

March 2024

Nottinghamshire Fire Authority

Prepared by:

**Matt Mott**

Governance and Business Development Manager

Mobile: 07815 476877

Email: matt.mott@wypf.org.uk

West Yorkshire Pension Fund

Aldermanbury House

4 Godwin Street

Bradford

BD1 2ST

www.wypf.org.uk

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**1.Completed processes**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **1 to 29 February 2024** | | | | | |  |
| **Work Type** | **Total Cases** | **Target days for each case** | **Target met cases** | **Minimum Target Met** | **Target met percent** | **Average time taken** |
| Age 55 Increase to Pension | 2 | 20 | 2 | 85 | 100 | 20 |
| Change of Address | 2 | 20 | 2 | 85 | 100 | 4.5 |
| Death in Retirement | 3 | 10 | 1 | 85 | 33.33 | 16.67 |
| Deferred Benefits Set Up on Leaving | 1 | 20 | 1 | 85 | 100 | 1 |
| Life Certificate | 18 | 10 | 18 | 85 | 100 | 4.11 |
| NI adjustment to Pension at State Pension Age | 2 | 20 | 2 | 85 | 100 | 13.5 |
| Pension Set Up/Payment of Lump Sum | 2 | 3 | 2 | 85 | 100 | 3.5 |
| Retirement Actual | 2 | 10 | 2 | 90 | 100 | 5 |
| Set Up New Spouse Pension SY Fire | 1 | 5 | 1 | 85 | 100 | 4 |
| Transfer Out Quote Fire | 3 | 35 | 3 | 85 | 100 | 33.33 |
| Update Member Details | 3 | 20 | 3 | 100 | 100 | 1 |
| Initial letter Death in Retirement | 3 | 10 | 3 | 85 | 100 | 1 |

|  |
| --- |
| **Death in Retirement** did not meet due to the team experiencing high volumes of work. |

**2. Work in Progress**

**3. Member Web Registrations**

The number of members signed up to member web are:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Status | Number |
| Active | 439 |
| Pensioner | 149 |
| Pensioner Ex-Spouse | 0 |
| Beneficiary Pensioner | 2 |
| Deferred Ex-Spouse | 0 |
| Deferred | 176 |

**4.Membership Numbers**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Scheme Name** | **Active Members** | **Deferred Members** | **Pensioners** | **Beneficiaries** | **Preserved Refund** | **Leavers Options Pending** |
| Nottinghamshire (1992 Scheme) | 0 | 39 | 698 | 129 | 1 | 0 |
| Nottinghamshire (2006 Scheme) | 0 | 159 | 31 | 11 | 6 | 0 |
| Nottinghamshire (2006/RDS Scheme) | 0 | 31 | 68 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Nottinghamshire (2015 Scheme) | 613 | 195 | 49 | 1 | 0 | 13 |
| Nottinghamshire (2015/RDS Scheme) | 15 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

**5. Administration Update**

**FRA Administration Survey**

The Scheme Advisory Board have asked all FPS administrators to respond to a survey regarding the implementation of Sargeant.

WYPF intend to respond to this survey by the deadline of Monday 18 March 2024.

The Local Government Association (LGA) has confirmed this information will enable them via the SAB to offer help and support to FRAs if they need assistance with the implementation of Sargeant.

The SAB have confirmed the data provided is in confidence and only used for FRA help & support and to understand the current issues faced by all stakeholders.

**Internal Audit Report**

A recent internal audit was carried out. The auditors concluded that:

* There are robust controls in place to manage pension administration processes at WYPF and these controls are being followed in practice.
* Work instructions were in place and accessible to staff.
* Starters, leavers, and amendments have been processed correctly.
* Pension payment runs reconciled and mechanisms to recover overpayments have been put in place.

**2024 Deferred PI Bulk Run**

Please note that WYPF will commence the pensions increase updates to deferred records for both LG and Fire this month. The fire scheme deferred pensions increase update will run on Monday 18/03/2024.

**Injury Pension Calculation for a retained firefighter appointed after 5 April 2006**

West Yorkshire Pension Fund have now worked through all the cases and have found a number that have been calculated incorrectly.

We will be working to correct these over the next three months. We have also found some cases where the ill health equivalent pension is being taxed and it should be non-taxable so we will be correcting those cases.

**Leavers from April 2024**

In Scope for Remedy:

Retirements – Please continue to send the IDF Spreadsheet 2024 version. There are two spreadsheets one for whole time & one for on-call. If you do not have the 2024 version of both, please contact Helen Scargill [helen.scargill@wypf.org.uk](mailto:helen.scargill@wypf.org.uk)

Leavers – Please complete the FPS Leaver Notification through the portal.

Not In Scope for Remedy:

Retirements – Please complete the FPS Retirement Notification through the portal.

Leavers – Please complete the FPS Leaver Notification through the portal.

**Data breaches**

None

**6. Communication & Training**

**Pre-retirement sessions with Affinity connect**

Further dates have now been added for FPS specific sessions with events in March, April, June, October and November. Please see further details on the link and share with your members <https://www.wypf.org.uk/pre-retirement-courses/>.

**Induction courses**

We continue to run scheme induction course for FRAs on demand. If you do have some new recruits and would like to arrange training, please email [David Parrington](mailto:david.parrington@wypf.org.uk).

**FRA training sessions**

We are currently running a number of training sessions covering Monthly Postings, Year End and online administration. Please check the details and booking links on [Hot Topics](https://wypfpensionmattersfire.wordpress.com/2024/02/05/employer-training-spring-2024/). We have also  published a [Year end checklist](https://wypfpensionmattersfire.wordpress.com/2024/02/27/are-you-ready-for-year-end-2/) with top tips for a successful month 12 submission.

**Pension boards**

* Dorset & Wiltshire – 1 February 2024
* Warwickshire – 12 February 2024
* Staffordshire – 29February 2024

**National / regional meetings**

* GAD Fire Valuation meeting – 6 February 2024
* P& F Stakeholder Group – 8 February 2024
* East Midlands Regional meeting- 14 February 2024
* P& F Stakeholder Group – 15 February 2024
* P& F Stakeholder Group – 29 February 2024

**7. Member Update**

None

**8. IT Update**

**Pension Dashboard**

A new staging date of 30th September 2025 has now been informally confirmed. We have been instructed to develop to this date. WYPF will provide further updates accordingly.

**Accreditation of ISO Standard**

WYPF ISO 9001:2015 - Quality Management System Recertification audit was held from 11th to 15th December 2023.The audit was successful, and no non-conformities have been raised.

Executive summary of audit:

This recertification audit was conducted on site at both Lincoln and Bradford offices. All areas on the audit plan were covered as per planned arrangements. The organisation continues to manage their quality and risks effectively with embedded processes and a high level of organisational knowledge. All information requested was immediately available and well presented. No findings this visit. Renewed certification recommended.

**9. Five Year Audit Plan 2023 – 2027**

| **West Yorkshire Pension Fund Five Year Audit Plan 2022 - 2027** | **Frq** | **Last Audit** | **Rcmnd** | **Days** | **23/24** | **24/25** | **25/26** | **26/27** | **27/28** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Annual Accounts Verification | 1 | 20/09/21 | 1 | 50 | **** | **** | **** | **** | **** |
| **Audits Per Year** |  |  |  |  | **1** | **1** | **1** | **1** | **1** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Local Government Scheme Contributions | 2 | 01/11/21 | 2 | 50 |  |  |  |  |  |
| New Pensions and Lump Sums - WYPF |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| - Normal and Early Retirements | 5 | 09/10/19 | 1 | 25 | **** |  |  | **** |  |
| - Death in Service, Post Retirement Widow and Dependent Benefits | 5 | 08/10/21 | 0 | 25 |  | **** |  |  |  |
| - Ill Health Pensions | 5 | 11/07/23 | 0 | 25 |  |  |  | **** |  |
| - Flexible Retirements | 5 | 30/11/20 | 2 | 25 | **** |  |  |  |  |
| - Deferred Pensions | 5 | 28/06/22 | 0 | 25 |  |  | **** |  |  |
| Transfers Out | 5 | 07/10/20 | 0 | 20 |  |  |  |  | **** |
| Transfers In | 5 | 17/05/21 | 0 | 20 |  |  | **** |  | **** |
| Reimbursement of Agency Payments | 5 | 10/03/23 | 0 | 20 |  | **** |  | **** |  |
| Life Existence / Certificates | 5 | 11/08/21 | 3 | 20 |  |  |  |  | **** |
| AVC Arrangements | 5 | 21/12/22 | 0 | 20 |  |  | **** |  |  |
| Admission of New Bodies | 5 | 07/02/20 | 0 | 20 |  |  |  |  | **** |
| Pensioners Payroll | 2.5 | 17/11/20 | 0 | 50 |  | **** |  |  |  |
| Purchase of Additional Pension | 5 | 29/03/22 | 0 | 20 | **** |  | **** |  |  |
| Annual Benefits Statements | 2.5 | 30/09/22 | 0 | 40 |  |  |  | **** |  |
| Fire Service New Pensions and Lump Sums |  |  | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| - Normal and Early Retirements | 3 | 17/12/20 | 0 | 33.3 |  | **** |  |  | **** |
| - Ill Health and Death Benefits | 3 | 23/06/22 | 0 | 33.3 |  |  | **** |  | **** |
| - Deferred Pensions | 3 |  | 0 | 33.3 | **** |  |  | **** |  |
| **Audits Per Year** |  |  |  |  | **4** | **5** | **5** | **5** | **5** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| UK and Overseas Equities | 1 | 01/02/23 | 0 | 75 | **** | **** | **** | **** | **** |
| UK Fixed and Index Linked Public and Corporate Bonds | 3 | 18/08/22 | 0 | 25 |  | **** |  |  | **** |
| UK and Overseas Unit Trusts (Property and Other) | 3 | 06/02/23 | 1 | 25 |  | **** |  |  | **** |
| Fund of Hedge Funds | 5 | 09/06/16 | 1 | 15 |  |  | **** |  | **** |
| UK and Overseas Private Equities | 3 | 31/03/22 | 3 | 25 |  | **** |  | **** |  |
| Global Bonds | 5 | 11/12/18 | 0 | 15 | **** |  |  |  |  |
| Treasury Management (Short Term Cash Lending) | 1 | 18/12/22 | 0 | 75 | **** | **** | **** | **** | **** |
| Stock Lending | 5 | 24/11/21 | 1 | 15 |  | **** |  | **** |  |
| Compliance with IAP Investment Decisions and Policies | 5 | 22/02/21 | 0 | 15 | **** |  | **** |  |  |
| Verification of Assets | 5 | 01/03/21 | 0 | 15 |  |  | **** |  |  |
| Verification of Assets | 5 | 01/03/21 |  | 15 | **** |  |  |  |  |
| Listed Alternatives | 5 | 00/01/00 |  | 15 |  |  | **** |  |  |
| **Audits Per Year** |  |  |  |  | **5** | **5** | **5** | **4** | **4** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Additional work outside plan** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Transfer of Data to New Pensions System |  | 02/07/12 | 0 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Monthly Contribution Data Usage |  | 20/08/15 | 6 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Information Governance Including GDPR |  | 01/05/19 | 7 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Transfer of Data From Outside Bodies |  | 10/06/19 | 6 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Pooling Arrangements |  | 20/03/19 | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Custodial Transfer Arrangements |  | 01/07/20 | 0 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Accuracy of Contributions Recorded on Member Records |  | 10/02/20 | 7 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| GLIL |  | 30/07/20 | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Accuracy of Contributions Recorded on Member Records - Follow Up (i) |  | 05/11/21 | 2 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| NLGPS Collaborative Work - Common Custodian Arrangements |  | 30/04/21 | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Business Continuity |  | 17/01/22 | 5 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Shared Service Admission |  | 07/04/22 | 6 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| NLGPS Collaborative Work - NPEP |  | 29/06/22 | 3 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| NLGPS Collaborative Work - GLIL Infrastructure |  | 18/04/23 |  |  | 1 |  |  |  | 1 |
| Exiting Employers |  | 25/04/23 |  |  | 1 |  |  |  | 1 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **No of audits** |  |  |  |  | **12** | **11** | **11** | **10** | **12** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Audit days over five years** |  |  |  | **885** | **177** | **177** | **177** | **177** | **177** |
| **Resourced days** |  |  |  | **1,225** | **245** | **245** | **245** | **245** | **245** |
| **Headroom** |  |  |  | **340** | **68** | **68** | **68** | **68** | **68** |

**10. Overriding Disclosure Time Limits**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Disclosure Requirement** | **Time Limit** | **Number of breaches in month** |
| Material alterations to basic scheme information | Within 3 months of the change taking effect | 0 |
| Transfer Credits (quote) | Within 2 months | 0 |
| Annual Benefit Statements | By 31 August each year | 0 |
| Annual Benefit Statement (upon request) | Within 2 months of request, if not already provided within previous 12 months | 0 |
| Deferred Benefit Statements | By 31 August each year | 0 |
| Deferred Benefit Statement (upon request) | Within 2 months of request, if not already provided within previous 12 months | 0 |
| Pension Savings Statements | By 6 October each year | 0 |
| Cash Equivalent Transfer Value  Out | Within 3 months of request | 0 |
| Accessing Benefits before Normal Pension Age | 2 month of benefits becoming payable | 0 |
| Accessing Benefits on or after Normal Pension Age | 1 month of benefits becoming payable | 0 |
| Notification of Deferred Benefit entitlement | 2 months of being notified of leaver | 0 |

**Divorce Time limits**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Type of request** | **Time limit** | **Number of breaches in month** |
| Request for divorce information only. | 3 months from receipt of the request. | 0 |
| Request for divorce information where you are notified that the information is required in connection with divorce proceedings that have already commenced. | 6 weeks from receipt of the request. | 0 |
| Request for divorce information where a Court Order imposes a deadline. | Within the deadline specified by the Court. | 0 |
| Request for divorce information where you are notified that a Pension Sharing Order may be issued. | Within 21 days of receiving notification that a Pension Sharing Order may be issued or a date outside 21 days as specified by the Court. | 0 |
| Where the request is for information which does not include a Cash Equivalent Transfer Value | 1 month from receipt of the request. | 0 |
| Pension Sharing Order received but some information\* and/or charges are still outstanding. | A letter to both parties needs to be sent out within 21 days of receiving the Order to explain the Order cannot be implemented and request the missing information and/or charges. | 0 |
| Pension Sharing Order received including all relevant information\* and charges. | A letter\*\* must be sent to both parties within 21 days of the start of the implementation period notifying them of the deadline. | 0 |
| Pension Sharing Order Received including all relevant information and charges. | 4 months to implement the Order of the date of receipt of the final information which allows calculation | 0 |
| PSO has been implemented. | A letter\* must be sent to both parties within 21 days of implementing the PSO to notify both parties their entitlement. | 0 |

**11. Calendar of Events**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| January | February | March | April |
| Life Certificates  HMRC Event Reporting  Payment of Unauthorised Lump Sum and Scheme Sanction Charge to HMRC | Life Certificates  Review of DWP benefits for Injury cases  GAD Data Collection Spreadsheet | Life Certificates | Apply Pensions Increase  Apply Care Revaluation  Issue P60’s  Life Certificates  Pensioner Newsletter |
| May | June | July | August |
| Life Certificates | Active Newsletter  Life Certificates  Issue Deferred Annual Benefits Statements | Life Certificates  Issue Deferred Annual Benefits Statements  Issue active Annual Benefits Statements | Issue active Annual Benefits Statements  Life Certificates |
| September | October | November | December |
| Pension Estimates Assumption Exercise  Life Certificates  Pension Savings Statement | Life Certificates  Participate in NFI  tPR Scheme Returns | tPR Annual Survey  Life Certificates | IAS19 Data capture exercise for Actuaries  Life Certificates |

**12. Regulations/Fire Scheme Update**

Please take a few minutes to read the Firefighters’ Pension (England) Scheme Advisory Board Bulletin (Link to Bulletin below) and take any action required.

[FPS Bulletin 77 January 2024 (fpsregs.org)](https://fpsregs.org/images/Bulletins/Bulletin-77-January-2024/FPS-Bulletin-77-January-2024-updated.pdf)

Some key issues to highlight:

**FPS**

**The Firefighters’ Pension Scheme (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2024** On 21 February 2024 [The Firefighters’ Pension Scheme (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2024](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2024/170/contents/made) were laid before parliament and will come into force from 27 March 2024.

The regulations amend the [Firefighters' Pension Scheme (England) Regulations 2024](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2014/2848/contents/made) to allow for provision of unpaid carer's leave to be included in calculating pensionable service and to remedy an error in the Public Service Pensions Revaluation Orders for 2021 and 2022, which was covered in [FPS Bulletin 74 – October 2023](https://www.fpsregs.org/images/Bulletins/Bulletin-74-October-2023/FPS-Bulletin-74-October2023.pdf).

FRAs will need to ensure that they take the relevant actions to deduct pension contributions from Carer’s leave payments and include in pensionable pay calculations going forward.

Readers will also need to ensure that if action has not already been taken, that they have applied the necessary administration changes needed to correct the error that occurred in the 2021 and 2022 revaluation orders for affected members’ benefits.

**ACTION:**

• FRAs should ensure that pension contributions are deducted from carer’s leave and is included in pensionable pay when carer’s leave comes into force.

• Administrators should ensure that if they haven’t already, that they have applied the necessary administration changes needed to correct the error that occurred in the 2021 and 2022 revaluation orders for affected members’ benefits.

**Age Discrimination remedy – Informal guidance note for accounting and finance**

On 6 February 2024 we emailed FRA finance contacts to inform them of an informal guidance note for accounting and finance from the Home Office.

The guidance note provides details of:

• The McCloud Remedy Compensation Grant.

• Business as usual (BaU) Annually Managed Expenditure (AME) Pension Top Up Grant; and the additional information that will need to be collected and provided.

**ACTION:** Finance departments should note the informal guidance and ensure that they are:

• paying any corrections to pension benefits (including the applicable interest) through the pension account,

• paying any compensation amounts through the operating account, and • keeping robust records of the recommended data separately

**Age Discrimination Remedy – Ill Health re-assessment of cases**

We understand that some FRAs have experienced difficulty in getting members to comply with the necessary [ill health re-assessments](https://www.fpsregs.org/images/Age-discrimination/Age-discrimination-remedy-ill-health-reassessment-factsheet-November-2022.pdf) which are needed to ensure the correct choice is given on the Remediable Service Statement (RSS).

To support FRAs with their communications we have provided a [factsheet](https://fpsmember.org/remedy/age-discrimination-remedy-ill-health-reassessments) aimed at members which sets out why a re-assessment is required and confirms that the outcome of a re-assessment cannot be negative, they will continue to remain eligible for the benefits which are currently in payment. The only outcome may be that they are also eligible for ill health benefits in their alternative scheme, which, in some circumstances, may provide a higher level of benefit than those which are currently in payment.

We hope that by signposting to this factsheet more members may feel comfortable agreeing to the re-assessment process.

By way of reminder, it is a requirement of the regulations to provide [eligible members](https://www.fpsregs.org/images/Age-discrimination/Age-discrimination-remedy-eligibility-factsheet-August-2022.pdf) with an RSS which sets out their choice between the legacy (FPS 1992 or FPS 2006) and the reformed scheme (FPS 2015). Regulations stipulate that an RSS must be provided **by 31 March 2025**.

**ACTION:** FRAs are encouraged to signpost members who are hesitant in agreeing to the re-assessment process to the factsheet.

**TPR General Code of Practice**

Following the publication of The Pensions Regulator’s (TPR) General Code of Practice (‘the Code’), the SAB secretariat held a focus group with administering authority officers on 8 February 2024. We know authorities are reviewing the Code and undertaking compliance and gap-analysis exercises either using a third-party or as an internal project. The focus group gathered initial feedback on the Code to understand what support and interpretation would be helpful and to consider the impact on SAB workstreams with links to the Code.

The SAB secretariat thanks the attendees for their insights and participation. We have already identified clear overlaps between the content of the Code and existing work to implement the Good Governance recommendations, as well as ongoing work within the CRC workstreams.

WYPF are a member of the General Code of Practice focus group and attended the 8 February meeting and will attend future meetings. We will be reviewing the governance of WYPF over the coming year.

**HMRC**

**Lifetime Allowance guidance newsletter – February 2024**

On 13 February 2024 HMRC published their [Lifetime Allowance guidance newsletter – February 2024](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/lifetime-allowance-guidance-newsletter-february-2024/lifetime-allowance-guidance-newsletter-february-2024).

The newsletter has articles on:

• answers to further frequently asked questions covering:

• lump sums and lump sum death benefits • reporting requirements • overseas transfer allowance

• protections and enhancement factors

• transitional arrangements

• information on reporting required by paragraph 130 on the further legislative changes which will be introduced before 6 April 2024

• further information on future communications

This newsletter has updated the [Pension Schemes Newsletter 155](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pension-schemes-newsletter-155-january-2024)  on the ‘permitted maximum’ test on the Pension Commencement excess lump sum (PCELS), which HMRC have confirmed has now been removed.

The newsletter also provides clarity on Event 24 reporting requirements; the new Relevant Benefit Crystallisation Event (RBCE) statement requirements; the impending PAYE/RTI changes and the transitional arrangements.

For members retiring after 5 April 2024, it is our understanding that administrators should now request retiring members to declare if they have previously had an RBCE from another scheme, so that this can be incorporated into their available allowances. Administrators would also need to know if retiring members have previously crystallised any benefits under the current regime up to 5 April 2024.

Administrators will need to consider the transitional rules, that will affect members who have, for example, used up some or all their LTA from the FPS 1992/2006 and who go on to take their FPS 2015 benefits on or after 6 April 2024. There is a useful [FT Adviser article](https://www.ftadviser.com/pensions/2024/02/06/transitional-tax-free-amount-certificate-when-could-it-be-useful/?page=1), which sets out an example of how the transitional rules work.

**ACTION:**

• The removal of the requirement to test against the ‘permitted maximum’ on the pension commencement excess lump sum.

• The Event 24 reporting requirements

• The additional information that is needed from members upon retirement relating to any RBCEs from other schemes.

• The transitional rules and the impact on retiring members.

**Events**

**Local Pension Board (LPB) Training Sessions**

Further to [FPS Bulletin 77 – January 2024](https://www.fpsregs.org/images/Bulletins/Bulletin-77-January-2024/FPS-Bulletin-77-January-2024-updated.pdf) where we let readers know that we were looking to change the way in which we deliver the LPB training.

We are excited to release the dates of the training and the proposed speakers.

• Tuesday 26 March 2024 10:00 – 14:00 (MS Teams) (limited spaces remaining)

• Monday 17 June 2024 13:00 – 17:00 (MS Teams) (Fully booked)

• Wednesday 18 September 2024 11:00 – 15:30 (In person - 18 Smith Square) (bookings not yet live)

• Thursday 23 January 2025 10:00 – 14:00 (MS Teams) (13 spaces remaining)

Attendees will hear from a range of speakers including:

**LGA** – to provide an overview of the FPS scheme(s) and current pension related hot topics e.g. Matthews and McCloud

**SAB (England) Chair** – to give an introduction and overview of the work that SAB are involved in.

**Fire LPB Effectiveness Committee Chair** – to provide input on LPB effectiveness and what the committee have been working on.

**The Pensions Regulator** – to provide an update on the Administration and Governance survey and how the results relate to Fire, as well as covering the importance of the Public Sector Pensions toolkit and any current developments e.g. the General Code. The Pensions

**Dashboard Programme (PDP)/ The Pensions Regulator (TPR)** – to provide an update on the programme and requirements on scheme managers/to provide detail of the tools that scheme managers can use to help them prepare for dashboards e.g. checklists.

To book:

Please email [bluelightpensions@local.gov.uk](mailto:bluelightpensions@local.gov.uk) for the MS Teams sessions and we will announce when the booking link goes live for the in-person session at the LGA offices, 18 Smith Square, Westminster, SW1P 3HZ.

**ACTION:** Readers are asked to make their LPB members aware of the training sessions and encourage them to book onto a session.

**FPS coffee mornings**

Our MS Teams coffee mornings are continuing in March 2024. The informal sessions lasting up to an hour allow practitioners to catch up with colleagues and hear a brief update on FPS issues from the LGA Bluelight team.

On 7 March 2024 we will be holding a session on the treatment of death cases under the Matthews remedy at 11:00 - 12:00. (This is rescheduled from the session that was due to take place on 20 February 2024)

On 19 March 2024 we will be holding a session at 10am.

We are pleased to include the presentations from recent sessions below:

[8 February 2024 – Automatic Compensation](https://www.fpsregs.org/images/Events/Coffee-mornings/Automatic-compensation.pdf)

[20 February 2024 – Public Service Pensions Remedy – Single Point of Contact (SPOC) – HMRC Presentation](https://www.fpsregs.org/index.php/member-area/age-discrimination-remedy-hmrc-member-tax-calculator) (Please note that this is held on the secure member area, if you do not have access, please contact us)

If you do not already receive the meeting invitations and would like to join us, please email [bluelightpensions@local.gov.uk](mailto:bluelightpensions@local.gov.uk). Please note that attendance at the coffee mornings is generally restricted to FPS practitioners and managers.

**Legislation**

**Statutory Instruments**

[Firefighters’ Pension Schemes (England) (Amendment) Order 2023](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/id/uksi/2023/986)  [SI2023/986]

Directions Orders

[Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2023](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1181505/The_Public_Service_Pensions__Valuations_and_Employer_Cost_Cap__Directions_2023_-_Final.pdf)

**Useful links**

• [The Firefighters’ Pensions (England) Scheme Advisory Board](http://www.fpsboard.org/)

• [FPS Regulations and Guidance](http://www.fpsregs.org/)

• [FPS Member](https://fpsmember.org/)

• [Khub Firefighters Pensions Discussion Forum](https://khub.net/group/thefirefighterspensionsdiscussionforum)

• [FPS1992 guidance and commentary](http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20120919152859tf_/http:/www.communities.gov.uk/fire/firerescueservice/firefighterpensions/firefighterspensionscheme/)

• [The Pensions Regulator Public Service Schemes](http://www.thepensionsregulator.gov.uk/public-service-schemes.aspx)

• [The Pensions Ombudsman](https://www.pensions-ombudsman.org.uk/)

• [HMRC Pensions Tax Manual](https://www.pensions-ombudsman.org.uk/)

• [LGA pensions website](https://www.local.gov.uk/our-support/workforce-and-hr-support/local-government-pensions)

• [LGPS Regulations and Guidance](https://www.lgpsregs.org/)

• [LGPC Bulletins](https://lgpsregs.org/bulletinsetc/bulletins.php)