

# Scheme Advisory Board

22<sup>nd</sup> December 2016

Dear colleagues,

## **CHRISTMAS WISHES**

Clair and my fellow Scheme Advisory Board members would like to take this opportunity to say a great big 'thank you' to those of you who have worked closely with us, made us so welcome when we have been out to see you, and have engaged with us on the initiatives we are working on through the Scheme Advisory Board in our attempt to improve every element of Fire Pensions.

I have now been in post as the English Firefighters' Pension Scheme Advisory Board Chairman for 8 months, looking back, I am delighted with all that has been achieved so far, mainly as a result of the support and assistance received from you, our colleagues working on Fire Pensions out in the Fire Authorities and, who I described to our Minister, The Rt Hon Brandon Lewis MP, as our 'Fire Pensions Family'.

Clair and I met with our Minister on Monday the 19th of December, he made us very welcome and was pleased to hear of the progress we as a group are making and, from his comments, we believe we are going in the direction the Government want us to and which will benefit our schemes, our scheme members, the Employers and the taxpayers.

It is our intention to visit more Local Pension Boards and regional groups where we can receive your thoughts and views as to how we can progress the work of the SAB, especially in our objective to assist and guide LPB's in your work and to assist you to fulfil your responsibilities.

My colleague members of the SAB are also very keen to ensure we progress and develop the work plan we have set ourselves and many of you will have seen SAB members actively participating in the events LGA have organised during the year, which I as SAB Chairman greatly appreciate.

Firefighters Pension Scheme (England)

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Before I close, we would like to congratulate those of you who have completed and submitted The Pension Regulators G&A survey on behalf of your authority; we received information from TPR that at the close of the survey yesterday, we had an incredibly high response rate from Fire Authorities who had completed and returned their survey, an excellent improvement on last year's survey when only 35% of Fire Authorities responded.

I close by wishing you all a very Merry Christmas when I hope you will be able to take time to relax, enjoy yourselves and recharge your batteries ready for all that 2017 will undoubtedly bring to all of us.

Festive Best Wishes,

*Malcolm*

Malcolm Eastwood, CBE, CStJ, QFSM, FIFireE.

Chairman, English Firefighters' Pension Scheme Advisory Board.

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