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Bulletin 23: August 2019

Calendar of events

FPS

- Aon administration and benchmarking review – final report
- GAD data improvement reports for FRAs
- FPS contacts for HMRC
- A word about breaches
- SAB Administration and Benchmarking committee vacancy
- New factsheet – Compensatory ill-health pensions
- August query log

Other news and updates

- The Pensions Ombudsman (TPO) dispute resolution – consultation response
- The Pensions Regulator (TPR) scheme return

HMRC

- HMRC newsletters/bulletins
- Contracting-out reconciliation update
- 2018/19 Event Reporting – Annual Allowance Statements and Lifetime Allowance

Training and Events

- FPS AGM – London – 24-25 September 2019

Legislation

Useful links

Contact details

Appendices

- Appendix 1: Firefighters' Pension Scheme – Administration and Benchmarking Review: 30.8.2019
- Appendix 2: Factsheet – Ill-health pension paid from Compensation Scheme to Retained Firefighters employed before 6 April 2006

Bulletin 22: July 2019

Calendar of events

Take-over issue

- Once upon a time
- Pension tax giving you a headache?
- Eversheds Sutherland speedbrief
- A fresh perspective on Perspective
- What to expect when a complaint is referred to The Pensions Ombudsman
- Cyber resilience – are you ready?
- The complexities of ill-health pensions
- Weightmans legal update
- TPR Governance and Administration survey – a view from the Regulator

FPS

- July query log
- Written Ministerial Statement: Public Service Pensions

Other news and updates

- GAD newsletters
- The Pensions Ombudsman (TPO) Annual Report and Accounts 2018/19
- Written Ministerial Statement: Walker v Innospec Supreme Court Judgement
- House of Commons briefing paper – GMP-related overpayments
- TPR secondment opportunity

HMRC

- Contracting-out reconciliation update

Training and Events

- Pensionable pay workshop – event summary
- FPS AGM – London – 24-25 September 2019 SAVETHE DATE

Legislation

Useful links

Contact details

Appendices

- Appendix 1: HMRC Pension Tax restrictions and how they may affect firefighters
- Appendix 2: Legal update. The complexities of ill-health pensions
- Appendix 3: Legal update. Public sector pensions – two key developments (Langford v Secretary of State for Defence, and Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice v McCloud and others)
- Appendix 4: The Pensions Regulator. Public service governance and administration survey 2018
- Appendix 5: The Pensions Ombudsman. Message about, and link to, TPO Annual Report and Accounts 2018/2019

Bulletin 21: June 2019

Calendar of events

FPS

- FPS 2015 transitional protections challenge update
- Scheme Advisory Board Levy
- Annual Benefit Statements (ABS)
- Revised Fire (England) factors: Non-Club Transfer-In
- Fire (England) conclusion of factor review
- Joint Local Pension Boards (LPBs)
- LPB draft terms of reference updated
- June query log

Other news and updates

- GAD PSPS newsletter
- The Pensions Ombudsman (TPO) newsletter 6

HMRC

- HMRC newsletters/bulletins

Training and Events

- FPS training survey
- LPB annual wrap-up training 2019 – event summary
- Ill-health and injury workshop – event summary
- Pensionable pay workshop

Legislation

Useful links

Contact details

Appendices

- Appendix 1: ABS and explanatory notes template for 2019 (Word version)
- Appendix 2: ABS and explanatory notes template for 2019 (PDF version)
- Appendix 3: Non-Club Transfer-in (“TV-in”) factors (Fire – England)
- Appendix 4: GAD table of consolidated factors (Fire – England)
- Appendix 5: Guidance – Scheme Managers’ application to Secretary of State to establish Joint Local Pension Board
- Appendix 6: Local Pension Boards – updated Draft Terms of Reference (clean version)
- Appendix 7: Local Pension Boards – updated Draft Terms of Reference (tracked version)
- Appendix 8: The Pensions Ombudsman Newsletter, Issue 6 – June 2019

Bulletin 20: May 2019

Calendar of events

FPS

- Pension transitional arrangements: update on application to appeal
- Pensionable pay guidance
- SI 2019/378 member disclosure
- Technical note: Restricting exit payments in the public sector
- FPS 1992 transitional calculations guide updated
- LTA factsheet updated
- SAB committee vacancies
- May query log

Other news and updates

- GAD PSPS newsletter
- House of Commons briefing paper – pensions tax relief
- Updated list of public sector club transfer members

HMRC

- HMRC newsletters/bulletins
- Contracting-out reconciliation update

Training and Events

- FPS training survey
- Firefighters and Police LPB governance conference – event summary
- LPB annual wrap-up training 2019

Legislation

Useful links

Contact details

Appendices

- Appendix 1: Factsheet. Pensionable Pay
- Appendix 2: Technical Note. Restricting exit payments in the public sector

Bulletin 19: April 2019

Calendar of events

FPS

- Annual Benefit Statement survey 2018
- New and updated factsheets available
 - Two Pensions
 - Eligibility to join FPS
 - Pensions taxation
- SAB cost-effectiveness committee vacancy
- April query log
- SAB Request for Information update
- 2016 Valuation: employer contributions

Other news and updates

- Exit cap consultation
- Club Memorandum updated
- GAD PSPS newsletter

HMRC

- HMRC newsletters/bulletins
- Contracting-out reconciliation update

Training and Events

- Data: Pensions in a digital era - event summary
- Firefighters and Police LPB governance conference
- LPB annual wrap-up training 2018

Legislation

Useful links

Contact details

Bulletin 18: March 2019

Calendar of events

FPS

- 2019 amendment order – SI 2019/378
- Revised Fire (England) factors
- Contribution rates 2019-20
- Year End update 2019
- New factsheet – Additional Pension Benefits (APBs)
- SAB cost-effectiveness committee vacancy
- March query log

Other news and updates

- SFGB renamed
- PASA data guidance
- DWP launches midlife MOT website

HMRC

- HMRC newsletters/bulletins
- Contracting-out reconciliation update
- HMRC workshops on the Manage and Register Pension Schemes service

Training and Events

- Data: Pensions in a digital era
- Brighton rocks: LGA annual fire conference

Legislation

Useful links

Contact details

Appendices

- Appendix 1: GAD factors spreadsheet. Pension Debit Adjustment and Pension Credit
- Appendix 2: Factsheet. FPS Contribution Rates 2019-20
- Appendix 3: Factsheet. Firefighters' Pensions Year End Update 2019
- Appendix 4: Slides from HMRC workshop – Manage and Register Pension Schemes service

Bulletin 17: February 2019

Calendar of events

FPS

- Revised Fire (England) factors
- FPS benchmarking exercise – update
- Technical queries
- Pension sharing on divorce (transitional members)
- SAB cost-effectiveness committee vacancy
- February query log

Other news and updates

- Public Service Pension Indexation and Revaluation 2019
- The Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) (Amendment and Savings) Directions 2019
- New Club transfer factors
- Britain's exit from the EU

HMRC

- HMRC newsletters/bulletins
- Contracting-out reconciliation update

Training and Events

- 2019 events

Legislation

Useful links

Contact details

Appendices

- Appendix 1: GAD factors spreadsheet. Trivial commutation
- Appendix 2: GAD factors spreadsheet. Club transfers

Bulletin 16: January 2019

Calendar of events

FPS

- Transitional protections – what is remedy?
- FPS 2016 valuation – HMT written ministerial statement
- Revised Fire (England) factors
- FPS benchmarking exercise – member survey launched
- SAB request for information – deadline extended
- Website resource update – ill-health
- SAB cost-effectiveness committee vacancy
- Amendments to FPS (England) consultation response
- January query log

Other news and updates

- SFGB goes live
- Pensions dashboards consultation response
- GAD PSPS newsletter

HMRC

- HMRC newsletters/bulletins
- Contracting-out reconciliation update

Training and Events

- Scheme manager training – new!
- 2019 events

Legislation

Useful links

Contact details

Appendices

- Appendix 1: GAD factors spreadsheet. Added Years/Added Pension and CPD
- Appendix 2: GAD factors spreadsheet. Tax charge debits
- Appendix 3: GAD factors spreadsheet. Non-club Transfer-in (“TV-in”)
- Appendix 4: Poster for FRS to promote FPS benchmarking member survey
- Appendix 5: Form setting out SAB request for information – opting out of the scheme, cause and effect
- Appendix 6: Factsheet. Guidance on the role of scheme manager

Bulletin 15: December 2018

Calendar of events

FPS

- A message from the chair
- Court of Appeal transitional protections judgement
- FPS 2016 valuation - update
- Amendments to Firefighter Pension Schemes (England) – Consultation
- Revised Fire (England) factors
- FPS benchmarking exercise – update
- SAB request for information
- December query log
- Website resource update – guides and sample documents

Other news and updates

- Pensions dashboards
- New TPR Chief Executive
- TPO news
- Indexation of public service pensions

HMRC

- HMRC newsletters/bulletins
- Contracting-out reconciliation update

Events

- That was the year that was . . .

Legislation

Useful links

Contact details

Appendices

- Appendix 1: A message from the chair
- Appendix 2: Fire England ERFs and LRFs – November 2018
- Appendix 3: Fire England CETV and PenCE Factors – November 2018
- Appendix 4: SAB request for information
- Appendix 5: TPO Newsletter

Bulletin 14: November 2018

Calendar of events

FPS

- FPS 2016 valuation - update
- FPS benchmarking exercise - update
- Scheme Advisory Board levy
- Pensionable pay update
- SI 2018/997 member disclosure
- A favour to ask . . .
- November query log
- Website resource update – ill-health

Other news and updates

- TPR scheme return 2018
- TPR Governance and Administration survey 2018
- Updated TPR resources
- High Court ruling on GMP equalisation
- Civil partnerships to be extended to opposite sex couples

HMRC

- HMRC newsletters/bulletins
- Contracting-out reconciliation update

Events

- A view from Torquay

Legislation

Useful links

Contact details

Appendices

- Appendix 1: Aon Update: FPS Administration and Benchmarking Exercise
- Appendix 2: Letter from Scheme Advisory Board Chair to Chief Fire Officers, 31.10.2018: SAB levy

Bulletin 13: October 2018

Calendar of events

FPS

- FPS 2016 valuation - update
- Review of scheme factors
- FPS benchmarking exercise - update
- ABS survey – deadline extended
- Ill-health and injury determinations and role of IQMP
- October query log

Other news and updates

- Budget 2018
- TPR Governance and Administration survey 2018
- TPO update
- LGA website revamped

HMRC

- HMRC newsletters/bulletins
- Contracting-out reconciliation update
- Reporting non-taxable death benefits

Training

- Pensions tax support – update

Legislation

Useful links

Contact details

Appendices

- Appendix 1: Home Office letter regarding change to SCAPE discount rate and impact on GAD factors
- Appendix 2: Contracting-out reconciliation – PASA guidance on resolving GMP stalemate cases with HMRC

Bulletin 12: September 2018

Calendar of events

FPS

- FPS 2016 valuation
- 2018 amendment order – SI 2018/997
- FPS benchmarking exercise
- ABS survey – action required
- September query log

Other news and updates

- TPR – scheme return 2018-19
- TPR – new approach to workplace pensions regulation
- TPO – clearer signposting for dispute resolution

HMRC

- HMRC newsletters/bulletins
- Contracting-out reconciliation update

Training

- Fire pensions annual conference 17-18 September 2018
- Pensions tax support – action required

Legislation

Useful links

Contact details

Appendices

- Appendix 1: Firefighters' Pensions Technical Community Meeting Note – Benchmarking Review
- Appendix 2: Pensions Tax 2018/19 – FRA Response, for SAB Secretariat, on readiness

Bulletin 11: August 2018

Calendar of events

FPS

- FPS 2006 special member tax relief claims
- Update on the Public Sector Schemes 2016 valuation
- New way of submitting queries to the Bluelight team - update
- TPR data requirements – 2017/18 scheme return
- ABS survey

Website resource update

- Consolidated regulations
- Template agenda and annual report

Other news and updates

- TPO determination PO-12763 – the Police pension scheme
- TPS Pension Board – recruitment of independent pension specialist

HMRC

- HMRC newsletters/bulletins
- Contracting-out reconciliation update
- Annual Allowance Statements – 2017/18

Training

- Fire pensions annual conference 17-18 September 2018

Legislation

Useful links

Contact details

Appendix

- Appendix 1: Informal guide on TPR data requirements for 2018

Bulletin 10: July 2018

Calendar of events

FPS

- FPS 2006 special member tax relief claims
- New factsheet – Eligibility to join FPS
- New way of submitting queries to the Bluelight team - reminder
- Deferred Benefit Statements (DBS)

Website resource update

- Consolidated regulations
- Guides and sample documents

Other news and updates

- The Pensions Ombudsman Service (TPOS) Newsletter 4
- Beware cold-calls from fraudsters claiming to be from TPR

HMRC

- Annual Allowance calculator – back online
- HMRC newsletters/bulletins
- Contracting-out reconciliation update

Training

- AGM – save the date

Legislation

Useful links

Contact details

Appendix

- Appendix 1: The Pensions Ombudsman Service (TPOS) newsletter 4

Bulletin 9: June 2018

Calendar of events

FPS

- Annual Benefit Statements (ABS)
- Continual Professional Development (CPD)
- Internal Dispute Resolution Development (IDRP)
- New way of submitting queries to the Bluelight team
- FPS 2015 ill-health charge
- Scheme reconciliation update – action required!
- Website resource update
- New factsheet available

HMRC

- Launch of Manage and Register Pension Schemes service
- HMRC newsletters/bulletins
- Contracting-out reconciliation update
- GDPR privacy notice

Training

- Annual Local Pension Board wrap-up training

Legislation

Useful links

Contact details

Appendices

- Appendix 1: ABS statement and supporting documents (Word version)
- Appendix 2: ABS statement and supporting documents (PDF version)
- Appendix 3: Crystal Mark 22141
- Appendix 4: Crystal Mark conditions of use
- Appendix 5: Pension query form
- Appendix 6: Pension query form – notes for completion

Bulletin 8: May 2018

Calendar of events

FPS

- Valuation data
- Tax awareness seminars – next steps. What are you doing?
- FPS 2006 special members – resettlement lump sum payment
- New factsheets available
- Invitations to bid

Other News and Updates

- GDPR
- TPR Governance and Administration 2017 survey results

HMRC

- HMRC newsletters/bulletins
- Contracting-out reconciliation update

Training

- Annual Local Pension Board wrap-up training
- Special Members of the 2006 Scheme Refresher Workshop
- Fire and Police Local Pension Board Governance

Legislation

Useful links

Contact details

Appendices

- Appendix 1: Tax awareness seminars – next steps
- Appendix 2: CIPFA Police and Fire Network – Police and Fire Horizon Scanning Briefing

Bulletin 7: April 2018

Calendar of events

FPS

- Amendments to Firefighter Pension Schemes
- Website resource update
- Spouse's pension on early retirement from FPS 2006 and FPS 2015
- 2017/18 scheme return – scheme specific data
- Top Up grant 2018

Other News and Updates

- The Pensions Ombudsman (TPO) signposting
- Outcome of Walker v Innospec Ltd and others – implications for PSPS
- New style ESA (contribution-based ESA)

HMRC

- HMRC newsletters/bulletins
- Contracting-out reconciliation update
- Annual allowance calculator – temporarily unavailable

Training

- Special Members of the 2006 Scheme Refresher Workshop
- Fire and Police Local Pension Board Governance
- GDPR and TPR data requirements

Legislation

Useful links

Contact details

Appendix

- Appendix 1: The Pensions Ombudsman signposting template.

Bulletin 6: March 2018

Calendar of events

FPS

- Contribution rates 2018-19
- Year End Update 2018
- TPO determination on pensionable pay
- FPS 2015 Additional Pension purchase limit applicable for 2018-19
- LPB survey research report

Other News and Updates

- TPR – managing service providers
- TPO public service pension scheme statistics

HMRC

- HMRC newsletters/bulletins
- Contracting-out reconciliation update
- User research into scheme administrators with multiple scheme administrator IDs

Training

- GDPR and TPR data requirements
- Special Members of the 2006 Scheme Refresher Workshop

Legislation

Useful links

Contact details

Appendices

- Appendix 1: Firefighters' Pensions Contribution Rates 2018-19 (Employee and Employer.)
- Appendix 2: Firefighters' Pensions Year End. (FPS 2015 Additional Pension purchase limit applicable for 2018/19. Public Service Pension Indexation and Revaluation 2018. HMRC limits applicable from 6 April 2018. Automatic Enrolment Earnings Bands.)
- Appendix 3: LPB survey research report. (Based on survey to monitor the progress of LPBs since their establishment.)
- Appendix 4: TPR – Managing service providers. (Managing commercial relationships. Risk management and business continuity planning. Resolving issues. Useful links.)
- Appendix 5: TPO – public service pension scheme statistics. (Complaints, investigations, resolutions.)

Bulletin 5: February 2018

Calendar of events

FPS

- Abatement
- FPS Regulations and Guidance website – NEW!
- Public sector age discrimination appeals – EAT update

Other News and Updates

- GDPR
- ITM GDPR Bulletin – IMPORTANT!
- Public Service Pension Indexation and Revaluation 2018
- Indexation of GMP in public service pension schemes – consultation outcome
- McDonald (Respondent) v Newton or McDonald (Appellant) (Scotland) – Supreme Court Ruling – Pensioner on Divorce
- TPAS dispute function moves to TPO

HMRC

- HMRC newsletters/bulletins
- Contracting-out reconciliation update
- New Pensions Online service – User Research
- Lifetime Allowance 2018-19
- Relief at Source for Scottish Income Tax

Training

- GDPR and TPR data requirements

Legislation

Useful links

Contact details

Appendices

- Appendix 1: Abatement and PPA workshop slides from the LGA Fire Pensions Conference October 2016.
- Appendix 2: Public sector age discrimination appeals – EAT update. (Appeals heard in December 2017.)
- Appendix 3: GDPR guidance. (Specific to FRAs, encompassing six practical steps.)
- Appendix 4: GAD note setting out the impact of the extended interim arrangement for GMP indexation on the application of some of the Schemes' actuarial factors.
- Appendix 5: GMP trustee checklist – steps to be taken after reconciliation.
- Appendix 6: Relief at source for Scottish Income Tax.

Bulletin 4: January 2018

FPS

- Commutation factors – Modified members.
- Ill-health retirement and the Firefighters' Compensation Scheme quick guide
- IQMP Guidance – Edition 4 – October 2012
- Circular FPSC 9/2010
- Voluntary Scheme Pays

Other News and Updates

- Re-engagement of Senior Fire Officers Post-retirement: Response to Government Consultation
- Pensions Dashboard development day
- The Pensions Ombudsman Service (TPOS) newsletter 3

HMRC

- HMRC newsletters/bulletins
- Contracting-out reconciliation update
- Contribution holiday. Unauthorised Payments to HMRC – England Fire Authorities only
- Rebate of NI for retained modified members
- Annual Allowance Pensions Saving Statements 2016-2017
- Lifetime Allowance – Event reporting

Training

- GDPR

Legislation

Useful links

Contact details

Appendices

- Appendix 1: LGA quick guide to ill-health and injury benefits.
- Appendix 2: IQMP Guidance – Edition 4 October 2012.
- Appendix 3: FPSC 9/2010: Appeals to Board of Medical Referees - Processing of medical appeals.
- Appendix 4: Voluntary Scheme Pays – LGA Guidance Note 15.1.2018 updated 23.1.2018.
- Appendix 5: Member VSP Election Forms.
- Appendix 6: Scheme Manager VSP Election Forms.
- Appendix 7: Guidance on proportioning Scheme Pays Debit.
- Appendix 8: Pensions Dashboard development day slides.
- Appendix 9: Pensions Ombudsman Newsletter Issue 3 - January 2018.

Bulletin 3: November/December 2017

FPS

- Backdated elections to the 2006 modified scheme (RDS)
- Pension sharing on divorce (transitional members)
- Survivor benefits quick guide
- Voluntary Scheme Pays
- Local Pension Board (LPB) survey
- Local Pension Board (LPB) resources

Auto-Enrolment

- Transitional delay

Other News and Updates

- Autumn budget 2017 – GAD technical bulletin
- The Pensions Ombudsman Service (TPOS) newsletter
- TPR Governance and Administration Survey
- We have moved!

HMRC

- HMRC newsletters/bulletins
- Contracting-out reconciliation update
- Contribution holiday – unauthorised payments to HMRC – England Fire Authorities only
- Rebate of NI for retained modified members

Training

- Tax awareness seminars
- Ill-health discharges and medical appeals
- GDPR

Legislation

Useful links

Contact details

Appendices

- Appendix 1: LGA quick guide to survivor benefits.
- Appendix 2: Pensions Ombudsman Newsletter Issue 2 – 2.9.2017.
- Appendix 3: Tax awareness seminar flyer.

Bulletin 2: September/October 2017

FPS

- 2017 amendment orders
- Added pension
- Annual conference 2017
- Scheme Advisory Board website
- Annual Fire (England) Scheme Advisory Board subscription levy

Auto-Enrolment

- Transitional delay
- The Employers' Duties (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2017 [SI 2017/868]

Other News and Updates

- Government response to scams consultation
- GDPR
- Pensions dashboard
- We are moving!

HMRC

- HMRC newsletters/bulletins
- Contracting-out reconciliation update
- Outstanding queries

Training

- Tax awareness seminars
- LPB training reminder
- Save the date – annual conference 2018

Legislation

Useful links

Contact details

Appendices

- Appendix 1: LGA summary of changes made by Amendment Orders SI 2017/892 and SI 2017/888.
- Appendix 2: LGA letter of 5 December 2017 setting out this year's Fire (England) Scheme Advisory Board levy.
- Appendix 3: TPR's presentation – data challenges in the pensions landscape and GDPR.
- Appendix 4: Pensions Dashboard Project – newsletter on developments.
- Appendix 5: Summary of outstanding FPS-related enquiries with HMRC.
- Appendix 6: Technical note on correct tax treatment of ill-health pensions paid from Compensation Scheme to retained firefighters employed before 6 April 2006.
- Appendix 7: Tax awareness seminars hosted and run by Barnett Waddingham.

Bulletin 1: July/August 2017

FPS

- Meet the bluelight team
- Home Office assumptions exercise
- tPR governance and admin survey
- Brewster case
- Voluntary Scheme pays

Other News and Updates

- GDPR
- State Pension Age review
- Supreme Court case – Walker v Innospec

HMRC

- HMRC newsletters/bulletins
- Contracting-out reconciliation update
- Outstanding queries

Training

- “Wrap-up” board training
- LGA pension update
- Save the date

Legislation

Useful links

Contact details

Appendices

- Appendix 1: HO letter: Financial arrangements for firefighter pensions – LOGASnet Returns: Pension Estimates 2017/18 to 2023/24.
- Appendix 2: Spreadsheet: Pension Top-up grant 2018. Pension Deficit/Surplus Estimates 2017/18 – 2023/24 Declaration of assumptions.
- Appendix 3: tPR presentation. Firefighters’ pension schemes. Full set of survey results 2016.
- Appendix 4: tPR presentation. Firefighters’ pension schemes.
- Appendix 5: LGA note - “Voluntary Scheme Pays” in the Firefighters’ Pension Schemes.
- Appendix 6: Summary of outstanding FPS-related enquiries with HMRC.
- Appendix 7: The procedure for each FRA to report and pay the tax due on unauthorised payments (contributions holiday).
- Appendix 8: A spreadsheet for each FRA to complete with details of unauthorised payments (contributions holiday).
- Appendix 9: Agenda for local pension board “wrap up” training.