



**Department for
Communities and
Local Government**

An open letter to firefighters

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Parliamentary Under Secretary of State

***Department for Communities and Local
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YOUR PENSION YOUR DECISION

The Executive Council of the FBU is asking its members to vote for strike action over their pensions. As you collectively provide emergency cover 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, I am certain you will not vote on such action without a great deal of thought.

Pensions are complex – but one thing which you can be assured of is that even after the reforms you will have one of the best pension schemes available – better than most of your neighbours, and better than many in the public sector. Let me just point out some of the benefits of the new scheme:

- A firefighter earning £28,500 is likely to receive a pension at age 60 of around £19,000 (67% of your final salary) after a 40 year career in the 2015 scheme.
- A worker would need a pension fund of at least £475,000 to purchase an annual annuity equivalent to a pension of £19,000 at age 60.
- A worker earning £28,500 would need to contribute double that of a firefighter to a private pension pot in order to guarantee an annual income of around £19,000 at age 60

On top of that, most existing firefighters in the 1992 scheme will remain in that scheme either for the rest of their career, or part of it. So that you can be clear what this means for you personally, I have put two calculators on the internet. The first calculator shows the pension available to you under the Proposed Final Agreement, the second calculator shows the pension available to you under the revised offer as set out in my letter to the FBU of 19 June. I urge you to take a look at the calculators and input your personal details. The calculators can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/firefighters-pension-scheme-reforms-pension-scheme-calculator>

I have also provided more detailed facts and figures at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/firefighters-pension-scheme-reforms>

I would also like to invite you to participate in a free teleconference with me between 10.00am and 11.00am on Thursday 18 July. You can do this by registering a landline

telephone number on the link below. What will take place is a live Q&A session, operating much like a radio phone-in show. To register for this call, please sign up before 5pm on Wednesday 17 July at:

https://registration.broadnet.us/event_registration.php?pid=425&fbs=teleforum&sig=4b5e9059a0f8a2449b6d8aa6672595ca2daf433aa0cf490cc16bc1c2055303fe

You can also register through Facebook - here is the link

https://apps.facebook.com/teleforum_reg/event_registration.php?pid=425&fbs=teleforum&sig=4b5e9059a0f8a2449b6d8aa6672595ca2daf433aa0cf490cc16bc1c2055303fe

Once registered we will call you on the specified number at 10am.

You can also follow the teleconference conversation on Twitter where we'll be live tweeting throughout from the @CommunitiesUK account using #firepensions.

This is an important decision for you personally, and I am keen that you know the facts.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brandon', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

BRANDON LEWIS MP