
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2006 No. 3432

**FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES, ENGLAND
PENSIONS, ENGLAND**

The Firefighters' Pension Scheme (England) Order 2006

Made - - - - *19th December 2006*
Laid before Parliament *4th January 2007*
Coming into force - - *25th January 2007*

This Order is made in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 34 and 60 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004(1).

In accordance with section 34(5) of that Act, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government consulted such persons as she considered appropriate before making the Order(2).

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government makes the following Order:

Citation, commencement and application

1.—(1) This Order may be cited as the Firefighters' Pension Scheme (England) Order 2006 and shall come into force on 25th January 2007, but shall have effect from 6th April 2006.

(2) This Order applies in relation to England only(3).

New pension scheme for firefighters in England

2. The New Firefighters' Pension Scheme (England), set out in Schedule 1 to this Order, which makes provision for the payment of pensions and lump sums to and in respect of persons who are or have been employed by English fire and rescue authorities as firefighters (including persons who die while so employed), shall have effect.

1992 scheme ceasing to have effect in England, with savings

3.—(1) Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), the Firefighters' Pension Scheme set out in Schedule 2 to the Firemen's Pension Scheme Order 1992(4) ("the 1992 scheme") shall not have effect in relation

(1) 2004 c.21.

(2) Other consultations were undertaken by the First Secretary of State, whose responsibilities in relation to firefighters' pensions became responsibilities of the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with effect from 5th May 2006. See also S.I. 2006/1926.

(3) Powers under sections 34 and 60 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 are vested, as regards Wales, in the National Assembly for Wales by virtue of section 62 of that Act.

(4) S.I. 1992/129; a relevant amending instrument is S.I. 2006/1810. The Scheme was made under section 26 of the Fire Services Act 1947 (c.41). It was renamed the Firefighters' Pension Scheme, and continued in force, on the repeal of the 1947 Act by

to a person who takes up employment with an English fire and rescue authority on or after 6th April 2006.

- (2) Paragraph (1) shall not apply to a person who—
- (a) transfers to the employment of an English fire and rescue authority from employment with a fire and rescue authority in Scotland or Wales or with the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service Board; and
 - (b) immediately before 6th April 2006, was a member of the firefighters' pension scheme established by the authority from whose employment he transfers.
- (3) Where at any time in the period beginning on 6th April 2006 and ending on the date on which this Order comes into force, a person becomes a member of the 1992 scheme on taking up employment with an English fire and rescue authority—
- (a) on the date on which this Order comes into force—
 - (i) the 1992 scheme shall cease to have effect in relation to him, subject to the provisions set out in Schedule 2 to this Order (transitional arrangements); and
 - (ii) the provisions of the New Firefighters' Pension Scheme (England) shall have effect in relation to him; and
 - (b) pensionable service that was reckonable service for the purposes of the 1992 scheme shall be treated as pensionable service reckonable under the New Firefighters' Pension Scheme (England).
- (4) The 1992 scheme shall continue to have effect in relation to a person who, immediately before 6th April 2006, was a member of it or was entitled to, or in receipt of, an award under it.

Continuation of schemes for retained firefighters

4.—(1) This article applies where, immediately before the date on which this Order comes into force, an English fire and rescue authority maintain a scheme for the payment of pensions to and in respect of retained firefighters (“the retained scheme”).

(2) Subject to paragraph (3), the authority may continue to maintain the retained scheme on and after the date on which this Order comes into force, for the benefit of persons who were members of that scheme before 6th April 2006, as if it were a scheme established under the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004.

- (3) The authority must not—
- (a) in respect of a retained firefighter who becomes a member of the New Firefighters' Pension Scheme (England), make any contribution to the retained scheme on or after the date on which the firefighter's membership of that Scheme commences, or
 - (b) use their Firefighters' Pension Fund⁽⁵⁾ for the making of employer's contributions to the retained scheme.
- (4) In this article “retained firefighter” means a person employed by a fire and rescue authority—
- (a) as a firefighter, but not as a regular firefighter, and
 - (b) who is obliged to attend at such times as the officer in charge considers necessary, and in accordance with the orders that he receives.

section 52 of, and Schedule 2 to, the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004, by article 3 of the Firefighters' Pension Scheme (England and Scotland) Order 2004 (S.I. 2004/1912).

(5) Firefighters' Pension Funds were established under Part LA of the scheme set out in Schedule 2 to the Firemen's Pension Scheme Order 1992 (S.I. 1992/129). Part LA was inserted by S.I. 2006/1810, Schedule 1, para 59.

Signed by authority of the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government

19th December 2006

Phil Woolas
Minister of State
Department for Communities and Local
Government

SCHEDULE 1

Article 2

THE NEW FIREFIGHTERS' PENSION SCHEME (ENGLAND)

PART 1

CITATION AND INTERPRETATION

Citation

1. This Scheme (which, by virtue of article 1(1) of the Firefighters' Pension Scheme (England) Order 2006, has effect from 6th April 2006) may be cited as the New Firefighters' Pension Scheme (England).

Interpretation

2.—(1) In this Scheme—

“the 1992 Scheme” means the Firefighters' Pension Scheme 1992⁽⁶⁾;

“the 1993 Act” means the Pension Schemes Act 1993⁽⁷⁾;

“the 1999 Act” means the Welfare Reform and Pensions Act 1999⁽⁸⁾;

“adoption leave” means leave under sections 75A and 75B of the Employment Rights Act 1996⁽⁹⁾; and “ordinary adoption leave” and “additional adoption leave” shall be construed accordingly;

“amount”, in relation to a pension, means the annual amount of the pension;

“authority”, except in the definition of “independent qualified medical practitioner” and in the expression “fire authority”, means a fire and rescue authority”;

“authority-initiated early retirement” means retirement before normal retirement age under rule 6 of Part 3;

“award”, unless a contrary indication appears, means a pension or lump sum under this Scheme, or the refund of pension contributions;

“cash equivalent” has the meaning given by section 94(1)(a) of the 1993 Act;

“child”, in relation to a scheme member, means—

(a) a child who is financially dependent on him, and is—

(i) a natural child, step-child or adopted child of his; or

(ii) otherwise related to him; or

(iii) the child of his spouse, civil partner or nominated partner; or

(b) any child of his—

(i) who is born after his death, and

(ii) with whom the child's mother was pregnant at the date of the member's death;

(6) See Schedule 2 to [S.I.1992/129](#). The Scheme was made under section 26 of the Fire Services Act 1947 ([c.41](#)). It was renamed the Firefighters' Pension Scheme, and continued in force, on the repeal of the 1947 Act by section 52 of, and Schedule 2 to, the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004, by article 3 of the Firefighters' Pension Scheme (England and Scotland) Order 2004 ([S.I. 2004/1912](#)).

(7) [1993 c.48](#).

(8) [1999 c.30](#).

(9) [1996 c.18](#). Sections 75A and 75B were inserted by section 3 of the Employment Act 2002 ([c.22](#)).

“Compensation Scheme” means the Firefighters’ Compensation (England) Scheme 2006 set out in Schedule 1 to the Firefighters’ Compensation (England) Order 2006(10);

“contracted-out”, in relation to an employment or scheme, has the meaning given by section 8(1) of the 1993 Act(11);

“contributions equivalent premium” has the meaning given by section 55(2) of the 1993 Act; and any reference to a case in which a contributions equivalent premium has been paid includes a reference to a case in which such a premium is payable;

“contributions election” means an election under rule 5(1) of Part 2 not to make pension contributions;

“deferred member” has the meaning given by rule 1(3) of Part 2;

“disabled” and “disablement” have the meanings given by rule 3 of this Part;

“eligibility condition” means a condition set out in rule 2(1) of Part 2;

“final pensionable pay” shall be construed in accordance with rule 2 of Chapter 1 of Part 11;

“firefighter member” has the meaning given by rule 1(1) of Part 2;

“guaranteed minimum” is the amount determined for the purposes of sections 13 to 17 of the 1993 Act, and “guaranteed minimum pension” has the same meaning as in that Act(12); and any reference to the guaranteed minimum in relation to a pension under a pension scheme at a particular time is a reference to the amount certified by the Secretary of State as that minimum at that time;

“higher tier ill-health pension” means a pension of the description referred to in rule 2(4) of Part 3;

“ill-health retirement” means retirement under rule 2 of Part 3;

“independent qualified medical practitioner” means a medical practitioner holding a diploma in occupational medicine or an equivalent or higher qualification issued by a competent authority in an EEA State, or being an Associate, a Member or a Fellow of the Faculty of Occupational Medicine(13) or an equivalent institution of an EEA State; and for the purposes of this definition “a competent authority” has the meaning given by the General and Specialist Medical Practice (Education, Training and Qualifications) Order 2003(14);

“injury” means any injury or disease, whether of body or mind;

“lower tier ill-health pension” means a pension of the description referred to in rule 2(3) of Part 3;

“maternity leave” means leave under sections 71 and 73 of the Employment Rights Act 1996(15); and “ordinary maternity leave” and “additional maternity leave” shall be construed accordingly;

“member-initiated early retirement” means retirement before normal retirement age under rule 5 of Part 3;

“nominated partner” has the meaning given by rule 1(2) of Part 2;

“normal benefit age” has the meaning given by rule 3(2) of Part 2;

“normal retirement age” has the meaning given by rule 3(1) of Part 2;

(10) S.I. 2006/1811.

(11) 1993 c.48.

(12) 1993 c.48. As to “guaranteed minimum pension” see section 8(2).

(13) The Faculty of Occupational Medicine is a registered charity no. 1035415

(14) S.I. 2003/250, to which there is an amendment not relevant to this Order.

(15) 1996 c.18; sections 71 and 73 were substituted by section 7 of, and Part 1 of Schedule 4 to, the Employment Relations Act 1999 (c.26) and amended by section 17 of the Employment Act 2002 (c.22).

“paternity leave” means leave under regulation 4 or 8 of the Paternity and Adoption Leave Regulations 2002⁽¹⁶⁾;

“pension”, unless a contrary intention appears, means a pension under this Scheme;

“pensionable pay” shall be construed in accordance with rule 1 of Part 11;

“pensionable retained or volunteer service”, in relation to a retained or volunteer firefighter and any period, means the same proportion of whole-time service as that which his actual pensionable pay for that period bears to his reference pay for that period;

“pensionable service” shall be construed in accordance with rules 2 to 5 of Part 10;

“pension credit” means a credit under section 29(1)(b) of the 1999 Act, or corresponding Northern Ireland legislation;

“pension credit benefit” has the meaning given by section 101B of the 1993 Act⁽¹⁷⁾;

“pension credit member” has the meaning given by section 124(1) of the Pensions Act 1995⁽¹⁸⁾;

“pension credit rights” has the meaning given by section 101B of the 1999 Act;

“pension debit” means a debit under section 29(1)(a) of the 1999 Act;

“pension debit member” means a person whose benefits or future benefits under this Scheme have been reduced under section 31 of the 1999 Act;

“pensioner”, except in the definition of “pensioner member”, means a person who is in receipt of a pension;

“pensioner member” has the meaning given by rule 1(4) of Part 2;

“pension sharing order” means an order or provision mentioned in section 28(1) of the 1999 Act;

“personal pension scheme” has the meaning given by section 1 of the 1993 Act;

“qualifying service” has the meaning given by rule 1 of Part 10;

“reference pay”, in relation to the pay of a retained or volunteer firefighter for any period, means the whole-time equivalent pensionable pay for that period of a regular firefighter employed in a similar role and with equivalent qualifying service;

“regular employment” means employment for at least 30 hours a week on average over a period of not less than 12 consecutive months beginning with the date on which the issue of the person’s capacity for employment arises;

“regular firefighter” means a person employed (whether whole-time or part-time) by an authority—

- (a) as a firefighter, but not as a retained or volunteer firefighter,
- (b) on terms under which he is, or may be, required to engage in fire-fighting or, without a break in continuity of such employment, may be required to perform other duties appropriate to his role as a firefighter (whether instead of, or in addition to, engaging in fire-fighting); and
- (c) otherwise than in a temporary capacity;

“retained firefighter” and “volunteer firefighter” mean a person employed by an authority—

- (a) as a firefighter, but not as a regular firefighter,

⁽¹⁶⁾ S.I. 2002/2788.

⁽¹⁷⁾ Section 101B was inserted by section 37 of the Welfare Reform and Pensions Act 1999 (c.30).

⁽¹⁸⁾ 1995 c.26.

- (b) on terms under which he is, or may be, required to engage in fire-fighting or, without a break in continuity of such employment, may be required to perform other duties appropriate to his role as a firefighter (whether instead of, or in addition to, engaging in fire-fighting),
- (c) otherwise than in a temporary capacity, and
- (d) who is obliged to attend at such times as the officer in charge considers necessary, and in accordance with the orders that he receives,

and “retained or volunteer firefighter” shall be construed accordingly;

“role”, in relation to a firefighter, except in rule 1(1) of Part 2, means the role in which he is for the time being employed, being a role set out in “Fire and Rescue Services Rolemaps” issued by the National Joint Council for Local Authority Fire and Rescue Services in August 2005⁽¹⁹⁾;

“state pensionable age” means pensionable age as determined in accordance with the rules in paragraph 1 of Schedule 4 to the Pensions Act 1995⁽²⁰⁾;

“survivor’s pension” means a pension under rule 1 of Part 4; and

“transfer value payment” means a payment to another pension scheme or arrangement in respect of rights to benefits that have accrued to or in respect of him under this Scheme.

(2) Where this Scheme requires anything to be done within a specified period after or from a specified day or event, the period begins immediately after the specified day or, as the case may be, the day on which the specified event occurs.

Disablement

3.—(1) References in this Scheme to a person’s being permanently disabled are references to his being disabled at the time when the question arises for decision and to his disablement being at that time likely to be permanent.

(2) Disablement—

- (a) in relation to a firefighter member, means such incapacity, occasioned by infirmity of mind or body, as makes him unable to perform any duties of the role in which he was last employed;
- (b) in relation to a child, means such incapacity, occasioned by infirmity of mind or body, as makes him unable to earn a living.

(3) In determining whether a person’s disablement is permanent, the authority shall have regard—

- (a) in every case, to whether the disablement will continue until the person’s normal retirement age; and
- (b) in relation to a person who has taken a deferred pension, to whether the disablement will continue until his normal benefit age.

(4) Where—

- (a) a person has left the Scheme with deferred entitlement to benefits before becoming disabled, and
- (b) the date on which he becomes disabled cannot be ascertained,

the date shall be taken to be that on which the claim that he is disabled is first made known to the authority.

⁽¹⁹⁾ The document is accessible at [http://www/lge.gov.uk/conditions/firefighters/content/documents/fire service rolemaps.pdf](http://www/lge.gov.uk/conditions/firefighters/content/documents/fire%20service%20rolemaps.pdf).

⁽²⁰⁾ 1995 c.26. See section 126 of that Act.

PART 2

SCHEME MEMBERSHIP, CESSATION AND RETIREMENT

Scheme membership

1.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), a person of any of the following descriptions is entitled to be a firefighter member of this Scheme—

- (a) a person who, on or after 6th April 2006, takes up employment with an authority as a firefighter, and whose role on taking up that employment includes—
 - (i) resolving operational incidents, or
 - (ii) leading and supporting others in the resolution of operational incidents;
- (b) a person who—
 - (i) having taken up employment as a firefighter before 6th April 2006,
 - (ii) having continued in such employment until the date of his election, and
 - (iii) having been a member of the 1992 Scheme,elects to become a member of this Scheme; and
- (c) a person to whom article 3(3) of the Firefighters' Pension Scheme (England) Order 2006 refers (persons becoming members of the 1992 Scheme on taking up employment with an authority on or after 6th April 2006 and before that Order comes into force).

(2) A person may not be a firefighter member of this Scheme if he makes a contributions election (but he may again become a firefighter member by virtue of rule 6(4)).

(3) A person is a deferred member of this Scheme if he is entitled to a deferred pension under rule 3 of Part 3.

(4) A person is a pensioner member of this Scheme if he is in receipt of a pension or other benefits under the Scheme in respect of his pensionable service or by reason of service credited to the Scheme under Part 12.

(5) A person is a dependent member of this Scheme if he is—

- (a) the spouse or civil partner of a deceased firefighter member;
- (b) the nominated partner of a deceased firefighter member;
- (c) a pension credit member in relation to a firefighter member;
- (d) the child of a person who is a member of the Scheme by virtue of sub-paragraph (a) or (b) of paragraph (1), whose dependency on that person satisfies the conditions specified in paragraph 15(2) and (3) of Schedule 28 to the Finance Act 2004; or
- (e) is in receipt of a portion of a firefighter's pension allocated under rule 11 of Part 3.

(6) For the purposes of paragraph (5), a firefighter member may nominate (a "nominated partner") a person who—

- (a) has been living with the firefighter member, otherwise than as his spouse or civil partner, in a long-term relationship; and
- (b) at the date on which the question of the person's status in relation to the firefighter member falls to be considered—
 - (i) is not the spouse or civil partner of any other person,
 - (ii) is registered with the scheme administrator as the firefighter member's nominated partner, and

(iii) is financially dependent on the firefighter member or is, with the firefighter member, in a state of mutual financial dependency,

but this is subject to paragraph (8).

(7) In paragraph (6)—

(a) “long-term relationship” means a relationship that has continued, to the exclusion of any other relationship, for the period of two years ending with the date on which the question of the person’s status in relation to the firefighter member falls to be considered, or such shorter period as the authority may in any particular case think fit; and

(b) “scheme administrator” has the meaning given by section 270 of the Finance Act 2004⁽²¹⁾.

(8) A firefighter member may not make a nomination under paragraph (6) if (under the law of England and Wales) he is prohibited from marrying or, as the case may be, becoming the civil partner of the person he wishes to nominate.

(9) A nomination ceases to have effect if the firefighter member or the person nominated marries or enters in to a civil partnership (whether with each other or with another person).

(10) Where a person who is—

(a) employed by more than one authority, or

(b) employed by a particular authority under more than one contract of employment,

is entitled to be a member of this Scheme, he shall be a member of it in respect of each employment; but he shall not be a member by virtue of any employment in respect of which he makes a contributions election that is not cancelled.

Eligibility conditions

2.—(1) A firefighter member is eligible for a pension under this Scheme if—

(a) he has at least three months’ qualifying service; or

(b) he transfers into the Scheme with personal pension rights which qualify him for benefits under the Scheme; or

(c) he reaches normal retirement age.

(2) In paragraph (1)(b) “personal pension rights” has the meaning given by section 71 of the 1993 Act⁽²²⁾.

Normal retirement age and normal benefit age

3.—(1) The normal retirement age of firefighter members is 60.

(2) The normal benefit age of firefighter members is 65.

Last day of membership

4.—(1) Where a firefighter member leaves the Scheme, his last day of membership shall be taken to be—

(a) where he leaves on retirement at normal retirement age, his last day of service; and

(b) in any other case, subject to paragraph (2), the last day on which he pays contributions.

⁽²¹⁾ 2004 c.12. See also Schedule 36 to the Finance Act 2004, amended by the Finance Act 2005 (c.7), Schedule 10.

⁽²²⁾ 1993 c.48.

(2) Where a firefighter member is on unpaid leave or absent without permission on the day on which he leaves the Scheme, his last day of membership shall be taken to be such date as may be agreed with the authority.

Election not to make pension contributions

5.—(1) A firefighter member may at any time, by giving written notice to his employing authority, elect to make no further pension contributions (referred to in this Scheme as a “contributions election”).

(2) Subject to paragraph (3)—

- (a) a contributions election takes effect on the day on which begins the first pay period falling after the date on which the notice under paragraph (1) is received; and
- (b) his membership of the Scheme ceases on the day on which the contributions election takes effect.

(3) A person who makes a contributions election within three months of joining the Scheme shall be treated as if he had never been a member of it.

(4) A person whose membership of the Scheme ceases as mentioned in paragraph (2)(b) remains entitled to any deferred benefits accrued while he was a member.

Rejoining the Scheme

6.—(1) Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), a person who has made a contributions election may cancel it by giving written notice to the authority.

(2) Paragraph (1) does not apply where the person—

- (a) is entitled to reckon 40 or more years of pensionable service for the purposes of the Scheme; or
- (b) has previously given notice under this rule, unless the authority have declined to accept it.

(3) The authority may resolve that a person’s election may not be cancelled unless he has undergone a medical examination, at his own expense, and satisfied them as to his good health.

(4) Where an election under rule 5(1) is cancelled—

- (a) the person shall resume the making of pension contributions; and
- (b) shall again be a firefighter member of the Scheme,

with effect from the day on which begins the first pay period falling after the date on which the notice under paragraph (1) of this rule is received.

PART 3

PERSONAL AWARDS

Ordinary pension

1.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), this rule applies to a person who satisfies an eligibility condition and retires, having reached normal retirement age, or state pensionable age.

(2) This rule does not apply to a firefighter member whose notice of retirement states that he is retiring for the purpose of taking up employment with another authority.

(3) A person to whom this rule applies becomes entitled on retiring to an ordinary pension calculated, subject to paragraph (4), by multiplying his pensionable service by his final pensionable pay and dividing the resultant amount by 60.

(4) Where a person to whom this rule applies becomes entitled on retiring to a pension in respect of service as a retained or volunteer firefighter, his ordinary pension shall be calculated by multiplying his final pensionable pay by his pensionable retained or volunteer service and dividing the resultant amount by 60.

(5) Where a firefighter member is entitled to more than one ordinary pension, those pensions shall not be aggregated unless rule 7(6) applies.

Award on ill-health retirement

2.—(1) This rule applies to a firefighter member who leaves his employment by reason of permanent disablement⁽²³⁾ (referred to in this Scheme as “ill-health retirement”).

(2) Every firefighter member to whom this rule applies and who satisfies an eligibility condition is entitled, on retiring, to a lower tier ill-health pension calculated in accordance with paragraph 1 of Annex 1 to this Scheme.

(3) A firefighter member—

- (a) who is entitled to a lower tier ill-health pension,
- (b) who has at least five years of qualifying service, and
- (c) in respect of whom an independent qualified medical practitioner has expressed the opinion, obtained in accordance with rule 2(2) of Part 8, that he is permanently disabled from undertaking regular employment,

is also entitled, on retiring, to a higher tier ill-health pension calculated in accordance with paragraph 2 or 3 of Annex 1, as his circumstances require.

Deferred pension

3.—(1) This rule applies to a firefighter member who—

- (a) satisfies an eligibility condition; and
- (b) before reaching normal retirement age—
 - (i) resigns or is dismissed from the authority’s employment; or
 - (ii) makes a contributions election.

(2) A person to whom this rule applies is entitled to a deferred pension which, subject to paragraph (4) and rule 5, becomes payable from normal benefit age.

(3) A deferred pension shall be calculated by multiplying the person’s pensionable service by his final pensionable pay and dividing the resultant amount by 60.

(4) Subject to rule 4 of Part 9 (withdrawal of early payment of deferred pension), where—

- (a) a person to whom this rule applies gives to the authority by whom he was last employed written notice requesting early payment of his deferred pension, and
- (b) the authority are satisfied, having obtained the opinion of an independent qualified medical practitioner in accordance with rule 2(2) of Part 8, that the person is permanently disabled from undertaking regular employment,

the authority shall pay the deferred pension from the date of the person’s disablement or, if that date cannot be ascertained, the date of his request for early payment.

⁽²³⁾ See rule 3 of Part 1.

(5) Where a deferred pension is paid early in accordance with paragraph (4), it shall be subject to review under rule 1(2) of Part 9 (review of ill-health pension).

(6) A person who cancels his deferred pension under rule 4 ceases to be entitled to it.

Cancellation of deferred pension

4.—(1) Where—

- (a) a deferred pension awarded under rule 3 is not being paid; and
- (b) the person entitled to it is again employed by an authority in a role which entitles him to rejoin this Scheme, and
- (c) he rejoins the Scheme,

he may, at any time before leaving the authority's employment, by written notice given to the authority, instruct the authority to cancel his deferred pension.

(2) Where an authority cancel a deferred pension, they shall add to the pensionable service used for the calculation of the pension to which the person becomes entitled on leaving the service, the pensionable service used for the calculation of the deferred pension.

(3) Where the authority from which a person is entitled to receive a deferred pension ("the first authority") is not the authority by which he is employed ("the employing authority"), he must by written notice given to the first authority instruct them—

- (a) to cancel the deferred pension, and
- (b) to make arrangements with the employing authority for the transfer of his pensionable service in accordance with rule 12 of Chapter 4 of Part 12.

Pension on member-initiated early retirement

5.—(1) This rule applies to a firefighter member who—

- (a) satisfies an eligibility condition; and
- (b) before reaching normal benefit age is awarded a deferred pension.

(2) A person to whom this rule applies may, on or after his 55th birthday, by written notice to the authority request early payment of his deferred pension.

(3) The authority may refuse a request under paragraph (2) if the rate of the pension (after the actuarial reduction mentioned in paragraph (4)(b) or, as the case may be, paragraph (5)(b)), is likely to be less than the guaranteed minimum pension that would be payable from state pensionable age.

(4) A deferred pension paid before normal benefit age to a firefighter member whose service is as a regular firefighter shall be calculated by—

- (a) multiplying his pensionable service by his final pensionable pay and dividing the resultant amount by 60, and
- (b) applying to the amount ascertained in accordance with sub-paragraph (a) the appropriate actuarial reduction factor notified by the Scheme Actuary.

(5) A deferred pension paid before normal benefit age to a firefighter member whose service is as a retained or volunteer firefighter shall be calculated by—

- (a) multiplying his pensionable retained or volunteer service by his final pensionable pay as in rule 2(6) of Part 11 and dividing the resultant amount by 60, and
- (b) applying to the amount ascertained in accordance with sub-paragraph (a) the appropriate actuarial reduction factor notified by the Scheme Actuary.

Pension on authority-initiated early retirement

- 6.—(1) An authority may, having regard to—
- (a) the economical, effective and efficient management of their functions, and
 - (b) the costs likely to be incurred in the particular case,

determine that a firefighter member who is at least 55 but under normal retirement age should be retired from the service.

(2) The pension of a person in respect of whom a determination is made under paragraph (1) shall be calculated in accordance with rule 1.

Entitlement to two pensions

- 7.—(1) Subject to paragraph (7), a firefighter member who—
- (a) satisfies an eligibility condition; and
 - (b) on taking up a different role within the authority or becoming entitled to a different rate of pay in his existing role, suffers a reduction in the amount of his pensionable pay such that the amount to be taken into account in the calculation of the pension to which he will be entitled at normal retirement age is less than it would otherwise have been,

is entitled to two pensions.

(2) The pensions shall be calculated as mentioned in paragraphs (3) and (4) and shall become payable as mentioned in paragraph (5).

(3) The amount of the first pension is that found by multiplying the member's pensionable service up to (but not including) the day on which paragraph (1) first applies to him by the final pensionable pay to which he would have been entitled had he retired on that day, and dividing the resultant amount by 60.

(4) The amount of the second pension is that found by multiplying the member's pensionable service on and after the day on which paragraph (1) first applies to him by the final pensionable pay to which he is entitled on that day, and dividing the resultant amount by 60.

(5) Subject to paragraph (6), the pensions become payable on the date on which a pension would have become payable to the member in whichever of the circumstances referred to in rules 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 applies in his case.

(6) A member who is entitled to two pensions under this rule may, by written notice to his employing authority, before leaving that employment, instruct the authority to make a single award which shall be calculated in accordance with paragraph (7).

- (7) The single award under paragraph (6) shall be calculated by—
- (a) multiplying the aggregate of the periods of pensionable service used for the purposes of paragraphs (3) and (4) by the final pensionable pay used for the purposes of paragraph (4), and
 - (b) dividing the resultant amount by 60.

(8) If the member makes a contributions election, he shall be entitled to a single pension, calculated as mentioned in paragraph (3); and that pension shall be treated for the purposes of rule 3(4) to (6) and rule 4 as if it were a deferred pension to which he was entitled under rule 3.

Refund of aggregate pension contributions

- 8.—(1) A firefighter member who—
- (a) leaves an authority's employment without satisfying an eligibility condition; or

- (b) remains in the service but makes a contributions election before he has accrued three months' qualifying service,
- is entitled to a refund of his aggregate pension contributions less—
- (i) the amount of any tax required to be deducted, and
 - (ii) such part of any contributions equivalent premium paid in respect of the member as is permitted by or under section 61 of the 1993 Act.
- (2) In paragraph (1), “aggregate pension contributions” means all of the payments made by the member to his employing authority by way of pension contributions.

Commutation: general

- 9.—(1) Subject to paragraphs (3) and (4), a person entitled or prospectively entitled to any pension under this Part may commute a portion of it (“the commuted portion”) for a lump sum.
- (2) The lump sum shall be calculated by multiplying by 12 the amount of the person’s pension represented by the commuted portion at the date of retirement.
- (3) A person taking ill–health retirement may not commute any portion of a higher tier ill–health pension.
- (4) The commuted portion must not exceed—
- (a) in a case to which rule 5(4) or (5) applies, one quarter of the amount of the pension calculated in accordance with that paragraph;
 - (b) in any other case, one quarter of the amount to which he is entitled by way of pension.
- (5) In order to commute a portion of a pension a person must—
- (a) not earlier than four months before the date on which he intends to retire, but
 - (b) not later than the day before the pension comes into payment,
- give the authority written notice of commutation specifying the commuted portion.
- (6) Notice of commutation takes effect on the day of the person’s retirement (“the effective date”).
- (7) The authority shall—
- (a) from the effective date, reduce the person’s pension by the commuted portion, and
 - (b) as soon as reasonably practicable after the effective date, pay the lump sum.
- (8) In relation to a deferred pension, a pension on member-initiated early retirement, a pension on authority-initiated early retirement, or either or both of the two pensions referred to in rule 7, paragraphs (6) and (7) of this rule have effect as if references to the day of retirement and the effective date were references to the date on which the pension comes into payment.
- (9) For the purposes of this rule—
- (a) the pension of a pension debit member shall be taken to be the amount of the pension after reduction in accordance with rule 12; and
 - (b) no account shall be taken of any increase under rule 2 or 3 of Part 7 of the Compensation Scheme in an award to a serviceman.

Commutation: small pensions

- 10.—(1) Where the amount of any pension payable under this Part to a member who has attained state pensionable age, together with any pension to which he is entitled under rule 1 of Part 6 and any increase under the Pensions (Increase) Act 1971(24), does not exceed the commutation limit

(24) 1971 c.56.

specified for the purposes of Part 1 of Schedule 29 to the Finance Act 2004 (lump sum rule)(25), the fire and rescue authority may commute the pension under this Part for a lump sum.

(2) The amount of a lump sum under this rule is the actuarial equivalent of the pension, calculated from tables prepared by the Scheme Actuary.

(3) Where a member is entitled to more than one pension under this Part, the pensions shall be treated as one for the purposes of this rule.

(4) On the day on which a pension is commuted under this rule, all other entitlements of the member under this Part are extinguished.

Allocation of pension

11.—(1) A firefighter member may, in accordance with paragraphs (6) and (7), but subject to—
(a) section 214 of the Finance Act 2004 and paragraphs (4) and (5), and
(b) where he is over 74, paragraphs 16A to 16C of Schedule 28 to the Finance Act 2004(26),
allocate up to one-third of any pension to which he is entitled or prospectively entitled under this Part.

(2) The persons to whom a portion of a pension may be allocated are—

- (a) the firefighter member's spouse, civil partner or nominated partner, or
- (b) with the consent of the authority, any other person who is substantially dependent on the firefighter member.

(3) The authority may withhold consent under paragraph (2)(b) if they are not satisfied that the person is substantially dependent on the firefighter member.

(4) For the purposes of paragraph (1), an authority shall disregard any increase under rule 2 or 3 of Part 7 of the Compensation Scheme (awards to, or on death of, servicemen) in—

- (a) awards to—
 - (i) reservists, or
 - (ii) reservists who do not resume service with their former authority; and
- (b) awards paid under the Compensation Scheme.

(5) Where more than one portion of a particular pension is allocated under this rule, the total of the allocated portions of that pension must not exceed the portion of that pension retained by the firefighter member.

(6) The firefighter member must—

- (a) satisfy the authority that he is in good health and has a normal life expectancy; and
- (b) give the authority written notice of allocation specifying—
 - (i) the portion,
 - (ii) the name and address of the intended beneficiary, and
 - (iii) the sex of the beneficiary.

(7) The notice of allocation, which may be sent by post, must be given—

- (a) if the pension is a deferred pension, not earlier than two months before the pension comes into payment;

(25) As to "the lump sum rule", see section 166 of the Finance Act 2004 (c.12). As to the commutation limit, see paragraph 7(4) of Part 1 of Schedule 29 to that Act.

(26) Paragraphs 16A to 16C were inserted by the Finance Act 2005 (c.7), Schedule 10, paragraph 28.

- (b) in any other case, not earlier than two months before the firefighter member's intended retirement.
- (8) Where the authority are satisfied that—
 - (a) the firefighter member has complied with paragraphs (6) and (7), and
 - (b) the allocation proposed by him can be made without contravening section 214 of the Finance Act or, as the case may be, paragraphs 16A to 16C of Schedule 28 to that Act,
 they shall, as soon as reasonably practicable after receiving the member's notice of allocation, notify him in writing that they have accepted his proposal.
- (9) Where a proposal is accepted, the notice of allocation only takes effect—
 - (a) if it refers to a deferred pension, where the pension comes into payment within two months of the date of receipt of the notice;
 - (b) in any other case, where the firefighter member entitled to the pension retires within two months of the date of receipt of the notice.
- (10) If a notice of allocation takes effect, it does so on the day on which the pension comes into payment or, as the case may be, on the day on which the member retires.
- (11) Where—
 - (a) a notice of allocation has taken effect,
 - (b) the pension to which it relates has become payable, and
 - (c) the beneficiary survives the pensioner,

the authority shall, from the date of the pensioner's death, pay the beneficiary a pension which is the actuarial equivalent of the allocated portion.

(12) Where more than one portion has been allocated under this rule, a separate calculation shall be made under paragraph (13) in respect of each allocation.

(13) The actuarial equivalent of an allocated portion shall be calculated in accordance with tables prepared by the Scheme Actuary and in force when the notice of allocation takes effect; and the calculation shall be made by reference to the ages of the pensioner and the beneficiary at the date on which the notice of allocation was given.

- (14) Where—
 - (a) a notice of allocation has taken effect, and
 - (b) the beneficiary pre-deceases the pensioner,

the authority shall pay to the pensioner (distinguishing it from any other pension payable to him) the portion of pension that he had allocated ("the failed allocation pension").

(15) Where paragraph (14) applies, the pensioner is not entitled to recover from the authority the amount of any deduction made in respect of the failed allocation pension.

Pension debit members

- 12. Where a pension debit member is entitled to an award under this Part—
 - (a) the award shall be calculated by reference to the member's rights under this Scheme as reduced by virtue of section 31 of the 1999 Act and in accordance with such tables and other guidance as are provided for the purpose by the Scheme Actuary, and
 - (b) rules 9 to 11 have effect accordingly.

PART 4
SURVIVORS' PENSIONS
CHAPTER 1
SURVIVING SPOUSES, CIVIL PARTNERS AND NOMINATED PARTNERS

Pensions for surviving spouses, civil partners and nominated partners

- 1.—(1) Subject to the following provisions of this rule, a pension is payable on the death of—
- (a) a firefighter member who satisfies an eligibility condition and dies while employed by an authority; or
 - (b) a former firefighter member who—
 - (i) has been awarded a deferred pension under rule 3 of Part 3 which has not come into payment,
 - (ii) is in receipt of a deferred pension under that rule; or
 - (iii) is in receipt of a pension under any of rules 1, 2, 5 and 6 of Part 3,

to the deceased's spouse, civil partner or nominated partner for the remainder of his life (a "survivor's pension").

(2) A survivor's pension is not payable if the deceased's spouse, civil partner or nominated partner (as the case may be) is convicted of the murder of the deceased; but this is subject to paragraph (4).

(3) Subject to paragraph (5), where the deceased's spouse, civil partner or nominated partner (as the case may be) is convicted of the manslaughter of the deceased, the authority may, as they think fit, withhold the survivor's pension—

- (a) in whole or in part, and
 - (b) permanently or temporarily.
- (4) Where a conviction of the description mentioned in paragraph (2) is quashed on appeal—
- (a) a survivor's pension shall be payable from the day after that on which the deceased died, and
 - (b) the authority shall, as soon as reasonably practicable after the conviction is quashed, pay the arrears of pension accrued.
- (5) Where—
- (a) a conviction of the description mentioned in paragraph (3) is quashed on appeal, and
 - (b) the authority have withheld any part of the survivor's pension,

the authority's decision under paragraph (3) shall be treated as revoked and they shall, as soon as reasonably practicable after the conviction is quashed, pay the arrears of pension accrued from the day after that on which the deceased died.

(6) Nothing in paragraph (4) or (5) shall affect the application of paragraph (2) or (3) if the person whose conviction is quashed is subsequently convicted of the murder or manslaughter of the deceased.

Amount of survivor's pension: general

- 2.—(1) Subject to rule 3, the amount of a survivor's pension—
- (a) in respect of a firefighter member who satisfies an eligibility condition and dies while employed by an authority, is half of the higher tier ill-health pension to which he would

have been entitled under rule 2(4) of Part 3 had he retired with the benefit of an ill-health award;

- (b) in any other case, subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), is half of the pension to which the deceased was entitled.

(2) Where a portion of the deceased's pension had been commuted under rule 9 of Part 3, the amount of the survivor's pension is half of the deceased's pension after commutation.

(3) Where the deceased had taken member-initiated early retirement, the amount of the survivor's pension is—

- (a) half of the amount of the pension which the deceased would have received if there had been no actuarial reduction; or
- (b) where a portion of the deceased's pension had been commuted, the amount found by dividing by 2 the product of A and B, where—

A is the amount which the deceased would have received if there had been no actuarial reduction; and

B is the fraction which represents the uncommuted portion of A expressed as a fraction of A.

Amount of survivor's pension: special cases

3.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), where the person entitled to a survivor's pension under rule 1 is more than twelve years younger than the deceased on the day on which he dies, a reduction of 2.5 per cent. for each year by which the survivor's age exceeds, by more than twelve years, that of the deceased, shall be applied to the rule 2 amount.

(2) Where the application of paragraph (1) would result in the payment of a survivor's pension of less than 50 per cent. of the rule 2 amount, the survivor's pension shall be 50 per cent. of the rule 2 amount.

(3) Where—

- (a) a pension debit member satisfies an eligibility condition and dies while employed by an authority,
- (b) a survivor's pension is payable under rule 1 on his death, and
- (c) a pension sharing order or, in the case of a surviving civil partner, an order to similar effect, had effect on the day on which the pension debit member died,

the amount of the survivor's pension shall be ascertained with regard to the terms of that order.

(4) In paragraphs (1) and (2), "the rule 2 amount" means the amount that would have been ascertained in accordance with rule 2 if that rule were not subject to paragraphs (1) to (3) of this rule.

(5) For the purposes of paragraph (1), a part of a year shall be treated as a whole year.

Bereavement pension: survivors

4.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), a person entitled to a survivor's pension under rule 1 is also entitled, in respect of each of the 13 weeks following the death, to a bereavement pension of an amount equal to the difference between the weekly rate at which the survivor's pension is paid and—

- (a) if the deceased was a firefighter member when he died, the weekly rate of his pensionable pay when he died;
- (b) in any other case, the weekly rate of his pension or pensions (including any increase under the Pensions (Increase) Act 1971) when he died.

(2) No entitlement arises under paragraph (1) where—

- (a) a contributions election has effect at the date of the deceased's death, or
- (b) the deceased was entitled to a deferred pension that had not come into payment.

Commutation of pensions for surviving spouses, civil partners and nominated partners

5.—(1) A pension payable under this Chapter may, if the person entitled to it so requests, be commuted for a lump sum if, after commutation, the lump sum would be a trivial commutation lump sum death benefit within the meaning of paragraph 20 of Schedule 29 to the Finance Act 2004.

(2) The amount of the lump sum shall be calculated in accordance with tables prepared by the Scheme Actuary and in force when the commutation takes effect

(3) On the day on which a pension is commuted under this rule, all other entitlements under this Scheme of the person entitled to the pension are extinguished to the extent that they derive from the deceased member.

CHAPTER 2

CHILDREN'S PENSIONS

Child's pension

6. Subject to rule 7, a child is eligible for a child's pension if he is the child of—
- (a) a firefighter member who satisfies one of the eligibility conditions and dies while employed by an authority;
 - (b) a pensioner member who is in receipt of a pension under this Scheme when he dies; or
 - (c) a deferred member who is entitled to a deferred pension under this Scheme which is not in payment when he dies.

Child's pension: limitations and duration

7.—(1) Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), a child is not eligible if—

- (a) he is 18 or older;
- (b) he has ceased full-time education and is in paid employment; or
- (c) he is married or has entered into a civil partnership.

(2) A child aged 18 but not more than 23 is eligible if he is in full-time education or attending a course of at least one year's duration.

(3) A child aged 18 or more is eligible if, when the firefighter member dies, he is dependent on him by reason of permanent disablement.

(4) A child is not eligible if he is convicted of the murder of the firefighter member, but this is subject to paragraph (6).

(5) Subject to paragraph (7), where the child is convicted of the manslaughter of the deceased, the authority may, as they think fit, withhold the child's pension—

- (a) in whole or in part, and
- (b) permanently or temporarily.

(6) Where a conviction of the description mentioned in paragraph (4) is quashed on appeal—

- (a) a child's pension shall be payable from the day after that on which the deceased died, and
- (b) the authority shall, as soon as reasonably practicable after the conviction is quashed, pay the arrears of pension accrued.

(7) Where—

(a) a conviction of the description mentioned in paragraph (5) is quashed on appeal, and
 (b) the authority have withheld any part of the child's pension,
 the authority's decision under paragraph (5) shall be treated as revoked and they shall, as soon as reasonably practicable after the conviction is quashed, pay the arrears of pension accrued from the day after that on which the deceased died.

(8) Nothing in paragraph (6) or (7) shall affect the application of paragraph (4) or (5) if the child whose conviction is quashed is subsequently convicted of the murder or manslaughter of the deceased.

(9) A child's pension ceases to be payable—

- (a) unless paragraph (2) or (3) applies, on his 18th birthday or on the occurrence of the event referred to in paragraph (1)(b) or (c), whichever first occurs;
- (b) where paragraph (2) applies, on his 23rd birthday or the day on which his full-time education or course ceases, whichever first occurs;
- (c) where paragraph (3) applies, when the authority are satisfied—
 - (i) that the child is no longer permanently disabled; or
 - (ii) that the child's pension should not have been awarded.

(10) Unless paragraph (9)(c) applies, a pension for which a child is eligible as mentioned in paragraph (3) is payable for life.

Amount of child's pension

8.—(1) The amount payable by way of a child's pension under this Chapter is—

- (a) where the deceased died while employed as a firefighter member and there is one eligible child, one quarter of the ill-health pension to which the member would have been entitled under rule 2 of Part 3 had he retired with the benefit of a higher tier ill-health award on the day after that on which he died;
- (b) where the deceased died while employed by an authority as a firefighter member and there is more than one eligible child, one half of the ill-health pension to which the member would have been entitled under rule 2 of Part 3 had he retired with the benefit of a higher tier ill-health award on the day after that on which he died, divided by the number of eligible children;
- (c) in any other case, subject to paragraphs (2) and (3)—
 - (i) if there is one eligible child, one quarter of the pension to which the deceased was entitled on the day he died (whether or not, in the case of a deferred pension, the pension had come into payment);
 - (ii) if there is more than one eligible child, one half of the pension to which the deceased was entitled on the day he died (whether or not, in the case of a deferred pension, the pension had come into payment) divided by the number of eligible children.

(2) Where a portion of the deceased's pension had been commuted under rule 9 of Part 3, the amount is—

- (a) if there is one eligible child, one quarter of the uncommuted portion;
- (b) if there is more than one eligible child, one half of the uncommuted portion, divided by the number of eligible children.

(3) Where the deceased had taken member-initiated early retirement, the amount is—

- (a) if there is one eligible child, one quarter of the amount of the pension which the deceased would have received if there had been no actuarial reduction;

- (b) if there is more than one eligible child, one half of the amount of the pension which the deceased would have received if there had been no actuarial reduction, divided by the number of eligible children;
 - (c) where a portion of the deceased's pension had been commuted, and there is one eligible child, the amount found by dividing by 4 the product of A and B;
 - (d) where a portion of the deceased's pension had been commuted, and there is more than one eligible child, the amount found by dividing the product of A and B by 2 and then dividing the resultant amount by the number of eligible children.
- (4) In paragraph (3)(c) and (d)—
- A is the amount which the deceased would have received if there had been no actuarial reduction; and
- B is the fraction which represents the uncommuted portion of A expressed as a fraction of A.

Bereavement pension: children

9.—(1) Where—

- (a) no person is entitled to a survivor's pension under rule 1 of Chapter 1, and
- (b) a child of the deceased is eligible for a child's pension ("eligible child"),

the authority shall, subject to paragraph (3), pay to the eligible child the amount referred to in paragraph (2) in respect of each of the 13 weeks following the deceased's death or, if shorter, each complete week of the period beginning on the day after the deceased's death and ending on the day on which the child's pension ceases to be payable.

(2) The amount is equal to that which the authority would have paid under paragraph (1) of rule 4 of this Part (bereavement pension: survivors) had a survivor's pension been payable.

(3) Where there is more than one eligible child, the amount ascertained in accordance with paragraph (2) shall be divided equally between the eligible children; but—

- (a) a child's share shall cease to be paid to him as soon as his child's pension ceases to be payable, and
- (b) the share to which he would otherwise have been entitled shall be distributed equally among any remaining eligible children.

(4) Where a person in receipt of a survivor's bereavement pension dies before the end of the period for which that pension is payable ("the 13 week period"), the authority shall, subject to paragraph (6), pay to the eligible child (if any) a bereavement pension, in respect of each complete week of whichever is the shorter of—

- (a) the period beginning on the day after the survivor's death and ending at the end of the 13 week period, and
- (b) the period beginning on the day after the survivor's death and ending on the day on which the child's pension ceases to be payable.

(5) The amount of a bereavement pension under paragraph (4) is equal to that which the authority would have paid under paragraph (1) of rule 4 of this Part had a survivor's bereavement pension been payable for the part of the 13 week period that falls after the survivor's death.

(6) Where there is more than one eligible child, the amount ascertained in accordance with paragraph (5) shall be divided equally between the eligible children; but—

- (a) a child's share shall cease to be paid to him as soon as his child's pension ceases to be payable, and
- (b) the share to which he would otherwise have been entitled shall be distributed equally among any remaining eligible children.

Pension for child where no survivor's pension paid

10.—(1) Where—

- (a) no person is entitled to a pension under rule 1 as a survivor of the deceased, and
- (b) a child of the deceased is eligible for a child's pension under rule 6,

the authority shall pay to the child, for so long as he is an eligible child, the amount that would have been paid by way of survivor's pension under rule 2 of this Part if, in paragraph (1) of that rule, the words "Subject to rule 3" had been omitted.

(2) Where there is more than one eligible child, the amount referred to in paragraph (1) shall be divided equally between the eligible children; but—

- (a) a child's share shall cease to be paid as soon as his child's pension ceases to be payable, and
- (b) the share to which he would otherwise have been entitled shall be distributed equally among any remaining eligible children.

Child's pension in respect of pension debit member

11. Where a pension debit member dies leaving a child, the reduction in his rights under this Scheme by virtue of section 31 of the 1999 Act shall be disregarded for the purposes of calculating any pension payable under this Chapter.

Commutation of child's pension

12.—(1) A pension payable under this Chapter may be commuted for a lump sum—

- (a) with the consent of the child's remaining parent or, if he has none, the child's guardian or, if he has none, the child himself if he is over 18, and
- (b) if, when commuted, the lump sum would be a trivial commutation lump sum death benefit within the meaning of paragraph 20 of Schedule 29 to the Finance Act 2004.

(2) The amount of the lump sum shall be calculated in accordance with tables prepared by the Scheme Actuary and in force when the commutation takes effect

(3) On the day on which a pension is commuted under this rule, all other entitlements of the child under this Scheme are extinguished to the extent that they derive from the deceased member.

PART 5

AWARDS ON DEATH

Death grant

1.—(1) On the death of a person while serving as a firefighter member, the authority shall pay a death grant of an amount ascertained in accordance with the following provisions of this rule (whether or not a pension is payable under any other Part).

(2) Subject to paragraphs (3) to (5) and, where paragraph (8) applies, paragraph (9), the amount is three times that of the deceased's pensionable pay at the time of his death, expressed as an annual rate.

(3) Where—

- (a) the deceased was a whole-time firefighter member at the time of his death,
- (b) had he lived, the deceased would have been entitled to two pensions under rule 7 of Part 3, and

- (c) the product of the following formula is greater than three times that of the deceased's pensionable pay at the time of his death, expressed as an annual rate—

$$3 \times ((A \times BC) + (D \times EC))$$

, where

A is the amount of the deceased's pensionable pay on his last day of service that would have been used in the calculation of his pension under rule 7(3) of Part 3,

B is the deceased's pensionable service that would have been used in that calculation,

C is the deceased's qualifying service,

D is the deceased's pensionable service that would have been used in the calculation of his pension under rule 7(4) of Part 3, and

E is the deceased's pensionable pay at the time of his death,

the amount of the death grant is that greater amount.

(4) Where the deceased was a part-time firefighter member at any time during his period of service (whether or not he was a whole-time firefighter member for part of that period), the amount of the death grant is the greater of—

- (a) three times his pensionable pay at the time of his death (which, if he was then employed part-time, would be calculated at the part-time rate), expressed as an annual rate; and
(b) the product of the formula

$$FG \times H \times 3$$

, where—

F is the deceased's pensionable service,

G is the deceased's qualifying service, and

H is the pensionable pay that he would have received if, throughout his period of service, he had been a whole-time firefighter of equivalent role and length of service;

(5) Where the deceased—

- (a) had become entitled to two pensions under rule 7(1) of Part 3 at the time of his death; and
(b) had been a part-time firefighter member during the period of service in respect of which he was entitled to a second pension under rule 7(4) of that Part (whether or not he had been a whole-time firefighter member for part of that period),

the amount is whichever is the greatest of—

- (i) three times his pensionable pay at the time of his death, expressed as an annual rate,
(ii) the product of the formula specified in paragraph (3), and
(iii) the product of the formula specified in paragraph (4).

(6) Where the deceased was absent from duty without pay immediately before the day on which he died, his pensionable pay for the purposes of this rule, subject to paragraph (8), shall be taken to be the amount, expressed as an annual rate, of the pay appropriate to his role and conditioned hours on the last occasion that he received it.

(7) In paragraph (6), "conditioned hours" means the number of hours that the deceased was required to work each week under the terms of his contract of employment.

(8) The pensionable pay of a person who—

- (a) had made an election under rule 4 of Part 10 (reckoning of unpaid period of absence), and
(b) dies before making any payment under paragraph (2) of that rule,

shall be taken to be the amount, expressed as an annual rate, of the pensionable pay that would have been paid if the period of the person's absence from duty without pay had reckoned as pensionable service.

(9) Where paragraph (8) applies, the death grant shall be abated by the amount due to the authority under rule 4(1) of Part 10.

(10) Subject to paragraph (11), the death grant may be paid, in whole or in part, to such person or persons as the authority think fit.

(11) The authority must not pay any part of a death grant to a person who is convicted of the murder or manslaughter of the deceased, but this is subject to paragraph (12).

(12) Where a conviction of the description mentioned in paragraph (11) is quashed on appeal, the authority may, if they have not then paid the death grant in full, pay part of it to the person whose conviction is quashed.

Post-retirement death grant

2.—(1) Where—

- (a) a pension under any of rules 1 to 3, 5 or 6 of Part 3 is in payment; and
- (b) the pensioner dies within five years of the pension coming into payment,

the authority shall pay, by way of post-retirement death grant, an amount equal to the difference between—

- (i) the amount that they would have paid to the pensioner in that five year period, disregarding any increase in the pension that might have become payable after his death, and
- (ii) the amount paid to him before his death (including any lump sum that he may have received on commutation under rule 9 or 10 of Part 3).

(2) Paragraphs (9) to (11) of rule 1 shall apply in relation to a grant under this rule as they apply in relation to a death grant.

PART 6

PENSION SHARING ON DIVORCE

Pension credit member's entitlement to pension

1.—(1) A pension credit member is entitled to a pension for life which becomes payable—

- (a) when he attains the age of 65, or
- (b) if it is later, when the pension sharing order under which he is entitled to the pension credit takes effect.

(2) The pension must be of such an amount that its actuarial value is equal to the member's pension credit, as calculated from tables prepared by the Scheme Actuary and in accordance with regulations made under paragraph 5(b) of Schedule 5 to the 1999 Act.

Commutation of whole of pension credit benefits

2.—(1) In the circumstances described in regulation 3(2)(b) of the Pension Sharing (Pension Credit Benefit) Regulations 2000⁽²⁷⁾ (commutation of pension credit benefit: small pensions), the authority may, with the agreement of the pension credit member, commute for a lump sum the whole

⁽²⁷⁾ S.I. 2000/1054, amended by S.I. 2000/2691.

of the pension to which a pension credit member is entitled under rule 1 if, after commutation, the lump sum would be a trivial commutation lump sum death benefit within the meaning of paragraph 20 of Schedule 29 to the Finance Act 2004.

(2) The lump sum under paragraph (1) is the actuarial equivalent of the pension at normal benefit age, calculated from tables prepared by the Scheme Actuary.

Commutation of part of pension credit benefits

3.—(1) Subject to paragraph (3), a pension credit member may commute for a lump sum a portion of the pension to which he is entitled or prospectively entitled under rule 1 (“the commuted portion”).

(2) The commuted portion must not exceed—

- (a) one quarter of the amount of the pension; or
- (b) the annual rate of the pension for the first year that it is payable, disregarding—
 - (i) the reduction resulting from the application of this rule, and
 - (ii) any reduction resulting from the application of any other provision of this Scheme.

(3) Paragraph (1) does not apply if the pension debit member from whose rights the pension credit member’s pension credit is derived has received a lump sum under rule 9 of Part 3 (commutation: general) before the date on which the pension sharing order takes effect.

(4) A person who wishes to commute a portion of a pension under paragraph (1) must give the authority written notice of commutation not later than the day before the pension comes into payment and not earlier than four months before—

- (a) the date on which the person attains normal benefit age, or
- (b) the date on which the pension sharing order takes effect,

whichever is the later.

(5) Notice of commutation must specify the commuted portion.

(6) A person’s notice of commutation takes effect on the date on which the pension under rule 1 becomes payable.

(7) When a person’s notice of commutation takes effect, the authority shall—

- (a) reduce the pension by the commuted portion,
- (b) calculate the lump sum by multiplying by 12 the amount of the person’s pension represented by the commuted portion at the date of retirement, and
- (c) pay him the lump sum as soon as reasonably practicable after—
 - (i) the date on which he attains normal benefit age, or
 - (ii) the date on which the pension sharing order takes effect,

whichever is the later.

Application of general rules

4.—(1) The provisions of this Scheme specified in paragraph (2) apply to pension credit members and awards payable to or in respect of them; but except where other provision is made by this Part or a contrary intention appears—

- (a) this Scheme shall not apply to pension credit members and benefits payable to or in respect of them, except if and to the extent that they are also members of this Scheme in another capacity or dependants of a member, and
- (b) benefits payable to or in respect of a pension credit member may not be aggregated with benefits payable to or in respect of him—

- (i) in any other capacity; or
 - (ii) as a pension credit member, deriving from any other pension debit member.
- (2) The provisions are—
- rule 2 of Part 8 (determinations and decisions by fire and rescue authorities),
 - rule 5 of Part 9 (withdrawal of pension on conviction of certain offences),
 - rule 1 of Part 14 (authorities responsible for payment of awards),
 - rule 2 of that Part (deduction of tax and lifetime allowance charges),
 - rule 3 of that Part (payment of awards),
 - rule 5 of that Part (payments for minors and persons incapable of managing their affairs), and
 - rule 6 of that Part (payment of awards: further supplementary provision).

Post-retirement death grant: pension credit members

- 5.—(1) Where—
- (a) a pension credit member dies within five years of the pension under rule 1 coming into payment and before his 75th birthday, and
 - (b) there is a difference between—
 - (i) the amount that is five times the pension, calculated at the annual rate effective on the day that it came into payment, and
 - (ii) the aggregate of—
 - (aa) the instalments of pension that have been paid, and
 - (bb) any lump sum received on commutation under rule 3,

the authority shall pay a post-retirement death grant of the amount of that difference.

- (2) The grant may be paid, in whole or in part, to such person or persons as the authority think fit.

(3) For the purposes of paragraph (1), any increases which, if the pension had continued in payment, would have been taken into account, shall be disregarded.

PART 7

RESERVISTS

Interpretation of Part

1. In this Part—

“the 1996 Act” means the Reserve Forces Act 1996⁽²⁸⁾;

“forces period” means the period during which a person undertakes relevant service in the reserve forces;

“former authority”, in relation to a reservist, means the authority by which he was employed immediately before his forces period began;

“qualifying injury” means an injury, received by a person in the performance of his duties as a firefighter, which is not wholly or mainly due to his own serious and culpable negligence or misconduct;

(28) 1996 c.14.

“relevant service in the reserve forces” means service in the forces specified in section 1(2) of the 1996 Act—

- (a) in pursuance of a training obligation under Part 3 of that Act, or
- (b) by virtue of a call out for permanent service or a recall under the Reserve Forces Act 1980(29) or Part 7 of the 1996 Act; and

“reservist” means a person who, immediately before a forces period, was a firefighter.

Continuity of employment

2.—(1) For the purposes of this Scheme, a reservist shall be treated as having continued, throughout his forces period—

- (a) to be a firefighter; and
- (b) for the purposes of his pensionable service under Part 10, to be employed by his former authority.

(2) Where, before his forces period, a reservist had elected to purchase additional service under Chapter 2 of Part 11 by periodical contributions, his forces period is not reckonable as pensionable service unless the contributions payable in respect of it are paid (whether during his forces period or, if the authority have agreed that contributions may be discontinued as mentioned in paragraph (2) of rule 8 of Part 11 (discontinuance period not exceeding six months), in accordance with that paragraph).

(3) For the purposes of calculating the amount of a reservist’s pension contributions under rule 3 of Chapter 1 of Part 11—

- (a) the pay that he would have received from his former authority during his forces period shall be regarded as his pay for that period (his “notional pay”); and
- (b) in respect of any period during his forces period in which the aggregate of—
 - (i) his actual pay; and
 - (ii) any payments he receives under section 4 of the 1996 Act,

is less than his notional pay for that first-mentioned period, he shall be treated as having no pensionable pay (and, accordingly, no liability to make pension contributions)(30).

Awards on death or permanent disablement

3.—(1) A reservist who, at the end of his forces period, is permanently disabled(31) for performing the duties of a firefighter by reason of an infirmity that—

- (a) is unrelated to any injury received during his forces period; and
- (b) is not a qualifying injury,

is entitled to an award under rule 2 of Part 3 (award on ill-health retirement).

(2) Where a reservist dies—

- (a) during his forces period;
- (b) from the effects of an injury which rendered him incapable of performing the duties of a firefighter; or
- (c) while receiving a pension under this Scheme,

(29) 1980 c.9.

(30) See, as to pension payments, regulation 5 of the Reserve Forces (Call-out and Recall) (Financial Assistance) Regulations 2005 (S.I. 2005/859).

(31) See rule 3 of Part 1.

an award shall be payable in accordance with paragraph (3) or (4).

- (3) Where the reservist's death—
 - (a) is not the result of a qualifying injury, and
 - (b) occurs during his forces period,

a survivor's pension under Chapter 1 of Part 4 is payable to his spouse, civil partner or nominated partner (as the case may be) as if the reservist were a firefighter member entitled as mentioned in rule 1(a) of that Part.

(4) Where the reservist's death occurs during his forces period and is not the result of a qualifying injury—

- (a) a child's pension is payable under Chapter 2 of Part 4 as if—
 - (i) the reservist were a firefighter member who died while employed by an authority; and
 - (ii) paragraphs (1)(c), (2) and (3) of rule 8 were omitted; and
- (b) a death grant is payable under rule 1 of Part 5.

Reservists who do not resume employment with their former authority

4. A reservist who does not resume employment with his former authority within one month of the end of his forces period shall be treated as having left the authority's employment at the end of his forces period.

PART 8

DETERMINATION OF QUESTIONS AND APPEALS

Interpretation of Part 8

- 1. In this Part—
 - “IQMP” means independent qualified medical practitioner; and
 - “rule 3 response” means an IQMP's response under rule 3(2).

Determinations and decisions by fire and rescue authority

2.—(1) The question whether a person is entitled to any and, if so, what awards, shall be determined in the first instance by the authority.

(2) Subject to paragraph (6), before deciding, for the purpose of determining that question or any other question arising under this Scheme—

- (a) whether the person is disabled,
- (b) whether any disablement is likely to be permanent,
- (c) whether the person has become capable of performing any duties of the role from which he retired on grounds of ill-health,
- (d) whether the person is or has become capable of undertaking regular employment, or
- (e) any other issue wholly or partly of a medical nature,

the authority shall obtain the written opinion of an IQMP selected by them.

- (3) The IQMP must certify in his opinion under paragraph (2)—

- (a) that he has not previously advised, or given his opinion on, or otherwise been involved in, the particular case for which the opinion has been requested, and
 - (b) that he is not acting, and has not at any time acted, as the representative of the employee, the authority, or any other party in relation to the same case.
- (4) An IQMP's opinion under paragraph (2) shall be binding on the authority unless it is superseded by his rule 3 response or the outcome of an appeal under rule 4.
- (5) Where, in consequence of an opinion given under paragraph (2), an employee has retired on grounds of ill-health, the IQMP who gave the opinion may, if so requested by the authority for the purposes of a review under rule 1(1) of Part 9, give a further opinion.
- (6) If—
- (a) the person concerned wilfully or negligently fails to submit himself to medical examination by the IQMP selected by the authority, and
 - (b) the IQMP is unable to give an opinion on the basis of the medical evidence available to him,
- the authority may make a decision on the issue—
- (i) on such other medical evidence as they think fit, or
 - (ii) without medical evidence.
- (7) Within 14 days of making a decision or determination under this rule, the authority shall—
- (a) give written notice of it to the person concerned, and
 - (b) in the case of a decision on an issue wholly or partly of a medical nature, unless paragraph (6) applies, supply him with a copy of the opinion obtained under paragraph (2).

Review of medical opinion

- 3.—(1) Where—**
- (a) new evidence on an issue wholly or partly of a medical nature is presented to the authority by a person in respect of whom a decision has been made under rule 2,
 - (b) the authority receive that evidence—
 - (i) where a copy of an opinion was supplied in accordance with paragraph (7) of rule 1, within 28 days of the receipt by that person of that copy, and
 - (ii) in any other case, within 28 days of the receipt by that person of notice of the authority's decision, and
 - (c) the authority and the person concerned agree that the IQMP should be given the opportunity of reviewing his opinion in the light of the new evidence,
- the authority shall send a copy of the new evidence to the IQMP and invite him to reconsider his opinion.
- (2) An IQMP's response to an invitation under paragraph (1) shall be in writing.
 - (3) An IQMP's rule 3 response shall be binding on the authority unless it is superseded by the outcome of an appeal under rule 4.
 - (4) As soon as reasonably practicable after receiving a rule 3 response, the authority shall reconsider their decision.
 - (5) Within 14 days of that reconsideration, the authority shall—
 - (a) give written notice to the person concerned that they have confirmed their decision or revised their decision (as the case may be),

- (b) if they have revised their decision, supply him with written notice of the revised decision, and
- (c) supply him with a copy of the rule 3 response.

Appeals against decisions based on medical advice

4.—(1) A person who wishes to appeal against an authority’s decision on an issue of a medical nature may do so to a Board of medical referees in accordance with the provisions of Annex 2.

(2) Subject to paragraph (3), where a decision—

- (a) is made with regard to an opinion obtained under rule 2(2) or medical evidence relied on as mentioned in rule 2(6), or
- (b) is reconsidered under rule 3(4) with regard to a rule 3 response,

the authority shall, within 14 days of making, confirming or revising the decision (as the case may be), send to the person concerned the documents mentioned in paragraph (4).

(3) Nothing in paragraph (2) requires the supply of documents that have already been supplied under rule 2(7) or 3(5).

(4) The documents are—

- (a) a copy of the opinion, response or evidence (as the case may be);
- (b) an explanation of the procedure for appeals under this rule, (“the explanation”), and
- (c) a statement that, if the person wishes to appeal against the authority’s decision on an issue of a medical nature, he must give written notice to the authority, stating his name and address and the grounds of his appeal, not later than 28 days after he receives the last of the documents required to be supplied to him under this paragraph, or within such longer period as the authority may allow.

Appeals on other issues

5. Where—

- (a) a person disagrees with an authority’s determination under rule 2, and
- (b) his disagreement does not involve an issue of a medical nature,

he may, by written notice given to the authority within 28 days of receipt of the determination, require the authority to deal with the disagreement by means of the arrangements implemented by them pursuant to the requirements of section 50 of the Pensions Act 1995⁽³²⁾(resolution of disputes) and the Occupational Pension Schemes (Internal Dispute Resolution Procedures) Regulations 1996⁽³³⁾.

PART 9

REVIEW, WITHDRAWAL AND FORFEITURE OF AWARDS

Review of ill-health pension

1.—(1) So long as a person—

- (a) has been in receipt of an ill–health pension for less than 10 years, and
- (b) is under state pensionable age,

⁽³²⁾ 1995 c.26. The arrangements that apply for the purposes of the Scheme take the form of a disputes resolution procedure. The procedure is set out in Fire Service Circular 2/1997 issued by the Home Office on 4 February 1997.

⁽³³⁾ S.I. 1996/1270.

the authority shall consider, at such intervals as they think proper, whether he has become capable—

- (i) of performing any duty appropriate to the role from which he retired on grounds of ill–health, and
- (ii) of undertaking regular employment.

(2) The authority shall, at such intervals as they think proper, consider in relation to a person whose deferred pension is being paid early by virtue of rule 3(4) of Part 3 (early payment of deferred pension on permanent disablement), the same matters as they are required to consider in relation to persons of the description mentioned in paragraph (1).

Consequences of review

2.—(1) If, on such consideration as is mentioned in rule 1(1), it is found that a person who is in receipt of a higher tier ill–health pension has become capable of undertaking regular employment, his entitlement to that pension shall cease with immediate effect.

(2) Subject to paragraph (3), a lower tier ill–health pension shall continue to be paid to a person who ceases to be entitled to a higher tier ill–health pension.

(3) If—

- (a) on such consideration as is mentioned in rule 1(1), it is found that a person who is in receipt of a lower tier ill–health pension has become capable of performing the duties appropriate to the role from which he retired on grounds of ill–health, and

(b) the authority make him an offer of employment in that role (“a paragraph (3)(b) offer”), his entitlement to a lower tier ill–health pension shall cease, with immediate effect, whether he accepts or declines the offer.

(4) A person who accepts or declines a paragraph (3)(b) offer becomes entitled to a deferred pension under rule 3 of Part 3.

(5) If, on such consideration as is mentioned in rule 1(2), it is found that a person whose deferred pension is being paid early has become capable of undertaking regular employment, his entitlement to early payment of the deferred pension shall cease with immediate effect.

Withdrawal of pension during service as firefighter

3.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), the authority by which a pension under Part 3 is payable may withdraw the whole or any part of the pension for any period during which the person entitled to it is again employed as a firefighter by any authority.

(2) Where a person who is entitled to pensions under this Scheme in respect of both regular and retained or volunteer service (whether from the same authority or from different authorities)—

- (a) resumes regular service, but does not resume retained or volunteer service, or
- (b) resumes retained or volunteer service, but does not resume regular service,

paragraph (1) applies only as regards the pension referable to his previous retained or volunteer service or, as the case may be, his previous regular service.

(3) An authority may abate a pension to which a person is entitled under Part 3 so long as he is employed (in whatever capacity) by any authority.

(4) A person who—

- (a) is entitled to a pension under Part 3, and
- (b) accepts an offer of employment with an authority (in whatever capacity),

shall, as soon as reasonably practicable after accepting that offer, give written notice to each authority by which a pension is payable to him under Part 3, specifying the name of his employing authority.

Withdrawal of early payment of deferred pension

4. A person who, on dismissal from an authority's employment, becomes entitled to a deferred pension under rule 3 of Part 3, shall not be entitled to early payment of the deferred pension before reaching the age of 65, unless the authority by which the pension is payable determine otherwise.

Withdrawal of pension on conviction of certain offences

5.—(1) Where paragraph (2) applies, the authority by which a pension under Part 3 or 4 is payable may withdraw the pension in whole or in part and permanently or temporarily as they think fit.

(2) This paragraph applies where—

- (a) the pensioner has been convicted of an offence referred to in paragraph (3), and, in the case of a pension under Part 4, that the offence was committed after the death on which the pensioner became entitled to it, or
- (b) that the pensioner has been convicted of an offence, committed in connection with his employment by an authority, which is certified by the Secretary of State—
 - (i) as gravely injurious to the interests of the State; or
 - (ii) as likely to lead to serious loss of confidence in the public service.

(3) The offences mentioned in paragraph (2)(a) are—

- (a) an offence of treason, and
- (b) one or more offences under the Official Secrets Acts 1911 to 1989⁽³⁴⁾ for which the pensioner has been sentenced, on the same occasion—
 - (i) to a term of imprisonment of at least 10 years, or
 - (ii) to two or more consecutive terms amounting in aggregate to at least 10 years.

(4) The authority may, at any time and to such extent as they think fit—

- (a) apply for the benefit of any dependant of the pensioner, or
- (b) restore to the pensioner,

so much of any pension as has been withdrawn under this rule.

Forfeiture of award

6. A person who has been convicted of an offence under subsection (6) of section 34 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 (acts or omissions for purposes of obtaining awards or other sums), forfeits the whole or part of an award or sum obtained by him under this Scheme, as the authority think fit.

PART 10

QUALIFYING SERVICE AND PENSIONABLE SERVICE

Qualifying service

1. For the purposes of this Scheme, the following periods are periods of a person's qualifying service—

- (a) the period during which the person is a firefighter member of the Scheme and for which he receives pensionable pay;

⁽³⁴⁾ 1911 c.28, 1920 c.75, 1939 c.121, 1989 c.6.

- (b) any period during which the person—
 - (i) is a firefighter member of the Scheme,
 - (ii) is on unpaid leave other than unauthorised absence,
 - (iii) has made an election under rule 4(1) of this Part, and
 - (iv) has paid such contributions as are required to be paid under paragraph (2) of that rule in respect of that period;
- (c) in relation to the second pension under rule 7 of Part 3 (entitlement to two pensions), the period of qualifying service taken into account in calculating the first pension under that rule;
- (d) any period of additional service purchased under Part 11;
- (e) a period credited on acceptance of a transfer under Part 12;
- (f) where the person was a member of the 1992 Scheme, the period of service used for determining his eligibility for an award under that Scheme; and
- (g) any period of service that may be credited to the firefighter member resulting from maternity, paternity or adoption leave.

Reckoning of pensionable service

2.—(1) Subject to paragraph (6), for the purposes of this Scheme, a person's pensionable service accrues as pension contributions are paid, and consists of—

- (a) any period in respect of which he has paid pension contributions as a member of this Scheme;
 - (b) any period of service taken into account for the purposes of an award under rule 3 (deferred pension) or rule 7 (entitlement to two pensions) of Part 3 where, on again taking up employment with an authority—
 - (i) he becomes a member of the Scheme; and
 - (ii) in accordance with rule 4 of Part 3 (cancellation of deferred pension), the award under rule 3 or rule 7 is cancelled;
 - (c) any period which he is entitled to reckon as pensionable service under rule 4 (reckoning of unpaid period of absence) or rule 5 (reckoning of maternity, paternity and adoption leave, etc) of this Part or under any of rules 5 to 9 of Part 11;
 - (d) any period of pensionable service taken into account for the purposes of an ill-health award under rule 2 of Part 3, other than any period included by way of enhancement, where—
 - (i) the award is cancelled under rule 2 of Part 9; and
 - (ii) he remains a member of this Scheme (whether or not as an employee of the authority which made the award);
 - (e) if he rejoins this Scheme on again taking up employment with an authority, any period of service as a former member of the Scheme, in respect of which—
 - (i) no pension has been paid;
 - (ii) no refund of pension contributions has been made; and
 - (iii) no transfer value payment has been made; and
 - (f) any period of service credited to the Scheme as pensionable service on acceptance of a transfer into the Scheme under Part 12.
- (2) The pensionable service of a firefighter member may not exceed 45 years.
- (3) A person may not—

- (a) buy additional service if that would increase his pensionable service to more than 40 years by normal retirement age; or
 - (b) transfer service into the Scheme if the aggregate of—
 - (i) that service,
 - (ii) his prospective service to normal retirement age, and
 - (iii) any service already accrued in the Scheme,
 would exceed 40 years by normal retirement age.
- (4) Any additional period of service purchased or in the process of being purchased under Part 11 is reckonable as pensionable service; but where only a portion of the pension contributions payable in respect of a period of additional service have been paid, only the equivalent portion of the period is reckonable as pensionable service.
- (5) Subject to paragraph (6), an additional period of service purchased or in the process of being purchased under Part 11 is to be taken into account for the purposes of determining—
- (a) the amount of pension payable to the firefighter member or to his survivors; and
 - (b) the amount of service a firefighter member has or may accrue in the Scheme.
- (6) An additional period of service is not to be taken into account in assessing—
- (a) the amount of the higher tier ill-health pension included in a higher tier ill-health award under Part 3; or
 - (b) the amount of a death grant under Part 5.

Non-reckonable service

3. The following periods are not reckonable as pensionable service—
- (a) any period of unpaid leave, other than a period that is reckonable by virtue of rule 4 of this Part;
 - (b) any period of service that has been taken into account for the purposes of a pension under rule 3 of Part 3 (deferred pension) that has not been cancelled under rule 4 of that Part;
 - (c) any period of absence resulting from sickness or injury attributable to the person's misconduct which the authority determine should be unpaid leave;
 - (d) any period of additional maternity or adoption leave in respect of which the person entitled has declined to pay the required contributions; and
 - (e) any period of service that is pensionable service by virtue of any other provision of this Part.

Reckoning of unpaid period of absence

- 4.—(1) A firefighter member may reckon as pensionable service all or part of a period of absence without pay if he elects to pay the pension contributions that he and his employing authority would have paid in accordance with Part 11 in respect of that period if it had been a period of absence with pay.
- (2) An election under paragraph (1) is to be made by written notice given to the employing authority not later than six months from the end of the period of unpaid leave for which contributions are due.
- (3) An authority may pay the employer's pension contributions that would otherwise fall to be paid by the employee as a result of his election.

(4) Contributions falling to be paid by the employee under this rule must be paid within six months of the date on which the notice under paragraph (2) is given.

Reckoning of maternity, paternity and adoption leave, etc

5.—(1) A female firefighter member is entitled to reckon as pensionable service any period of—

- (a) paid maternity leave,
- (b) unpaid ordinary maternity leave, and
- (c) unpaid maternity leave in respect of which she has paid pension contributions in accordance with rule 4 of Part 11.

(2) A firefighter member is entitled to reckon as pensionable service any period of—

- (a) paternity leave,
- (b) ordinary adoption leave,
- (c) paid additional adoption leave, and
- (d) unpaid additional adoption leave in respect of which he has paid pension contributions in accordance with rule 4 of Part 11.

(3) Where there is a period of pensionable service both before and after a period of maternity or adoption leave in respect of which a person is entitled to pay pension contributions but does not do so, those periods shall be treated for the purposes of this Scheme as if they were continuous.

Calculation of pensionable service

6.—(1) Paragraphs (3) to (5) are subject to rule 2(2) and (3).

(2) For the purposes of paragraphs (3) and (4), a period which comprises 365 completed days including 29th February shall be treated as a completed year.

(3) The pensionable service of a whole-time regular firefighter member shall be calculated in accordance with the formula—

$A + (B \div 365)$ years, where—

A is the number of completed years in the period, and

B is the number of completed days in any remaining part of a year.

(4) The pensionable service of a part-time regular firefighter member shall be calculated as a proportion of whole-time service by applying the formula—

$AB \times C$

, where

A is the person's weekly contractual hours,

B is the weekly whole-time equivalent conditioned hours, and

C is the period of his part-time service in years (calculated in accordance with the formula in paragraph (3), and with regard to paragraph (2)).

(5) The pensionable service of a retained or volunteer firefighter for any year or part of a year of his service shall be assessed as a proportion of whole-time service in accordance with the formula—

$AB \times 365$

, where

A is the actual pensionable pay received in that year, and

B is his reference pay for that year.

(6) Where, for the purpose of calculating an award payable to or in respect of a firefighter member

- (a) it is necessary to determine his pensionable service reckonable by reason of service or employment before or after a particular date (“the material date”), and
- (b) by virtue of the receipt by an authority of a transfer value payment, he is entitled to reckon a period of pensionable service (“the credited period”) by reason of employment for a period (“the previous employment period”) which includes that date,

the credited period counts as pensionable service reckonable by reason of employment before and after the material date in the same proportion as that between the parts of the previous employment period falling before and after the material date.

PART 11

PENSIONABLE PAY, PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS AND PURCHASE OF ADDITIONAL SERVICE

CHAPTER 1

PENSIONABLE PAY AND PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS

Pensionable pay

1.—(1) Subject to paragraph (3) and rule 3(3), the pensionable pay of a firefighter member is the aggregate of—

- (a) his pay in relation to the performance of the duties of his role, other than any allowance or emoluments that are paid to him on a temporary basis, and
- (b) his permanent emoluments (including, in the case of a retained firefighter, any retaining allowance).

(2) Where a firefighter member surrenders the right to receive part of his pensionable pay in exchange for the provision by his employing authority of any non-cash benefit, the amount forgone shall continue to be treated as part of his pensionable pay for all purposes of this Scheme (including determining pension contributions and calculating awards).

(3) A firefighter member’s pensionable pay in any tax year shall be taken not to include any amount in excess of the permitted maximum for that year.

(4) For the purposes of this rule and rule 2, the permitted maximum for a tax year is £108,600; but in relation to a tax year other than the tax year ending in 2007, this is subject to paragraph (5).

(5) Where the retail price index for the month of December in the tax year preceding the tax year in question is higher than it was for the previous December, the permitted maximum for the tax year in question shall be the amount arrived at—

- (a) by increasing the permitted maximum for the previous tax year by the same percentage as the percentage increase in the retail prices index, and
- (b) if the result is not a multiple of £600, by rounding it up to the nearest amount which is a multiple of £600.

Final pensionable pay

2.—(1) For the purpose of calculating pensions under this Scheme, the final pensionable pay of a firefighter member is the aggregate of pensionable pay received in respect of the 365 pensionable pay days ending with the relevant date, but this is subject to the following paragraphs of this rule.

- (2) Subject to paragraph (3), “the relevant date” for the purposes of paragraph (1)—
- (a) in relation to a firefighter member who is entitled to two pensions under rule 7 of Part 3, means—
 - (i) as regards the first pension, the date on which he was last paid at the higher rate (before changing roles and accepting a reduction in pensionable pay);
 - (ii) as regards the second pension, the last day of his membership of the Scheme⁽³⁵⁾ or, if he dies in service, the date of his death;
 - (b) in any other case, means the date of the firefighter member’s last day of pensionable service or, if he dies in service, the date of his death;

(3) Where a firefighter member’s final pensionable pay would have been more than the amount calculated in accordance with paragraph (1) if the relevant date had occurred on the corresponding day in either of the two periods of 365 pensionable pay days preceding the first day of the period of 365 pensionable pay days ending with the relevant date (as defined in paragraph (2) without reference to this paragraph), that corresponding day in whichever of those periods produces the higher amount shall be treated as the relevant date for the purposes of paragraph (1).

(4) Subject to paragraph (6), where a firefighter member is entitled to count only part of a year as a period of membership of the Scheme (“the membership period”), his final pensionable pay is the amount of pensionable pay received in the membership period multiplied by 365 and divided by the number of days in the membership period.

- (5) For the purposes of paragraph (1), any reduction of pensionable pay as a result of—
- (a) sick leave;
 - (b) stoppage of pay by way of punishment;
 - (c) ordinary maternity leave, ordinary adoption leave or paternity leave;
 - (d) paid additional maternity leave or additional adoption leave;
 - (e) unpaid periods in respect of which the firefighter member has paid pension contributions;
or
 - (f) unpaid additional maternity leave or additional adoption leave in respect of which pension contributions have been paid,

shall be disregarded.

(6) The final reference pay of a retained or volunteer firefighter shall be determined by reference to the equivalent whole-time rate of pay for a regular firefighter of similar service, role and experience.

(7) A firefighter member’s final pensionable pay in any tax year shall be taken not to include any amount in excess of the figure which is the permitted maximum for that year.

Pension contributions

3.—(1) A firefighter member shall pay pension contributions to the authority at the rate of 8.5% of his pensionable pay for the time being.

(2) The contributions payable under paragraph (1) may be deducted by the authority from each instalment of pensionable pay as it becomes due, but this is subject to any other method of payment that may be agreed between the authority and the member.

(3) For the purposes of this rule, the pensionable pay of a firefighter member during a period of maternity, paternity or adoption leave shall be the pay that the person receives for that period

(35) See rule 4 of Part 2.

including the value of any statutory maternity, paternity or adoption pay under the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992⁽³⁶⁾.

Optional pension contributions during maternity and adoption leave

4.—(1) A firefighter member who—

- (a) is on maternity or adoption leave, which would not otherwise count as pensionable service under rule 2 of Part 10; and
- (b) who, for the whole or part of the leave period, is not entitled to receive pay (including any statutory maternity or adoption pay under the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992),

may elect to pay pension contributions in respect of that leave period.

(2) The contributions shall be calculated by applying rule 3 to the pensionable pay (including any statutory maternity or adoption pay under the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992) received immediately before the start of the unpaid period in question.

(3) Subject to paragraph (6), an election must be made by giving written notice to the authority before the expiry of the period of 30 days (or such longer period as the authority may allow) beginning with—

- (a) the day on which he returns to work, or
- (b) if he does not return to work after the leave period, the day he ceases to be employed by the authority.

(4) On receipt of the notice, the authority shall calculate the amount of contributions due and shall give written notice of that amount to the person concerned.

(5) Where the full amount of contributions due has not been paid within six months of the date of the notice given under paragraph (4), the person concerned shall be entitled to reckon as pensionable service such proportion of the period in respect of which contributions were due as the amount of contributions paid bears to the total amount of contributions due.

(6) Where a person dies before the end of the period of 30 days referred to in paragraph (3) without having given the required notice—

- (a) he shall be deemed to have given the notice, and
- (b) the authority—
 - (i) shall give to his personal representatives a statement of the amount of contributions due; and
 - (ii) may collect the contributions by deducting their amount from the amount of the death grant payable under Part 5.

CHAPTER 2

PURCHASE OF ADDITIONAL SERVICE

Purchase of additional service

5.—(1) A person who satisfies the conditions specified in paragraph (2) may, in accordance with the following provisions of this Chapter, elect to purchase additional service for the purpose of securing increased benefits under this Scheme.

(2) The conditions are that the person—

- (a) is a firefighter member of the Scheme,

⁽³⁶⁾ 1992 c. 4.

- (b) is not a pension credit member, and
 - (c) would be entitled to reckon less than 40 years' pensionable service at normal retirement age.
- (3) Additional service may be purchased as years or part of a year, but the aggregate of—
- (a) the period purchased,
 - (b) the person's pensionable service up to the date of the purchase, and
 - (c) his prospective service from that date to normal retirement age,

must not exceed 40 years.

- (4) Additional service may be purchased—
- (a) by payment of a lump sum calculated in accordance with tables provided by the Scheme Actuary; or
 - (b) subject to paragraphs (5) and (6), by deduction from the person's pensionable pay of periodical contributions of such percentage of that pay as shall be determined by the Scheme Actuary.

(5) An authority may permit a part-time regular firefighter to purchase additional service by periodical contributions at a rate that bears to the percentage determined by the Scheme Actuary the same proportion as his pensionable pay bears to the pensionable pay of a full-time regular firefighter serving in the same role.

(6) An authority may permit a retained or volunteer firefighter to purchase additional service by periodical contributions; and in such a case they shall calculate the amount of the contributions by applying the rate determined by the Scheme Actuary to the firefighter's reference pay.

Election to purchase additional service

- 6.—(1) An election to pay a lump sum—
- (a) must be made by written notice given to the authority not later than 12 months after the date on which the person last became employed by the authority as a firefighter, and
 - (b) if the sum is not paid within three months after the date on which notice was given, shall be treated as not having been made.

(2) An election to pay periodical contributions must be made by written notice given to the authority at least two years before the person's normal retirement age, but no such election may be made where he and the authority have agreed that he will leave the scheme with an entitlement under any of rules 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 of Part 3.

- (3) Unless paragraph (1)(b) applies, an election under this rule—
- (a) takes effect on the day on which the written notice is received by the authority, and
 - (b) is irrevocable once the lump sum has been paid or, as the case may be, the first contribution has been deducted.

Duration of periodical contributions and premature cessation

7.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), where a person has elected under rule 6(2) to pay periodical contributions, they are payable from his next birthday and continue to be payable until normal retirement age.

(2) Paragraph (1) ceases to apply to a person who leaves his employment before normal retirement age—

- (a) where he is entitled to a pension under rule 3 of Part 3 (deferred pension), on his last day of service,

- (b) where he becomes entitled to a second pension under rule 7 of that Part (entitlement to two pensions), on his last day of service in the second period of employment,
 - (c) on the date on which he ceases to be employed by any authority, or
 - (d) on the date on which any contributions election takes effect.
- (3) Where a sub-paragraph of paragraph (2) applies, the period of additional service purchased up to the date referred to in that sub-paragraph shall be treated as if it were the period ascertained in accordance with the formula:
- $$A \times BC$$
- , where —
- A is the number of 60ths of additional service which he elected to purchase,
 - B is the period in respect of which contributions have been made, and
 - C is the period in respect of which contributions would, but for the cessation of his employment, have been made in accordance with the election.
- (4) The period of additional service calculated in accordance with paragraph (3) shall be treated—
- (a) where the person qualifies for an ordinary pension (rule 1 of Part 3), as part of the pensionable service on which the ordinary pension is calculated;
 - (b) where he qualifies for a deferred pension (rule 3 of Part 3), as part of the pensionable service on which the deferred pension is calculated;
 - (c) where he takes member-initiated early retirement (rule 5 of Part 3), as part of the award to which the actuarial reduction is applied;
 - (d) where he takes authority-initiated early retirement (rule 6 of Part 3), as part of his pensionable service;
 - (e) where, on commencing a second period of employment with the same authority, he becomes entitled to two pensions (rule 7 of Part 3)—
 - (i) to the extent that it is attributable to the first period of employment, as part of the service on which the first pension is calculated; and
 - (ii) to the extent that it is attributable to the second period of employment, as part of the service on which the second pension is calculated.
- (5) The period of additional service calculated in accordance with paragraph (3) shall not be treated as part of the pensionable service on which—
- (a) the amount of any higher tier ill-health pension is calculated under rule 2 of Part 3, or
 - (b) the notional ill-health pension calculated where a survivor's pension is awarded on his death in service is calculated (rule 2(1) of Part 4).
- (6) Additional service purchased by the payment of periodical contributions shall accrue annually in accordance with the contributions paid.

Discontinuance and resumption of periodical contributions

- 8.—(1) An authority may—
- (a) at the request of a firefighter member who has elected to purchase additional service by the payment of periodical contributions; and
 - (b) solely on the grounds of his financial circumstances,
- agree to discontinue the making of deductions from his pay by way of such contributions.
- (2) Where the firefighter member and the authority agree that deductions should be discontinued for a period not exceeding six months (“the discontinuance period”), the authority shall resume the

making of deductions as soon as reasonably practicable after the end of that period or, at the request of the firefighter member, at such time before the end of that period as may be agreed.

(3) Where the firefighter member and the authority agree that deductions should be discontinued for a period of six months or more, the member's election under rule 6 shall be treated as cancelled with effect from the date of the agreement.

(4) The period of additional service purchased up to the date on which the last contribution was deducted shall be treated as if it were the period ascertained in accordance with the formula:

$$A \times BC$$

, where —

A is the number of 60ths of additional service which the firefighter member elected to purchase,

B is the period in respect of which contributions have been made, and

C is the period in respect of which contributions would have been made in accordance with the election (disregarding for this purpose any deemed cancellation under paragraph (3)).

(5) Subject to paragraph (6), where—

(a) deductions were discontinued under paragraph (2), and

(b) the firefighter member wishes to purchase additional service referable to the discontinuance period,

a deduction of an amount equal to the aggregate of the contributions that would otherwise have been made in respect of that period shall be made on the same occasion as the first resumed deduction is made.

(6) Where the firefighter member's rate of pay at the end of the discontinuance period is less than at the beginning of that period, deductions in respect of the discontinuance period shall be made at the rate that would have applied if deductions had been made from his salary during that period.

Periodical contributions in respect of periods of unpaid service or absence

9.—(1) A firefighter member who—

(a) has elected to purchase additional service in respect of a period of unpaid service or unpaid leave which falls within the period in respect of which contributions are payable in accordance with rule 8(1), and

(b) complies with the requirements of paragraph (2),

is entitled to require the authority to treat that period of unpaid service or unpaid leave as a period of pensionable service.

(2) The requirements of this paragraph are that the firefighter member must, not later than one month after the end of the period of unpaid service or leave (as the case may be), require the authority to deduct from his pay an amount equal to the aggregate of the contributions that would have been made in respect of that period if it had been a period of paid service.

(3) In paragraphs (1) and (2) "unpaid leave" means adoption leave, additional adoption leave, additional maternity leave or ordinary maternity leave or other absence without pay (including absence while participating in a strike).

(4) Contributions payable under paragraph (2) may be paid—

(a) during the unpaid leave period; or

(b) within six months of returning to duty after the end of that period; or

(c) within such longer period as the authority may allow.

Effect of purchasing additional service by lump sum payment

10.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), where a period of additional service has been purchased by way of a lump sum payment, the firefighter member's pensionable service shall be increased by that period as regards any award payable to him under this Scheme.

(2) A period of additional service purchased by way of a lump sum payment shall not be treated as part of the pensionable service on which the amount of any higher tier ill-health pension is calculated under rule 2 of Part 3.

(3) If the firefighter member takes member-initiated early retirement the period of additional service shall be part of the total to which the actuarial reduction is applied under rule 5 of Part 3.

(4) If the firefighter member takes authority-initiated early retirement the period of additional service shall be part of the pensionable service on which the pension is calculated under rule 6 of Part 3.

PART 12

TRANSFERS INTO AND OUT OF THE SCHEME

CHAPTER 1

INTERPRETATION OF PART 12 AND ENTITLEMENT TO TRANSFER VALUE PAYMENT

Interpretation of Part 12

1. In this Part—

“guaranteed cash equivalent transfer value payment” means a payment of the description mentioned in rule 4(2); and

“public sector transfer arrangements” means arrangements approved by the Secretary of State as providing reciprocal arrangements for the payment and receipt of transfer values between this Scheme and other occupational pension schemes.

Entitlement to transfer value payment

2.—(1) This Part supplements the rights conferred by Chapter IV of Part IV of the 1993 Act (transfer values) (“Chapter IV”).

(2) Subject to rule 12 (transfer of pension history between English authorities), a firefighter member or deferred member—

(a) to whom Chapter IV applies⁽³⁷⁾, and

(b) who is not a pension credit member or pensioner member of this Scheme,

is entitled to require the payment of a transfer value in respect of the rights to benefit that have accrued to or in respect of him under this Scheme.

(3) Subject to the provisions of this Part, any former firefighter member, other than a pensioner member, is entitled to require such a payment as if such rights had accrued to or in respect of him by reference to the pensionable service he is entitled to count under this Scheme (and references in this Part to his accrued rights or benefits are to be read accordingly).

(4) Paragraph (3) does not apply if the contributions the former member has paid during the period of service ending with his ceasing to be a firefighter member are refunded under rule 8 of Part 3 and, where applicable, in accordance with Chapter V of Part IV of the 1993 Act.

⁽³⁷⁾ See section 93(1)(a) of the Pension Schemes Act 1993 (c.48).

(5) Paragraphs (2) and (3) do not apply to rights that are directly attributable to a pension credit.

CHAPTER 2

TRANSFERS OUT OF THE SCHEME

Applications for statements of entitlement

3.—(1) A member who requires a transfer value payment to be made must apply in writing to the authority for a statement of the amount of the cash equivalent of the member's accrued benefits under the Scheme at the guarantee date ("a statement of entitlement").

(2) In this Chapter, "the guarantee date" means any date that—

- (a) falls within the required period,
- (b) is chosen by the authority,
- (c) is specified in the statement of entitlement, and
- (d) is within the period of ten days ending with the date on which the member is provided with the statement of entitlement.

(3) In counting the period of ten days referred to in paragraph (2)(d), Saturdays, Sundays, Christmas Day, New Year's Day and Good Friday are excluded.

(4) In paragraph (2) "the required period" means—

- (a) the period of three months beginning with the date of the member's application for a statement of entitlement, or
- (b) such longer period (not exceeding six months beginning with that date) as may reasonably be required if, for reasons beyond the control of the authority, the requisite information cannot be obtained to calculate the amount of the cash equivalent.

(5) The member may withdraw the application for a statement of entitlement by written notice at any time before the statement is provided.

(6) Where, in any period of twelve consecutive months, a member—

- (a) has made, and not withdrawn, two applications for a statement of entitlement, and
- (b) makes a third (or subsequent) application,

the authority shall not be required to entertain the application if it is not accompanied by a payment of such amount as the authority may reasonably require.

Applications for transfer value payments

4.—(1) A member who has applied for and received a statement of entitlement under rule 3 may apply in writing to the authority for a transfer value payment to be made.

(2) On making such an application a member becomes entitled to payment of an amount equal, or amounts equal in aggregate, to the amount specified in the statement of entitlement (or such other amount as may be payable by virtue of paragraph (9)).

(3) An application under paragraph (1) must be made before the end of the period of three months beginning with the guarantee date, and the payment must be made no later than—

- (a) six months after that date, or
- (b) if it is earlier, the date on which the member reaches normal benefit age.

(4) The application must specify the pension scheme or other arrangement to which the payment or payments should be applied.

(5) Subject to paragraph (6), an application by a person who is entitled to apply for a guaranteed cash equivalent transfer value payment under Chapter IV of Part IV of the 1993 Act may only be made before—

- (a) the beginning of the period of one year ending with the date on which the member reaches normal benefit age, or
- (b) the end of the period of six months beginning with the day after that on which the member's pensionable service ends, provided that service ends at least one year before normal benefit age,

whichever is the later.

(6) An application for a transfer value payment to be made under public sector transfer arrangements may only be made—

- (a) before the first anniversary of the day on which the member becomes eligible to be a firefighter member of the scheme to which the transfer is to be made, and
- (b) before the member reaches normal benefit age.

(7) An application by a person who is not entitled to apply for a guaranteed cash equivalent transfer value payment under Chapter IV of Part IV of the 1993 Act may only be made—

- (a) on or before the first anniversary of the day on which the applicant ceases to be a firefighter member of this Scheme, and
- (b) before the member reaches normal benefit age.

(8) An application under this rule may be withdrawn by written notice, unless an agreement for the application of the whole or part of the guaranteed cash equivalent transfer value payment has been entered into with a third party before the notice is given.

(9) If the payment is made later than six months after the guarantee date, the amount of the payment to which the member is entitled must be increased by—

- (a) the amount by which the amount specified in the statement of entitlement falls short of the amount it would have been if the guarantee date had been the date on which the payment is made, or
- (b) if it is greater and there was no reasonable excuse for the delay in payment, interest on the amount specified in the statement of entitlement, calculated on a daily basis over the period from the guarantee date to the date when the payment is made at an annual rate of one per cent. above base rate.

(10) In this rule—

“base rate” means the base rate for the time being quoted by the reference banks or, where there is for the time being more than one such base rate, the rate which, when the base rate quoted by each bank is ranked in descending sequence of seven, is fourth in the sequence; and

“the reference banks” means the seven largest persons for the time being who—

- (a) have permission under Part IV of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (permission to carry on regulated activities)⁽³⁸⁾ to accept deposits;
- (b) are incorporated in the United Kingdom and carrying on there a regulated activity of accepting deposits; and
- (c) quote a base rate in sterling,

and for the purpose of this definition the size of a person at any time is to be determined by reference to the gross assets denominated in sterling of that person, together with any subsidiary (as defined in section 736 of the Companies Act 1985 (“subsidiary”, “holding

(38) 2000 c.8, to which there are amendments not relevant to this Order.

company” and “wholly owned subsidiary”)(39), as shown in the audited end-of-year accounts last published before that time.

Ways in which transfer value payments may be applied

5.—(1) A member who is entitled to a guaranteed cash equivalent transfer value payment under Chapter IV of Part IV of the 1993 Act may only require the authority to apply the guaranteed cash equivalent transfer value payment in one or more of the ways permitted under section 95 of that Act.

(2) A member who is not entitled to a guaranteed cash equivalent transfer value payment under Chapter IV of Part IV of the 1993 Act may only require the authority to apply the guaranteed cash equivalent transfer value payment in one of the ways permitted under section 95 of that Act.

(3) The whole of the guaranteed cash equivalent transfer value payment must be applied, unless paragraph (4) applies.

(4) The benefits attributable to—

- (a) the member’s accrued rights to a guaranteed minimum pension, or
- (b) the member’s accrued rights attributable to service in contracted-out employment on or after 6th April 1997,

may be excluded from the guaranteed cash equivalent transfer value payment if section 96(2) of the 1993 Act applies (trustees or managers of certain receiving schemes or arrangements able and willing to accept a transfer payment only in respect of the member’s other rights).

(5) A transfer payment may only be made to—

- (a) a pension scheme that is registered under Chapter 2 of Part 4 of the Finance Act 2004, or
- (b) an arrangement that is a qualifying recognised overseas pension scheme for the purposes of that Part (see section 169(2) of that Act).

Calculating amounts of transfer value payments

6.—(1) Subject to paragraph (3), the amount of the guaranteed cash equivalent transfer value payment is to be calculated in accordance with guidance and tables provided by the Scheme Actuary for use at the guarantee date.

(2) In preparing those tables the Scheme Actuary must use such factors as he considers appropriate, having regard to section 97 of the 1993 Act and regulations under that Act (whether or not the payment is in respect of a person entitled to a guaranteed cash equivalent transfer value payment under that Act).

(3) If the amount calculated in accordance with paragraph (1) is less than the minimum transfer value, the amount of the guaranteed cash equivalent transfer value payment is to be equal to that value instead.

(4) In paragraph (3) “the minimum transfer value”, in relation to any person, means the sum of—

- (a) any transfer value payments that have been made to the Scheme in respect of him, and
- (b) any contributions paid by him under rule 3 of Part 11.

(5) If the transfer value payment is made under public sector transfer arrangements, the amount of the transfer value payment shall be calculated—

- (a) in accordance with those arrangements rather than paragraphs (1) to (3), and
- (b) by reference to the guidance and tables provided by the Scheme Actuary for the purposes of this paragraph that are in use on the date used for the calculation.

(39) 1985 c. 6; section 736 was substituted for section 736 as originally enacted by section 144(1) of the Companies Act 1989 (c. 40).

Effect of transfers-out

7. Where a transfer value payment is made under this Chapter in respect of a person's rights under this Scheme, those rights are extinguished.

CHAPTER 3

TRANSFERS INTO THE SCHEME

Applications for acceptance of transfer value payment from another scheme

8.—(1) Subject to the provisions of this Part, a firefighter member may apply for a transfer value payment in respect of some or all of the rights that have accrued to or in respect of him under—

- (a) another occupational pension scheme registered under Chapter 2 of Part 4 of the Finance Act 2004,
- (b) an arrangement that is a qualifying recognised overseas pension scheme for the purposes of that Part⁽⁴⁰⁾, or
- (c) a personal pension scheme,

to be accepted by the authority for the purposes of this Scheme.

(2) Paragraph (1) does not apply to rights that are directly referable to a pension credit.

(3) Paragraph (1) does not apply if the member is on unpaid leave that does not count as pensionable service.

Procedure for applications under rule 8

9.—(1) An application under rule 8—

- (a) must be made in writing,
- (b) must specify the scheme or arrangement from which the transfer value payment is to be made and the anticipated amount of the payment, and
- (c) subject to paragraph (2), must be made—
 - (i) before the beginning of the period of one year ending with the date on which the member reaches normal retirement age; and
 - (ii) in the case of a transfer value payment from a non-occupational pension scheme, during the period of one year beginning with the day on which the member becomes eligible to be a firefighter member, or such longer period as the authority may allow.

(2) In the case of a transfer value payment to be made under public sector transfer arrangements, the application under rule 8—

- (a) must be made during the period of one year beginning with the day on which the member becomes eligible to be a firefighter member, or such longer period as the authority may allow, and
- (b) must be received by the authority before the applicant reaches the age which is the normal pension age under the scheme by which the transfer value payment is to be made.

Acceptance of transfer value payments

10.—(1) Subject to paragraph (3) below and paragraphs (2) and (3) of rule 2 of Part 10 (reckoning of pensionable service), where an application is duly made by a member under rule 8, the authority may accept the transfer value payment.

⁽⁴⁰⁾ See section 169(2) of the Finance Act 2004 (c.12).

(2) If the authority accept the payment, the member is entitled to count the period calculated in accordance with rule 11 as pensionable service for the purposes of this Scheme.

- (3) The authority may not accept a transfer value payment if—
- (a) it would be paid otherwise than under public sector transfer arrangements,
 - (b) it would be applied in whole or in part in respect of the member's or the member's spouse's or civil partner's entitlement to a guaranteed minimum pension, and
 - (c) it is less than the amount required for that purpose, as calculated in accordance with guidance and tables prepared by the Scheme Actuary for the purposes of this paragraph.

Calculation of transferred-in pensionable service

11.—(1) Subject to paragraph (3), the period of pensionable service that a member is entitled to count under rule 10(2) shall be calculated as at the date on which the transfer value payment is received by the authority and in accordance with guidance and tables provided by the Scheme Actuary for the purpose.

(2) For the purposes of that calculation, the member's pensionable earnings are to be taken to be the amount of those earnings as at—

- (a) two months after the application under rule 8 is received, or
- (b) the date on which the transfer value payment is received,

whichever is the later; and, in a case where the transfer value payment is received earlier than two months after that application is received, any necessary adjustment shall be made to that calculation to reflect any change in the amount of those earnings.

(3) If the transfer value payment is accepted under public sector transfer arrangements, the period that the member is entitled to count shall be calculated—

- (a) subject to paragraph (4), in accordance with those arrangements, and
- (b) by reference to the guidance and tables provided by the Scheme Actuary for the purposes of this paragraph, that are in use on the date that is used by the transferring scheme for calculating the transfer value payment.

(4) If the period that the member would be entitled to count would be greater if the transfer value payment were accepted otherwise than under public sector transfer arrangements—

- (a) those arrangements shall not apply, and
- (b) paragraph (1) of this rule shall apply instead.

CHAPTER 4

TRANSFERS BETWEEN ENGLISH AUTHORITIES

Transfer of pension history between English authorities

12.—(1) Subject to paragraph (7), where a firefighter member—

- (a) leaves the employment of an English authority (his "former authority"),
- (b) without a break of service, takes up employment as a firefighter with another English authority (his "new authority"), and
- (c) in that capacity continues to be a member of this Scheme,

his former authority shall, not later than six months after he left their employment, supply his new authority with a certificate showing the pensionable service he was entitled to reckon as at the date on which he left his former authority's employment ("the material date").

(2) At the same time as the former authority supply a certificate under paragraph (1), they shall send a copy of it to the person concerned, together with a statement of its effect on completion of the transfer.

(3) Subject to paragraph (7), if the person concerned is dissatisfied with the information specified in a certificate under paragraph (1), he may, within three months after being supplied with a copy of it, ask his former authority to determine the accuracy of the information contained in it.

(4) A person who makes a request under paragraph (3) shall send a copy of it to his new authority.

(5) A request under paragraph (3) shall be considered by means of the arrangements for the resolution of disagreements implemented by the authority pursuant to the requirements of section 50 of the Pensions Act 1995⁽⁴¹⁾ (resolution of disputes) and the Occupational Pension Schemes (Internal Dispute Resolution Procedures) Regulations 1996⁽⁴²⁾; and the authority shall either confirm the certificate or issue a new certificate.

(6) If the person concerned does not make a request under paragraph (3), the certificate as supplied, and if he does make such a request, the certificate as confirmed or the new certificate issued (as the case may be), is conclusive as to the pensionable service he was entitled to reckon at the material date.

(7) If, after the material date but before a certificate has been supplied under paragraph (1), the person concerned—

- (a) claims a pension or lump sum under this Scheme,
- (b) claims a pension or lump sum under the Compensation Scheme, or
- (c) dies,

that paragraph ceases to apply.

(8) If an event mentioned in any of sub-paragraphs (a) to (c) of paragraph (7) occurs before the certificate in question has become conclusive, the certificate ceases to have effect and paragraph (3) ceases to apply.

(9) As soon as reasonably practicable after a certificate has become conclusive, the new authority shall give effect to it by crediting the person concerned with the pensionable service shown in the certificate.

CHAPTER 5

MIS-SOLD PENSIONS AND RESTITUTION PAYMENTS

Interpretation of Chapter 5

13.—(1) In this Chapter—

“calculated amount” means the amount which, in accordance with rule 15, an authority calculate would need to be made as a restitution payment in respect of the firefighter concerned;

“relevant methods and assumptions” means the methods and assumptions notified by the Scheme Actuary for the calculation of cash equivalent values for occupational pension schemes; and

“relevant period”, in relation to a firefighter, means the total of any periods of opted-out and, where appropriate, transferred-out service.

(2) For the purposes of this Chapter—

⁽⁴¹⁾ 1995 c.26.

⁽⁴²⁾ S.I. 1996/2788.

- (a) a person shall be taken to have opted out if he had made a contributions election and for any period during which he was a firefighter he instead made contributions to a personal pension scheme; and
- (b) a person shall be taken to have transferred out if an authority have made a transfer value payment in respect of him under Chapter 2 of this Part to the administrator of a personal pension scheme.

Mis-sold pensions

14.—(1) This rule applies to a firefighter who—

- (a) has opted out or transferred out, or both, and
- (b) has suffered actionable loss as a result of a contravention which is actionable under section 150 of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000⁽⁴³⁾ (actions for damages in respect of contraventions of rules etc made under the Act).

(2) A firefighter to whom this rule applies who has given notice—

- (a) under rule 6 of Part 2 cancelling his contributions election, or
- (b) under rule G3(5) of the 1992 Scheme (cancellation of election not to pay contributions),

may give written notice to the authority that he wishes them to accept a transfer value payment in order to create or restore his pensionable service.

(3) Paragraph (4) or (5) applies where, within twelve months of the date of a notice given under paragraph (2) or such longer period as the authority may allow, the authority have accepted a transfer value payment in relation to the firefighter who gave the notice (whether or not he has ceased to be a firefighter after the date of the notice) not exceeding the calculated amount.

(4) Where the amount of the transfer value payment is equal to the calculated amount—

- (a) the whole of the relevant period shall be treated as pensionable service, and
- (b) for the purposes of calculating any award under this Scheme, the firefighter who gave the notice shall be treated as having made pension contributions throughout that period.

(5) Where the amount of the transfer value payment is less than the calculated amount—

- (a) the authority shall, in accordance with the relevant methods and assumptions, calculate the period of pensionable service that the transfer value payment represents, and treat that period as pensionable service,
- (b) for the purposes of calculating any award under this Scheme, the firefighter who gave the notice shall be treated as having made pension contributions throughout that period, and
- (c) that period shall be treated as a continuous period with the same final date as the final date of the relevant period.

(6) Where a firefighter who is being credited under paragraph (4) or (5) with a period of pensionable service has previously been credited, in respect of the relevant period, with—

- (a) an additional period of pensionable service calculated in accordance with this Part, or
- (b) an additional period of reckonable service calculated in accordance with Part 4 of Schedule 6 to the 1992 Scheme (amount of transfer value),

the authority may adjust the amount of the transfer value payment that they accept under this rule to ensure that no part of the additional period of pensionable or reckonable service that was previously credited is included in the period of pensionable service credited under paragraph (4) or (5).

⁽⁴³⁾ 2000 c.8, to which there are amendments not relevant to this Order.

Calculation of amount of restitution payment

15.—(1) An authority shall, in accordance with paragraph (2), calculate the restitution payment that would need to be made to them in respect of a person to whom rule 14 applies to create or restore his position to what it would have been if he had not opted-out or, where relevant, transferred-out.

- (2) The restitution payment is an amount equal to the sum of—
- (a) the capitalised value at the material date, determined in accordance with the relevant methods and assumptions, which would produce a service credit equal to his total period of opted-out service, including the capitalized value of any rights under the Pensions (Increase) Act 1971⁽⁴⁴⁾ and the Pensions (Increase) Act 1974⁽⁴⁵⁾; and
 - (b) in the case of a firefighter who also transferred out, the greater of—
 - (i) any transfer value paid by an authority to the administrator of a personal pension scheme in respect of the firefighter’s transferred-out service under Chapter 2 of this Part, increased by interest calculated at a rate approved by the Scheme Actuary over the period from the date of payment of that transfer value to the assumed calculation date; and
 - (ii) the cash equivalent transfer value that would be payable by the authority in respect of that transferred-out service if they were to pay a cash equivalent transfer value in respect of that service determined in accordance with the relevant methods and assumptions applicable immediately after the assumed calculation date.

(3) In this rule—

“assumed calculation date” means the date on which it is assumed, for the purpose of calculating a restitution payment, that a transfer value will be paid to the authority; and

“material date” means the date on which the authority receive a notice under rule 14.

PART 13

FIREFIGHTERS’ PENSION FUND

Firefighters’ Pension Fund: payments, receipts and transfers

1.—(1) The Firefighters’ Pension Fund established and maintained by the authority for the purposes of the 1992 Scheme⁽⁴⁶⁾ (“the FPF”), shall be used also for the purposes of payments and receipts required or authorised to be made by or under any provision of this Scheme.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (1), there shall be credited to the FPF or, where a transfer is made to the FPF from any other fund maintained by the authority, credited to the FPF and debited to that other fund—

- (a) sums receivable from firefighters in respect of periods treated as reckonable by virtue of rule 4 of Part 10 (reckoning of periods of unpaid leave or unauthorised absence),
- (b) sums receivable under rule 10 of Chapter 3 of Part 12 (receipt of transfer value payments),
- (c) sums receivable from a Scottish or Welsh fire and rescue authority or the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service Board by way of transfer value payments in respect of persons who take up employment with the authority, and
- (d) amounts of the descriptions mentioned in paragraphs (2) and (3) of rule 2 of this Part.

⁽⁴⁴⁾ 1971 c.56.

⁽⁴⁵⁾ 1974 c.9.

⁽⁴⁶⁾ See Part LA of the 1992 Scheme, inserted by S.I. 2006/1810.

(3) Without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (1), there shall be payable out of the FPF or, if a transfer is made from the FPF to any other fund maintained by the authority, debited to the FPF and credited to that other fund—

- (a) sums payable under rule 8 of Part 3 (repayment of aggregate of employee's contributions),
- (b) awards payable under any provision of this Scheme (including the commuted portion of a pension to which rule 9 of Part 3 (commutation: general) applies); and
- (c) sums payable under Chapter 2 of Part 12 by way of transfer value payments.

(4) Every amount paid or repaid to or by an authority under this Part shall be credited or, as the case may be, debited, to their FPF.

(5) In this Part—

- (a) references to the total amount payable out of an authority's FPF do not include references to any amount which the Secretary of State required the authority to pay to him under any of rules 5 to 8;
- (b) references to the total amount credited to the authority's FPF do not include references to any amount which the Secretary of State pays to the authority for crediting to their FPF under any of rules 5 to 8.

Payments and transfers into Firefighters' Pension Fund

2.—(1) Each authority shall make transfers into their FPF in accordance with the following paragraphs of this rule.

(2) In each financial year beginning with the financial year ending on 31st March 2007, each authority shall, by transfer to their FPF from any other fund maintained by them, make a contribution towards the discharge of their future liability for the payment of pensions under this Scheme.

(3) The amount of the contribution under paragraph (2) shall be such percentage of the authority's estimate of the aggregate of the pensionable pay, as regards the year in respect of which the contribution is made, of those firefighters employed by the authority who are required to make pension contributions in that year, as shall have been determined and notified to them for that year by the Secretary of State.

(4) In respect of each firefighter employed by the authority who retires with an entitlement to immediate payment of a higher tier ill-health pension under rule 2 of Part 3, the authority shall transfer into the FPF such amount as shall be determined and notified to them by the Secretary of State as the higher tier ill-health charge applicable in respect of that pension.

(5) In respect of each firefighter employed by the authority who retires—

- (a) with an entitlement to immediate payment of a lower tier ill-health pension under rule 2 of Part 3; and
- (b) with no entitlement to a higher tier ill-health pension,

the authority shall transfer into the FPF such amount as shall be determined and notified to them by the Secretary of State as the lower tier ill-health charge applicable in respect of that pension.

(6) The amount to be transferred under paragraph (4) or (5) shall be transferred in three equal instalments.

(7) The first instalment shall be transferred on the date on which the employee retires.

(8) The second instalment shall be transferred on 1st April in the financial year that follows the financial year in which the first instalment was transferred.

(9) The third instalment shall be transferred on 1st April in the financial year that follows the financial year in which the second instalment was transferred.

(10) Where a pension is paid under rule 6 of Part 3 (authority-initiated early retirement), an amount equal to the difference between the amount of the pension paid and the amount that would have been paid had a pension been payable from the same date under rule 5 of that Part (member-initiated early retirement), shall be transferred to the FPF from any other fund maintained by the authority.

Transfers from Firefighters' Pension Fund

3.—(1) Where, in consequence of a review under rule 1 of Part 9—

- (a) a higher tier ill-health pension is cancelled before all the instalments of the higher tier ill-health charge in respect of that pension have been transferred in accordance with rule 2 of this Part; and
- (b) a lower tier ill-health pension continues to be paid,

the amount referred to in paragraph (2) shall be transferred from the FPF to any other fund maintained by the authority.

(2) The amount is an amount equal to the difference between—

- (a) the aggregate of such instalments of the higher tier ill-health charge as have been transferred in accordance with rule 2; and
- (b) the aggregate amount that would have been transferred if—
 - (i) the lower tier ill-health charge had always applied in respect of the pension, and
 - (ii) instalments of that charge had been transferred on the dates on which instalments of the higher tier ill-health charge were transferred.

(3) For the purposes of ascertaining the amount to be transferred in accordance with paragraph (2), the authority concerned shall request the Secretary of State to determine the amount of the notional lower tier ill-health charge in respect of the pension concerned.

(4) Where a person declines an offer of employment under rule 2(3)(b) of Part 9 and does not again take up employment with an authority in England—

- (a) paragraph (4) or (5) of rule 2 of this Part (as the case may be), shall be disregarded in his case (to the extent that it remains to be complied with); and
- (b) the authority which made the offer—
 - (i) shall not make any transfer into the FPF in respect of him as regards any time after the date on which they receive notice that the offer has been rejected; and
 - (ii) shall transfer from the FPF to any other fund maintained by them an amount equal to the aggregate of the instalments that have been transferred to the FPF in respect of the pension that has been terminated.

(5) Where—

- (a) a higher tier ill-health pension or a lower tier ill-health pension is wholly and permanently withdrawn under any provision of Part 9; and
- (b) the former recipient of that pension does not again take up employment with an authority in England,

paragraph (4) or (5) of rule 2 of this Part (as the case may be), shall be disregarded in his case (to the extent that it remains to be complied with); and the authority shall transfer from the FPF to any other fund maintained by them an amount equal to the aggregate of the instalments that have been transferred to the FPF in respect of the pension that has been cancelled.

Excess amounts: information

4.—(1) Beginning with the financial year ending on 31st March 2007, each authority shall, in relation to each financial year, send the following information in writing to the Secretary of State —

- (a) the total amount that the authority estimate will be payable out of their FPF in that year,
- (b) the total amount that the authority estimate will be credited to their FPF in that year,
- (c) the authority’s un-audited statement of accounts for that year, prepared and approved in accordance with regulations under section 27 of the Audit Commission Act 1998⁽⁴⁷⁾,
- (d) the authority’s statement of accounts for that year, as it is after the authority’s auditor issues his certificate and opinion, including or together with that certificate and opinion,
- (e) the total amount payable out of the authority’s FPF in that year, and
- (f) the total amount credited to the authority’s FPF in that year.

(2) In relation to the financial year ending on 31st March 2007, the authority shall send the information referred to in sub-paragraphs (a) and (b) of paragraph (1) to the Secretary of State not later than 15th January 2007 (“the 2007 estimate”).

(3) In relation to the financial year ending on 31st March 2008—

- (a) the authority shall send the information referred to in sub-paragraphs (a) and (b) of paragraph (1) to the Secretary of State not later than 31st March 2007 (“the 2008 estimate”), and
- (b) if the authority revise the information referred to in those sub-paragraphs after they send the estimate to the Secretary of State, may send that revised information to the Secretary of State in September 2007 (“the 2008 revised estimate”).

(4) In relation to each financial year ending on or after 31st March 2009, the authority—

- (a) shall send the information referred to in sub-paragraphs (a) and (b) of paragraph (1) to the Secretary of State in September in the financial year before the year in question (“the estimate”); and
- (b) if the authority revise the information referred to in those sub-paragraphs after they send the estimate to the Secretary of State, may send that revised information to the Secretary of State in September during the year in question (“the revised estimate”).

(5) The authority shall send the information referred to in sub-paragraphs (c), (e) and (f) of paragraph (1) to the Secretary of State in July in the financial year following the year in question (“the un-audited information”).

(6) The authority shall send to the Secretary of State as soon as reasonably practicable after the authority’s auditor issues his certificate and opinion on the authority’s accounts for the year in question (“the audited information”)—

- (a) the information referred to in sub-paragraph (d) of paragraph (1); and
- (b) if the authority revise the information referred to in sub-paragraphs (e) and (f) of paragraph (1) after they have sent the un-audited information to the Secretary of State, that information as revised.

(7) For the purposes of this rule, the auditor issues his certificate and opinion when, in accordance with section 9 of the Audit Commission Act 1998⁽⁴⁸⁾—

- (a) he enters on the authority’s statement of accounts for the relevant year—
 - (i) a certificate that he has completed the audit in accordance with that Act, and

⁽⁴⁷⁾ 1998 c. 18. See regulations 7 and 10 of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 (S.I. 2003/533, amended by 2004/556 and 2006/564).

⁽⁴⁸⁾ 1998 c.18.

- (ii) his opinion on the statement; or
- (b) where he makes a report to the authority under section 8 of that Act at the conclusion of the audit, he includes the certificate and opinion referred to in sub-paragraph (a) in that report instead of making an entry on the statement.

Excess amounts: estimated deficits

5.—(1) Where, having taken into account the 2007 estimate, the 2008 estimate, the 2008 revised estimate or the estimate (as the case may be), and any other relevant information available to him, it appears to the Secretary of State that the total amount likely to be payable out of an authority's FPF in the year in question will exceed the total amount likely to be credited to the authority's FPF in that year, he shall pay to the authority an amount equal to 80 per cent of the likely deficit.

(2) Subject to paragraph (3), where, having taken into account any revised estimate and any other relevant information available to him, it appears to the Secretary of State that—

- (a) the total amount likely to be payable out of the authority's FPF in the year in question will exceed the total amount likely to be credited to the authority's FPF in that year; and
- (b) 80 per cent of the likely deficit is more than—
 - (i) the amount paid or payable by him to the authority by virtue of paragraph (1) in relation to the relevant year; or
 - (ii) where no such amount was paid or payable by him, zero,

he may pay to the authority such amount as he thinks fit.

(3) The aggregate of the amounts paid to an authority under paragraphs (1) and (2) in relation to a particular year shall not exceed 80 per cent of the authority's likely deficit for that year.

(4) Where the Secretary of State pays an amount to the authority under paragraph (2), any amount paid or payable to him in relation to the year in question under rule 6(1) shall not be payable and, if already paid, the Secretary of State shall repay it to the authority.

(5) An amount payable to the authority under paragraph (1) shall be paid—

- (a) where the year in question ends on 31st March 2007, on or before that date;
- (b) where the year in question ends on or after 31st March 2008, in July in the year in question.

(6) Any amount payable or repayable by the Secretary of State to an authority under paragraph (2) or (4) shall be paid or repaid before the end of the year in question.

Excess amounts – estimated surpluses

6.—(1) Where, having taken into account the 2007 estimate, the 2008 estimate, the 2008 revised estimate or the estimate (as the case may be), and any other relevant information available to him, it appears to the Secretary of State that the total amount likely to be credited to an authority's FPF in the year in question will exceed the total amount likely to be payable out of their FPF in that year, he shall require the authority to pay to him an amount equal to 80 per cent of the likely surplus.

(2) Subject to paragraph (3), where, having taken into account any revised estimate and any other relevant information available to him, it appears to the Secretary of State that—

- (a) the total amount likely to be credited to the authority's FPF in the year in question will exceed the total amount likely to be payable out of the authority's FPF in that year; and
- (b) 80 per cent of the difference between those total amounts is more than—
 - (i) the amount paid or payable by the authority to him under paragraph (1) in relation to the year in question; or
 - (ii) where no such amount was paid or payable by the authority, zero,

he may require the authority to pay to him such amount as he may by notice specify.

(3) The aggregate of the amounts paid to the Secretary of State under paragraphs (1) and (2) in relation to a particular year shall not exceed 80 per cent of the authority's likely surplus for that year.

(4) Where the Secretary of State requires the authority to pay an amount to him by virtue of paragraph (2), any amount paid or payable by the Secretary of State to the authority under rule 5(1), shall not be payable and, if already paid, the authority shall repay it to the Secretary of State.

(5) The Secretary of State shall give to the authority, on or before 3rd March in the year in question, written notice of the amount of any payment that he requires the authority to make under paragraph (1) or (2).

(6) An amount payable or repayable by the authority to the Secretary of State under paragraph (1), (2) or (4) shall be paid or repaid in March in the year in question.

Excess amounts – actual deficits

7.—(1) Where, having taken into account the un-audited information and any other relevant information available to him, it appears to the Secretary of State that the total amount likely to be payable out of an authority's FPF in the year in question exceeds the total amount likely to be credited to the authority's FPF in that year—

- (a) where the likely deficit ("the un-audited deficit") exceeds the total of any amounts paid or payable to the authority in relation to that year under rule 5(1) or (2) ("the rule 5 total"), he shall pay to the authority the amount of the un-audited deficit less the rule 5 total;
- (b) where the un-audited deficit is less than the rule 5 total, the amount of the rule 5 total less the un-audited deficit shall not be payable under rule 5(1) or (2) and, if already paid, the authority shall repay that amount to the Secretary of State;
- (c) where no amount was paid or payable by him to the authority in relation to the year in question under rule 5(1) or (2), he shall pay to the authority the amount of the un-audited deficit; and
- (d) any amount paid or payable to him in relation to that year under rule 6(1) or (2), shall not be payable and, if already paid, the Secretary of State shall repay it to the authority.

(2) Where, having taken into account the audited information and any other relevant information available to him, it appears to the Secretary of State that the total amount paid or payable out of an authority's FPF in the year in question exceeds the total amount credited to their FPF in that year—

- (a) where the difference between those total amounts ("the audited deficit") exceeds the total of any amounts paid (but not repaid or repayable) or payable to the authority in relation to that year under paragraph (1)(a) or (c) or rule 5(1) or (2) ("the un-audited total"), he shall pay to the authority the amount of the audited deficit less the un-audited total;
- (b) where the audited deficit is less than the un-audited total, the amount of the un-audited total less the audited deficit shall not be payable under paragraph (1)(a) or (c) or rule 5(1) or (2) and, if already paid, the authority shall repay it to the Secretary of State;
- (c) where no amount was paid or payable by him to the authority in relation to the year in question under paragraph (1)(a) or (c) or rule 5(1) or (2), he shall pay to the authority the amount of the audited deficit; and
- (d) any amount paid or payable to him in relation to the year in question under rule 6(1) or (2) or rule 8(1)(a) or (c), shall not be payable and, if already paid, the Secretary of State shall repay it to the authority.

(3) An amount payable or repayable by the Secretary of State to an authority, or vice versa, under paragraph (1), shall be paid or repaid in July in the financial year following the year in question ("the second year").

(4) An amount payable or repayable by the Secretary of State to an authority, or vice versa, under paragraph (2), shall be paid or repaid in July in the financial year following the second year.

Excess amounts – actual surpluses

8.—(1) Where, having taken into account the un-audited information and any other relevant information available to him, it appears to the Secretary of State that the total amount credited to an authority's FPF in the year in question exceeds the total amount paid out of the authority's FPF in that year—

- (a) where the difference between those total amounts (“the un-audited surplus”) exceeds the total of any amounts paid or payable to him by the authority in relation to that year under rule 6(1) or (2) (“the rule 6 total”), he shall require the authority to pay to him the amount of the un-audited surplus less the rule 6 total;
- (b) where the un-audited surplus is less than the rule 6 total, the amount of the rule 6 total less the un-audited surplus shall not be payable under rule 6(1) or (2) and, if already paid, the Secretary of State shall repay it to the authority;
- (c) where no amount was paid or payable to him by the authority in relation to the year in question under rule 6(1) or (2), he shall require the authority to pay to him the amount of the un-audited surplus; and
- (d) any amount paid or payable by him to the authority in relation to that year under rule 5(1) or (2), shall not be payable and, if already paid, the authority shall repay it to the Secretary of State.

(2) Where, having taken into account the audited information and any other relevant information available to him, it appears to the Secretary of State that the total amount credited to an authority's FPF in the year in question exceeds the total amount payable out of the authority's FPF in that year—

- (a) where the difference between those total amounts (“the audited surplus”) exceeds the total of any amounts paid (but not repaid or repayable) or payable to him by the authority in relation to that year under paragraph (1)(a) or (c) or rule 6(1) or (2) (“the un-audited rule 6 total”), he shall require the authority to pay to him out of their FPF the amount of the audited surplus less the un-audited rule 6 total;
- (b) where the audited surplus is less than the un-audited rule 6 total, the amount of the un-audited rule 6 total less the audited surplus shall not be payable under paragraph (1)(a) or (c) or rule 6(1) or (2) and, if already paid, the Secretary of State shall repay it to the authority;
- (c) where no amount was paid or payable to him by the authority in relation to the year in question under paragraph (1)(a) or (c) or rule 6(1) or (2), he shall require the authority to pay to him the amount of the audited surplus; and
- (d) any amount paid or payable by him to the authority in relation to that year under rule 5(1) or (2) or rule 7(1)(a) or (c) shall not be payable and, if already paid, the authority shall repay it to the Secretary of State.

(3) The Secretary of State shall give to the authority, on or before 3rd July in the financial year after the year in question (“the second year”), written notice of the amount of the payment that he requires the authority to make under paragraph (1)(a) or (c).

(4) An amount payable or repayable by the authority to the Secretary of State, or vice versa, under paragraph (1), shall be paid or repaid in July in the second year.

(5) The Secretary of State shall give to the authority, on or before 3rd July in the financial year that is the second financial year after the year in question (“the third year”), written notice of the amount of any payment that he requires the authority to make under paragraph (2)(a) or (c).

(6) An amount payable or repayable by the authority to the Secretary of State, or vice versa, by virtue of paragraph (2), shall be paid or repaid in July in the third year.

Duty to provide information

9.—(1) An authority shall provide the Secretary of State with such information relevant to the exercise of his functions under this Part as he may, by written notice to the authority, require.

(2) An authority shall respond to a request under paragraph (1) within such period as the Secretary of State shall specify in his notice under that paragraph, or such longer period as he may in any particular case allow.

Duty to have regard to guidance

10. An authority shall have regard to such guidance as may be issued by the Secretary of State from time to time for the purposes of this Part.

PART 14

PAYMENT OF AWARDS

Authorities responsible for payment of awards

1.—(1) An award payable to or in respect of a person by reason of his having been employed as a regular firefighter is payable by the authority by whom he was last so employed.

(2) An award payable under Part 6 (pension-sharing on divorce) to or in respect of a pension credit member, and any sum paid in commutation of such an award, is payable by the authority which employed the pension debit member from whose rights the pension credit member's award is derived when the pension sharing order took effect.

Deduction of tax and lifetime allowance charges

2. Where any payment that an authority are required to make under this Scheme is chargeable to tax or subject to a lifetime allowance charge under the Finance Act 2004(49), they shall deduct the amount of tax charged or to be recovered from the payment.

Payment of awards

3.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), while an award is payable under this Scheme it shall be paid monthly in arrears.

(2) The authority may—

- (a) delay payment, in whole or part, to the extent necessary for determining any question as to their liability; and
- (b) where they are of the opinion that, by reason of the amount of the award, its payment monthly in arrears would be impracticable, discharge their liability in respect of it by making payments at such reasonable intervals as they think fit.

(3) Lump sums under Part 5 and, subject to paragraphs (4) and (5), pensions under Part 4 are payable from the day after the date of the death.

(4) A pension under Part 4 in respect of a posthumous child is payable from the date of his birth.

(49) 2004 c.12.

(5) Where—

- (a) the authority are not informed of the death of a pensioner; and
- (b) a pension to which he was entitled has continued in payment,

the authority may recover all or part of the overpayment, as they think fit; and may recover it by set-off against any other award payable under this Scheme in respect of the deceased.

(6) Where a person is entitled under rule 8 of Part 3 to the repayment of his aggregate pension contributions, the authority are not obliged to make payment—

- (a) until the expiration of a year from the date of his retirement, or
- (b) until he requests payment,

whichever is the earlier.

Pensions under more than one contract of employment

4. Where a person is a member of this Scheme in respect of more than one contract of employment (whether with the same or different authorities), each employment shall be treated separately for pension purposes.

Payments for minors and persons incapable of managing their affairs

5.—(1) Any sum payable to a minor in respect of an award may, if the authority think fit, be paid to such other person as they may determine, who shall, in accordance with any directions given by the authority, apply it for the minor's benefit.

(2) If it appears to the authority that a person entitled to payment of an award is, by reason of mental disorder or otherwise, incapable of managing his affairs—

- (a) they may pay the award or any part of it to a person having the care of the person entitled, or such other person as they may determine, and
- (b) insofar as they do not pay the award in that manner, they may apply it in such manner as they think fit for the benefit of the person entitled or his dependants.

Payment of awards; further supplementary provision

6.—(1) On the death of a person to whom there was due, in respect of an award, a sum not exceeding the amount specified in any order for the time being in force under section 6 of the Administration of Estates (Small Payments) Act 1965⁽⁵⁰⁾, the authority may, without requiring the production of probate or any other proof of entitlement—

- (a) where only one person appears to be beneficially entitled to the personal estate of the deceased, pay the sum to that person, or
- (b) in any other case, either pay the sum to one of the persons appearing to be so entitled or distribute it among all or any of them in such proportions as the authority may determine.

(2) An assignment of, or charge on, an award is void to the extent that it is in favour of a person other than a dependant of the person entitled to the award.

(3) On the bankruptcy of a person entitled to an award, the award does not pass to any trustee or other person acting on behalf of the creditors.

(4) Subject to paragraphs (5) and (6), where as a result of fraud, theft or negligence on the part of a firefighter in connection with his employment, there has been a loss to the funds of an authority,

(50) 1965 c.32.

the authority may withhold all or part of any sums becoming due to him from the authority in respect of an award.

(5) The total amount withheld under paragraph (4) must not exceed the amount of the loss; and in the event of any dispute as to the amount of the loss, nothing may be withheld unless the loss has become recoverable from the person entitled to the award under the order of a competent court.

(6) There shall not in any case be withheld any part of a sum due that is not attributable to service as an employee of an authority.

(7) Where an amount is withheld under paragraph (4), the authority shall provide the person entitled to the award with a certificate showing the amount withheld.

PART 15

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Guaranteed minimum pensions, etc.

1.—(1) Subject to paragraph (8), paragraphs (2) to (5) of this rule apply where a member has an entitlement to a guaranteed minimum pension under section 14 of the 1993 Act (his “guaranteed minimum”).

(2) If, apart from this rule—

- (a) no pension would be payable to the member under this Scheme; or
- (b) the weekly rate of the pension payable would be less than his guaranteed minimum,

a pension, the weekly rate of which is equal to his guaranteed minimum, is payable to the member for life from the date on which he reaches state pensionable age.

(3) Subject to paragraph (4) if, when the member reaches state pensionable age—

- (a) he is still in employment which entitles him to be a member of this Scheme (“scheme employment”); or
- (b) where he is not in scheme employment, he consents to a postponement of his entitlement under paragraph (2),

paragraph (2) does not apply until he leaves employment.

(4) If the member—

- (a) continues in employment for a further period of five years after reaching state pensionable age, and
- (b) does not then leave it,

he is entitled from the end of that period to so much of his pension under this rule as equals his guaranteed minimum, unless he consents to a further postponement of the entitlement.

(5) Where paragraph (3) or (4) applies, the amount of the pension to which he is entitled under this rule shall be increased in accordance with section 15 of the 1993 Act.

(6) This paragraph applies where a person has ceased to be in employment that is contracted-out by reference to the Scheme, and either—

- (a) all his rights to benefits under the Scheme, except his rights in respect of his guaranteed minimum or his rights under section 9(2B) of the 1993 Act⁽⁵¹⁾ (“his contracting-out rights”), have been transferred under Part 12, or
- (b) he has no rights to benefits under the Scheme apart from his contracting-out rights.

⁽⁵¹⁾ Subsection (2B) was inserted by section 136(3) of the Pensions Act 1995 (c.26).

- (7) Subject to paragraph (8), where paragraph (6) applies—
- (a) from the date on which the person reaches state pensionable age, he is entitled to a pension payable for life at a weekly rate equal to his guaranteed minimum, and
 - (b) from the date on which he reaches normal retirement age he is entitled to a lump sum and pension in respect of his rights under section 9(2B) of the 1993 Act,

but a person falling within paragraph (6) is not to be regarded as a pensioner for the purposes of Part 5 (awards on death).

- (8) This rule does not apply if—
- (a) any part of the person's pension is withdrawn permanently under rule 5 of Part 9 following his conviction of an offence of a description specified in paragraph (3) of that rule (treason and certain offences under the Official Secrets Acts 1911 to 1989); or
 - (b) the pension is commuted under rule 10 of Part 3 (commutation: small pensions).

Survivors' guaranteed minimum pensions

2.—(1) Subject to paragraph (3), this rule applies in relation to a firefighter member's surviving spouse or civil partner who has a guaranteed minimum pension under section 17 of the 1993 Act in relation to benefits under Chapter 1 of Part 4 of this Scheme in respect of the deceased member.

- (2) If apart from this rule—
- (a) no pension is payable to the surviving spouse or civil partner under this Scheme; or
 - (b) the weekly rate of the pension payable is less than his guaranteed minimum,

a pension, of which the weekly rate is equal to his guaranteed minimum, is payable to the surviving spouse or civil partner from the date on which the deceased died until the death of the surviving spouse or civil partner.

- (3) This rule does not apply if—
- (a) any part of the firefighter member's pension has been withdrawn permanently under rule 5 of Part 9 following his conviction of an offence of a description specified in paragraph (3) of that rule (treason and certain offences under the Official Secrets Acts 1911 to 1989);
 - (b) the firefighter member's pension has been commuted under rule 10 of Part 3; or
 - (c) the survivor's pension has been commuted under rule 5 of Part 4.

Information for authorities

3.—(1) An authority may by written notice require any person who is in receipt of a pension or may have an entitlement to a pension or a lump sum under this Scheme to provide the authority with such supporting evidence as the authority may reasonably require to establish—

- (a) the identity of that person; and
- (b) his continuing or future entitlement to the payment of any amount under this Scheme.

(2) A notice under paragraph (1) shall specify the date by which the supporting evidence is to be provided.

(3) Where a person fails to comply with the requirements of a notice given in accordance with paragraph (1), the authority may withhold the whole or part of any amount that they consider to be payable under the Scheme.

Annual benefit statements

4.—(1) An authority shall issue an annual benefit statement to each of their firefighter, deferred and pension credit members.

(2) The first such statements must be issued on or before 1st April 2007, and subsequent statements must be issued on or before each 1st April thereafter.

(3) An annual benefit statement shall contain an illustration of the amount of benefit entitlement, in respect of the rights that may arise under the Scheme, which—

- (a) has been accrued by the member at the relevant date, and
- (b) in the case of a firefighter member, is capable of being accrued by him if he remains in the Scheme until his normal retirement date.

(4) The illustration shall be calculated—

- (a) in the case of a firefighter member, on the member's pay (or, in the case of a part-time firefighter member, the whole-time equivalent) for the twelve-month period ending with the relevant date;
- (b) in the case of a deferred member, on the member's final pay; and
- (c) in the case of a pension credit member, in accordance with rule 1 of Part 6, as if he were to become entitled to the pension on his 65th birthday.

(5) For the purposes of this rule, the relevant date—

- (a) in the case of a pension credit member, is that of his 65th birthday;
- (b) in any other case, is 31st March of the period in respect of which the statement is issued, or such later date as the authority may choose.

Death of retained or volunteer firefighter before Firefighters' Pension Scheme (England) Order 2006 in force

5.—(1) This rule applies where a retained or volunteer firefighter dies on or after 6th April 2006 and before the Firefighters' Pension Scheme (England) Order 2006 comes into force.

(2) Chapters 1 and 2 of Part 4 of this Scheme (survivors' pensions), rule 1 of Part 5 of this Scheme (death grant) and rule 3 of Part 11 (pension contributions) shall have effect in respect of him as if—

- (a) he had become a member of this Scheme—
 - (i) where he was employed by an authority immediately before 6th April 2006, on that date,
 - (ii) in any other case, on the date on which he took up employment with the authority;
- (b) he had not made a contributions election; and
- (c) his qualifying service and his pensionable service began on whichever is the later of—
 - (i) the date on which he took up employment, and
 - (ii) 6th April 2006,and ended on the date of his death.

(3) Where—

- (a) in anticipation of the coming into force of this Scheme, he nominated a nominated partner, and
- (b) the nomination was received and accepted by the authority before he died.

his nominated partner shall be entitled to the same benefits under this Scheme as if the nomination had effect for the purposes of this Scheme.

(4) The authority shall deduct from the death grant payable by virtue of paragraph (2) the amount of the pension contributions that would have been payable under rule 3 of Part 11; and rule 1 of that Part shall have effect for determining his pensionable pay for that purpose.

(5) The authority shall notify the personal representatives of the amount deducted.

Death on or before 31st March 2007 of retained or volunteer firefighter employed before 6th April 2006

6.—(1) This rule applies where a retained or volunteer firefighter employed by an authority immediately before 6th April 2006 dies on or before 31st March 2007 without having made an election as to membership of this Scheme.

(2) Chapters 1 and 2 of Part 4 of this Scheme (survivors' pensions), rule 1 of Part 5 of this Scheme (death grant) and rule 3 of Part 11 (pension contributions) shall have effect in respect of him as if—

- (a) he had elected to become a member of this Scheme on 6th April 2006 and had not made a contributions election, and
- (b) his qualifying service and his pensionable service began on 6th April 2006 and ended on the date of his death.

(3) Where—

- (a) in anticipation of the coming into force of this Scheme, he nominated a nominated partner, and
- (b) the nomination was received and accepted by the authority before he died,

his nominated partner shall be entitled to the same benefits under this Scheme as if the nomination had effect for the purposes of this Scheme.

(4) The authority shall deduct from the death grant payable by virtue of paragraph (2) the amount of the pension contributions that would have been payable under rule 3 of Part 11; and rule 1 of that Part shall have effect for determining his pensionable pay for that purpose.

(5) The authority shall notify the personal representatives of the amount deducted.
Part 3, rule 2

ANNEX 1

ILL-HEALTH PENSIONS

1.—(1) Except in a case to which sub-paragraph (2) applies, the annual amount of the lower tier ill-health pension to which a person is entitled on ill-health retirement shall be calculated by multiplying his pensionable service by his final pensionable pay and dividing the resultant amount by 60.

(2) Where a person is subject to ill-health retirement, the annual amount of his lower tier ill-health pension shall be calculated by multiplying his pensionable service by his reference pay and dividing the resultant amount by 60.

(3) For the purposes of sub-paragraph (2), the pensionable service of a retained firefighter is the same proportion of whole-time service as that which his actual annual pensionable pay bears to his reference pay.

2. The annual amount of the higher tier ill-health pension of a whole-time firefighter shall be calculated in accordance with the formula—

$$A = \frac{2}{100} \times B \times \frac{C}{60}$$

where—

A is the pensionable service accrued in the Scheme before his ill–health retirement,

B is—

- (a) the pensionable service that he would have accrued from the date of his ill–health retirement until his normal retirement age had he continued to be a contributing member of the Scheme (his “prospective service”); or
- (b) if the aggregate of his actual pensionable service and his prospective service is more than 40 years, the difference between 40 years and his actual pensionable service, and

C is his final pensionable pay.

3. The annual amount of the higher tier ill–health pension of a member who—

- (a) is or has been a part-time employee, or
- (b) is a retained or volunteer firefighter,

shall be calculated in accordance with the formula—

$$A \times \frac{2}{100} + B \times \frac{1}{100} + C \times \frac{1}{100}$$

where—

A is the pensionable service accrued in the Scheme before his ill–health retirement,

B is his qualifying service,

C is the pensionable service that he would have accrued from the date of his ill–health retirement until his normal retirement age had he continued to be a contributing member of the Scheme as a whole-time employee, and

D—

- (i) in the case of a part-time firefighter, is the final pensionable pay that he would have received if he had been a whole-time employee throughout his period of employment;
- (ii) in the case of a retained or volunteer firefighter, is his final reference pay.

Part 8, rule 4

ANNEX 2

APPEALS TO BOARD OF MEDICAL REFEREES

1.—(1) Subject to sub–paragraph (2), written notice of appeal against a decision on an issue of a medical nature stating—

- (a) the appellant’s name and address, and
- (b) the grounds of the appeal,

must be given to the authority within 28 days of the date on which the appellant receives the documents referred to in rule 4(4) of Part 8; and where the appellant receives those documents on different dates, they shall be treated for this purpose as received on the later or latest of those dates.

(2) Where—

- (a) notice of appeal is not given within the period specified in sub–paragraph (1), but
- (b) the authority are of the opinion that the person’s failure to give it within that period was not due to his own default,

they may extend the period for giving notice to such length, not exceeding six months from the date mentioned in sub–paragraph (1), as they think fit.

2.—(1) On receiving a notice of appeal, the authority shall supply the Secretary of State with three copies of—

- (a) the notice of appeal,
- (b) the notice of the relevant decision,
- (c) the opinion, response or evidence (as the case may be) supplied to the appellant, and
- (d) every other document in their possession or under their control which appears to them to be relevant to the issue that is the subject of the appeal.

(2) The Secretary of State shall refer an appeal to a board of medical referees (“the board”).

3.—(1) The board shall consist of not less than three medical practitioners appointed by, or in accordance with arrangements made by, the Secretary of State.

(2) One member of the board shall be a specialist in a medical condition relevant to the appeal.

(3) One member of the board shall be appointed as chairman.

(4) Where there is an equality of votes among the members of the board, the chairman shall have a second or casting vote.

4.—(1) As soon as reasonably practicable after referring an appeal to the board, the Secretary of State shall supply the board’s administrator with three copies of every document supplied under paragraph 2(1).

(2) The board shall arrange for one of their number to review those documents (“the reviewing member”).

(3) As soon as reasonably practicable after concluding the review, the reviewing member shall give written notice to the Secretary of State—

- (a) of any other information which the reviewing member considers would be desirable for the purpose of enabling the board to determine the appeal, and
- (b) if it be the case, that it is his opinion that the board may regard the appeal as frivolous, vexatious or manifestly ill-founded.

(4) On receipt of the reviewing member’s notice the Secretary of State shall—

- (a) where the reviewing member has notified the Secretary of State of the desirability of obtaining other information, require the authority to use their best endeavours to obtain that information, and
- (b) where the notice contains an opinion of the description mentioned in sub-paragraph (3) (b), send a copy of it to the authority.

(5) An authority which receives a copy of a reviewing member’s opinion shall, as soon as reasonably practicable—

- (a) send a copy of it to the appellant, and
- (b) by written notice to the appellant—
 - (i) advise him that, if his appeal is unsuccessful, he may be required to pay the authority’s costs, and
 - (ii) require him to notify them, within 14 days of the date of their notice, whether he intends to pursue or withdraw the appeal.

(6) An authority which notifies an appellant under sub-paragraph (5)(b) shall inform the Secretary of State of the appellant’s response to their request under paragraph (b)(ii); and the Secretary of State shall notify the board accordingly.

5. Where an appeal is to be pursued, the board shall secure that the appellant and the authority (“the parties”) have been informed—

- (a) that the appeal is to be determined by the board, and
- (b) of an address to which communications relating to the appeal may be delivered to the board.

6.—(1) Subject to sub-paragraph (4), the board—

- (a) shall interview and medically examine the appellant at least once, and
- (b) may interview or medically examine him or cause him to be interviewed or medically examined on such further occasions as the board thinks necessary for the purpose of determining the appeal.

(2) The board shall appoint, and give the parties not less than two months’ notice of, the time and place for every interview and medical examination; and if the board is satisfied that the appellant is unable to travel, the place shall be the appellant’s place of residence.

(3) The appellant shall attend at the time and place appointed for any interview and medical examination by the board or any member of the board or any person appointed by the board for that purpose.

(4) If—

- (a) the appellant fails to comply with sub-paragraph (3), and
- (b) the board is not satisfied that there was reasonable cause for the failure,

the board may dispense with the interview and medical examination required by paragraph (1)(a) or, as the case may be, with any further interview or medical examination, and may determine the appeal on such information as is then available.

(5) Any interview under this paragraph may be attended by persons appointed for the purpose by the authority or by the appellant or by each of them.

7.—(1) Where either party intends to submit written evidence or a written statement at an interview held under paragraph 6, the party shall, subject to sub-paragraph (2), submit the evidence or statement to the board and to the other party not less than 28 days before the date appointed for the interview.

(2) Where any written evidence or statement has been submitted under sub-paragraph (1) less than 28 days before the date appointed for the interview, any written evidence or statement in response may be submitted by the other party to the board and the party submitting the first-mentioned evidence or statement at any time up to, and including, that date.

(3) Where any written evidence or statement is submitted in contravention of sub-paragraph (1), the board may postpone the date appointed for the interview and require the party who submitted the evidence or statement to pay such reasonable costs of the board and of the other party as arise from the postponement.

8.—(1) The board shall supply the Secretary of State with—

- (a) a written report of its decision on the relevant medical issues, and
- (b) if the board is of the opinion that the appeal was frivolous, vexatious or manifestly ill-founded, a statement to that effect (which may form part of the report).

(2) The Secretary of State shall supply the parties with a copy of the report and of any separate statement under paragraph (1)(b).

9.—(1) There shall be paid to the board and the reviewing member—

- (a) such fees and allowances (including those payable to the reviewing member for work undertaken on the review of documents under paragraph 4(2)) as are determined in accordance with arrangements made by the Secretary of State, or
 - (b) where no such arrangements have been made, such fees and allowances as the Secretary of State may from time to time determine.
- (2) The fees and allowances payable under sub-paragraph (1) shall—
- (a) be paid by the authority, and
 - (b) be treated for the purposes of paragraph 10 as part of the authority's expenses.

10.—(1) Subject to paragraph 7(3) and sub-paragraphs (2) to (5) below, the expenses of each party to the appeal shall be borne by that party.

- (2) Where the board—
- (a) determines an appeal in favour of the authority, and
 - (b) states that, in its opinion, the appeal was frivolous, vexatious or manifestly ill-founded,
- the authority may require the appellant to pay them such sum, not exceeding the total amount of the fees and allowances payable to the board under paragraph 9(1), as the authority think fit.
- (3) Where—
- (a) the appellant gives notice to the board withdrawing the appeal, and
 - (b) the notice is given less than 22 working days before the date appointed for an interview or medical examination under paragraph 6(2),

the authority may require the appellant to pay them such sum, not exceeding the total amount of the fees and allowances payable to the board under paragraph 9(1), as the authority think fit.

- (4) Where the board—
- (a) determines an appeal in favour of the appellant, and
 - (b) does not otherwise direct,

the authority shall refund to the appellant the amount specified in sub-paragraph (5).

- (5) The amount is the total of—
- (a) any personal expenses actually and reasonably incurred by the appellant in respect of any interview under paragraph 6, and
 - (b) if any such interview was attended by a qualified medical practitioner appointed by the appellant, any fees and expenses reasonably paid by the appellant in respect of such attendance.

(6) For the purposes of sub-paragraphs (2) and (4) any question arising as to whether the board's determination is in favour of the authority or of the appellant shall be decided by the board or, in default, by the Secretary of State.

11. Any notice, information or document which an appellant is entitled to receive for any purpose of this Annex shall, unless the contrary is proved, be treated as having been received by him if it was posted in a letter addressed to him at his last known place of residence.

SCHEDULE 2

Article 3(3)(a)(i)

TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

Regular firefighters who became members of the 1992 scheme on or after 6th April 2006

1.—(1) The following provisions of this paragraph apply in relation to regular firefighters who became members of the 1992 Scheme on or after 6th April 2006 and before the coming into force of this Order.

(2) Where, before the coming into force of this Order, the firefighter made an election under rule G3 of the 1992 Scheme (election not to pay pension contributions), that election shall be treated on and after the coming into force of this Order as an election under rule 5 of Part 2 of the New Firefighters' Pension Scheme (England) (referred to in this Schedule as "the new scheme").

(3) The period of the firefighter's service as a member of the 1992 Scheme shall be treated as a period of qualifying service under rule 1(a) of Part 10 of the new scheme.

(4) The period of the firefighter's pensionable service accrued under the 1992 Scheme shall be treated as pensionable service accrued under rule 2(1)(a) of Part 10 of the new scheme.

(5) Where, on or after 6th April 2006, the fire and rescue authority accepted a transfer value in respect of the firefighter under rule F7 (receipt of transfer value) of the 1992 Scheme—

- (a) the amount accepted shall be treated as a transfer value payment accepted under rule 10 of Chapter 3 of Part 12 of the new scheme, irrespective of paragraphs (2) and (3) of rule 2 of Part 10, and
- (b) rule 11 of Chapter 3 of Part 12 shall apply as if, for paragraph (2), there were substituted—

“(2) For the purposes of that calculation, the member's pensionable earnings are to be taken to be the amount of those earnings as at the date on which the transfer value payment is received.”.

Options for active members of the 1992 Scheme

2.—(1) Sub-paragraph (2) applies in relation to each person who—

- (a) was a member of the 1992 Scheme both before 6th April 2006 and immediately before the coming into force of this Order, and
- (b) was not at any time before the coming into force of this Order in receipt of a pension or entitled to a deferred pension under that Scheme.

(2) A fire and rescue authority shall, not later than 31st January 2007, give to each person to whom this sub-paragraph applies a written statement—

- (a) of the pensionable service that the authority would treat the person as having accrued in the new scheme (calculated in accordance with paragraph 3) if he were to elect to transfer his accrued rights under the 1992 Scheme to the new scheme, and
- (b) that, if he wishes to make that election, he must do so by written notice to the authority not later than 31st March 2007.

(3) A person's notice under sub-paragraph (2)(b) must state—

- (a) the date, which may be either 6th April 2006 or such later date as he specifies in the notice, on which he wishes to be treated as becoming a member of the new scheme, and
- (b) whether he wishes—
 - (i) to retain his accrued rights in the 1992 Scheme. or
 - (ii) to transfer those rights, subject to paragraph 3, to the new scheme.

(4) A fire and rescue authority must not accept a person's election to transfer his accrued rights if the aggregate of—

- (a) his pensionable service treated as accrued as mentioned in sub-paragraph (2)(a), and
- (b) his prospective pensionable service, on the assumption that he continues to be a member of the new scheme until he reaches the age of 60,

would exceed 45 years by the time of his 60th birthday.

(5) Where a fire and rescue authority accept a person's election to transfer his accrued rights, they shall—

- (a) within 28 days after the date on which they receive his notice under sub-paragraph (2)(b), make all the arrangements necessary to give effect to that election, and
- (b) within 28 days of making those arrangements, supply him with a written statement of the pensionable service credited in the new scheme in consequence of the transfer of his accrued rights.

(6) A person whose election to transfer his accrued rights has been accepted shall be treated—

- (a) where 6th April 2006 is specified in his notice under sub-paragraph (2)(b), as having ceased to be a member of the 1992 Scheme on 5th April 2006,
- (b) where a date later than 6th April 2006 is specified in his notice under sub-paragraph (2)(b), as having ceased to be a member of the 1992 Scheme on the day before that later date, and
- (c) as having become a member of the new scheme on the day after that on which he is treated as having ceased to be a member of the 1992 Scheme.

(7) Where a person is treated as becoming a member of the new scheme on 6th April 2006—

- (a) pensionable service that he accrued in the 1992 Scheme on and after that date shall be disregarded for the purposes of the 1992 Scheme,
- (b) his pensionable and qualifying service on and after that date shall be treated as having accrued in the new scheme, and
- (c) the authority shall refund to him the amount of the difference between the pension contributions—
 - (i) that he made, as a member of the 1992 Scheme, in respect of the period beginning on 6th April 2006 and ending on the date on which all necessary arrangements to give effect to his election have been made, and
 - (ii) that he would have made, as a member of the new scheme, in respect of that period.

(8) In the case of a person mentioned in sub-paragraph (6)(b) who specifies in his notice under sub-paragraph (2)(b) a date later than 6th April 2006, sub-paragraph (7) shall apply as if—

- (a) references to 6th April 2006 (in whatever terms) were references to that later date; and
- (b) where that later date is on or after the coming into force of this Order, paragraph (c) were omitted.

(9) Where a person in relation to whom sub-paragraph (2) applies had elected under rule G6 of the 1992 Scheme to purchase increased benefits—

- (a) his election under that rule shall, notwithstanding paragraph (5)(b) of that rule, be treated as revoked with effect from 6th April 2006 or, where he specifies a later date in his notice under paragraph (2)(b), that later date,
- (b) nothing in paragraph (a) shall affect his entitlement to make an election under rule 6 of Chapter 2 of Part 11 of the new scheme (election to purchase additional service), and

- (c) for the purposes of rule 5(4) of that Chapter, the calculation under sub-paragraph (a) or, as the case may be, the determination under sub-paragraph (b), shall be made on the basis of his age at the time of his election under rule G6 of the 1992 Scheme.

Calculation of transferred-in pensionable service

3. For the purposes of calculating the pensionable service that a person is treated as having accrued in the new scheme on the transfer of his accrued rights under the 1992 Scheme, fire and rescue authorities—

- (a) shall have regard to guidance and tables provided by the Scheme Actuary for the purposes of this Schedule, and
- (b) shall disregard Chapter 3 of Part 12 of the new scheme (transfers into the Scheme).

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Order)

This Order makes provision for a new pension scheme for and in respect of firefighters employed by fire and rescue authorities in England (“the new Scheme”). The new Scheme, which is set out in Schedule 1 to the Order, has effect from 6th April 2006 and replaces the Firefighters’ Pension Scheme set out in Schedule 2 to the Firemen’s Pension Scheme Order 1992 (“the 1992 Scheme”). Power to give the new Scheme retrospective effect is conferred by section 34 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004.

Part 1 of the new Scheme contains general introductory provisions, including definitions of terms used in the Scheme.

The new Scheme is available to all firefighters employed by fire and rescue authorities in England, whether whole-time or part-time and whether regular, retained or volunteer, who satisfy one of the eligibility conditions set out in Part 2 of the Scheme. Part 2 also deals with other classes of membership of the Scheme.

Part 3 makes provision for the payment of pensions to firefighter members. It introduces Annex 1, which provides for the calculation of ill-health pensions.

Part 4 deals, in Chapter 1, with pensions for surviving spouses, civil partners and nominated partners and, in Chapter 2, with pensions for children.

Part 5 provides for the payment of death grants and post-retirement death grants.

Part 6 deals with pension-sharing on divorce.

Part 7 contains provisions relevant to firefighters who serve in the armed forces.

Part 8, to which Annex 2 to the Scheme is relevant, provides for the determination of questions and appeals arising under the Scheme.

Part 9 deals with the review, withdrawal and forfeiture of awards.

Part 10 contains provisions about qualifying service and pensionable service.

Part 11 deals with pensionable pay, pension contributions and the purchase of additional service.

Part 12 provides for transfers into and out of the Scheme.

Part 13 deals with the accounting aspects of the Scheme, including the operation of each fire and rescue authority's Firefighters' Pension Fund for that purpose.

Part 14 provides for the payment of awards.

Part 15 contains miscellaneous provisions, including provisions about annual benefit statements (rule 4).

The new Scheme differs from the 1992 Scheme in the following major respects:

- (a) it is open to retained and volunteer firefighters as well as regular firefighters;
- (b) pensions can be paid to a nominated partner as well as a spouse or civil partner;
- (c) the normal retirement age will be 60; under the 1992 Scheme it is 55 (with some exceptions);
- (d) the age at which deferred pensions will normally be paid will be 65; under the 1992 Scheme it is 60;
- (e) firefighter members may request early payment of pension from age 55, subject to actuarial reduction;
- (f) fire and rescue authorities may for economical, effective and efficient management reasons pay pensions from age 55 without actuarial reduction; under the 1992 Scheme, payment could be made in similar circumstances from age 50 provided that the firefighter had at least 25 years' pensionable service;
- (g) pension will accrue at 1/60th per year. A firefighter member will be able to accrue more than 40 years' pensionable service;
- (h) a firefighter member will be able to commute up to a quarter of his pension for a lump sum and there will be a single commutation factor regardless of age or sex with each £1 of pension commuted providing a lump sum of £12;
- (i) enhancements for the higher tier ill-health retirement pension will be based on a formula where accrued pensionable service is increased by 2% and then multiplied by the amount of prospective service to the normal retirement age. This will ensure that enhancements are more evenly graduated than under the 1992 Scheme;
- (j) where a firefighter member is subject to a reduction in pay because of a change in role he will qualify for a split pension. At the point of reduction the first pension will be closed and therefore based on the higher pay rate and a new pension started. When the member retires both pensions will be payable;
- (k) the death grant when a firefighter member dies in service will be three times pensionable pay at the date of death; under the 1992 Scheme it is two times pensionable pay;
- (l) any pension paid to an adult survivor who is 12 or more years younger than the firefighter member will be reduced by 2.5% for every year or part year above the 12 years, up to maximum of 50%; there is no such restriction under the 1992 Scheme;
- (m) the member's contribution rate will be 8.5%; under the 1992 Scheme, for members who joined before 6th April 2006, the rate was 11%.

Service transferred from the 1992 Scheme will be transferred at a special rate up to and including 31st March 2007.

A full regulatory impact assessment has not been produced for this Order, as it has no impact on the costs of business, charities or voluntary bodies.