25 September 2009 which was the date that employers were first notified of the Departments intention.</p>	