

# *Firefighters' Pension Scheme Circular*

<b>Circular Number:</b>	FPSC 9/2008	<b>Date Issued:</b>	16/12/2008
<b>Action:</b>	For Information and action		
<b>Title:</b>	<i>Firefighters' Pension Scheme: Guaranteed Minimum Pension (GMP)</i>		
<b>Issued by:</b>	Martin Hill Local Government and Firefighters' Pensions Division		

<b>Summary:</b>	This circular provides briefing for FRAs on a Ministerial statement about GMP overpayments in some public service pension schemes and recommends that checks be made that appropriate systems are in place to ensure that this does not happen with firefighters' pensions.
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<b>Addressed to:</b>	<b>Please Forward to:</b>
The Clerk to the Fire and Rescue Authority  The Chief Fire Officer	Pension and human resources managers

### **Enquiries:**

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*Firefighters' Pension Scheme Website: [www.communities.gov.uk/firepensions](http://www.communities.gov.uk/firepensions)*

## 1. Ministerial written statement.

- 1.1 A copy of a letter sent today to members of the Firefighters' Pension Committee is attached, together with its enclosures.
- 1.2 The Ministerial written statement enclosed with the letter sets out problems which have been found to have occurred in some public service pensions schemes which have resulted in a small proportion of retired scheme members being overpaid.
- 1.3 We are satisfied that there is no systemic problem with firefighters' pension arrangements and that fire and rescue authorities should have in place appropriate systems for checking entitlement to a Guaranteed Minimum Pension (GMP) before any Scheme member reaches State pension age. Where any adjustments are necessary these are made promptly.
- 1.4 However, fire and rescue authorities will wish to be satisfied that appropriate systems are in place to ensure that GMPs are correctly paid and that these are working effectively.
- 1.5 Any scheme administrator wishing to confirm the level of GMP liability can do so via the Accrued GMP Liability Service (AGLS), details of which can be obtained from the HMRC website at <http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/nic/enquiry-service.htm> , or by contacting Richard Crerar on 0191 2250164, or Paul Malcolm on 0191 2250259.



Martin Hill

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