

**LEICESTERSHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY**  
**PENSION BOARD**

**6<sup>th</sup> February 2019**

**REPORT FROM LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – PENSION**  
**ADMINISTRATOR**

**PENSION FUND ADMINISTRATION REPORT – QUARTER 1<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER TO**  
**31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2018**

**Purpose of the Report**

To inform the Fire Pension Board of fire-fighter pension administration in the quarter.

This is designed to assist the Fire Pension Board. It is also considered best practise to provide a report of this type.

**Areas**

**Annual Benefit Statements / Year-end / Taxation Saving Statements**

Leicestershire County Council has received all relevant scheme pays forms back from affected members with regards to their Annual Allowances. These records have been updated and HMRC quarterly returns have been submitted accordingly.

**Regulation Changes**

On 18 December 2018 the Home Office launched a consultation on changes to survivor benefits in the Firefighters' Pension Scheme 1992 and the Firefighters' Compensation Scheme 2006, plus a minor unrelated correction to the Firefighters' Pension Scheme 1992.

Following the introduction of registered civil partnerships in 2004, public service pension schemes provided for survivors of registered civil partnerships to be treated in the same way as widowers of opposite sex marriages. Changes were introduced that replicated the way in which widowers' benefits were introduced into the firefighters' pension schemes, which at that time provided that only membership of a pension scheme from April 1988 counted for the purposes of calculating a survivor's pension. The

same approach was later taken with regard to survivors of same-sex marriages.

On 12 July 2017, the Supreme Court ruled in the Walker v Innospec case that Mr Walker's male spouse was entitled to a pension calculated on all the years of his service with Innospec, provided that at the time of Mr Walker's death they remained married. As a result of the ruling, where survivor benefit is limited in the firefighters' pension scheme so that only membership since April 1988 is taken into account, that limit is now being abolished.

The Department is also taking this opportunity to continue its work of ensuring that all of the firefighter pension schemes work as intended. A minor amendment to the 1992 Fire scheme is therefore being taken forward as follows.

Members of the final-salary pension schemes are permitted to split their pension in the eventuality of a reduction in salary, – ie to become entitled to two pensions - so as to preserve the value of pension which has already been accrued on the higher salary. Rule B5A in the 1992 Order sets out a formula by which these two pensions should be calculated. The intention of paragraph (2) in B5A is clearly to indicate that if, after such calculations have been made, it becomes clear that the member would, after all, be better off with a conventional single pension calculated in the normal way, then that is the pension to which they should be entitled. However, the wording incorrectly states that this should happen if the total of the two pensions "exceeds" that of the single pension. The current amendment makes it clear that the two pensions should not be awarded if their total "is lower than" the single pension.

#### Risk and Breaches – (material or not)

None

#### GMP Reconciliation

The position is currently the same as the previous quarter in that the total remaining cases that have been sent to HMRC where we are now awaiting their reply is still 17.

## System updates

Work has progressed well on the pensioner payroll and this has now gone Live from January 2019. This means that Leicestershire Fire pensioners will be able to log on to the new member self service area in order to view their pay slips and future P60s. They will be able to view the old system for up to six months only. Communications have been sent out to detail these changes for our Leicestershire Fire pensioners.

As previously detailed immediate payments through pensioner payroll for LGPS are due to start in March 2019. This is a development initially for Local Government but if Fire Authorities were interested in this system a scoping exercise would be required.

All three Fire Authorities have agreed to implement Fire member self service and costs have been provided. Contractual arrangements for all three Fire Authorities are to be completed by the 31 December 2018.

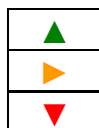
## Key Performance Indicators This Quarter(1.10.18 to 31.12.18)

Business Process Perspective	Target	This Quarter		Previous Quarter	Customer Perspective - Feedback	Target	This Quarter		Previous quarter
Retirement Benefits notified to members within 10 working days of paperwork received	92%	100%	▲	100%	Establish members understanding of info provided - rated at least mainly ok or clear	95%	100%	▲	100%
Pension payments made within 5 working days of receiving election	92%	100%	▲	100%	Experience of dealing with Section - rated at least good or excellent	92%	100%	▲	100%
Death related benefits notified to dependant within 10 working days of notification	90%	100%	▲	100%	Establish members thoughts on the amount of info provided - rated as about right	92%	100%	▲	100%
Death related payments made within 5 working days	92%	100%	▲	100%	Establish the way members are treated - rated as polite or extremely polite	97%	100%	▲	100%
Estimates provided within 10 working days	92%	93%	▲	100%	▼ Comments				

Good or better than target

Close to target

Below target



**Pension Scheme Member Comments**

Very knowledgeable,  
professional

Excellent service

Great communication and  
very helpful. Very  
impressed with the  
knowledge and service

I had a very quick  
response to my enquiry,  
very good service.  
Friendly and helpful

My experience was  
positive in all ways. Thank  
you.

Very professional  
Good job!

Thanks.

A very informative, clear  
and concise  
communication, thank  
you.

They were great. Thanks  
to you all.

On all occasions where I  
have contacted the  
service it has been a very  
informative and helpful  
experience.

First time request for  
pension forecasts. Easy  
process with feeling of  
reassurance that when  
retirement date arrives all  
will go well.

Friendly and  
helpful

Excellent service once  
again. A credit to your

Great service once again

section and team.

**Further details regarding estimates**

	Number of estimates provided	Number of estimates already provided in the last 12 months	Number of multiple requests received	2 estimate requests	3 estimate requests	4 estimate requests	5 or more estimate requests
Notts	29	9	5	3	1	1	0
Derbys	32	12	8	6	1	0	1
Leic	25	7	6	5	1	0	0

### Leicestershire Metric Data For Quarter Ending 31.12.18

Category	1992	2006	2015	Modified
Active Members	83	12	404	5
Pensioners Including Dependants	598	10	2	43
New Pensioners Including Dependants	3	0	0	1
Deferred Members	44	210	77	21
New Deferred Members	0	3	7	0
Opt Outs	0	0	0	0
Deaths	1	1	0	1
Transfers In	0	0	0	0
Transfers Out	0	0	0	0
Refunds	0	0	0	0

### Officers to Contact

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