

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

PENSION BOARD

10 SEPTEMBER 2019

PENSION SECTION SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1. **WEST MIDLANDS FIRE SERVICE FIREFIGHTERS' PENSION SCHEMES MEMBERSHIP AS AT 31 August 2019**

Active Firefighters	1,401	(+3)
1992 Scheme members	173	(-20)
2006 Scheme members	7	(-1)
2015 scheme members	1,088	(+45)
Non-members	154	(+11)
Pensioners	2,177	(+24)
Dependants	401	(+6)

The figures in brackets indicate movement since 30 April 2019.

2. **ANNUAL ACTIVITY LEVELS**

2.1 During the last twelve months (01/09/2018 to 31/08/2019) the following levels of activity have been experienced:-

Age Related Retirements	74	(+3)
Ill Health Retirements	6	(+1)
Opt outs	60	(+32)
Other leavers	43	(+3)
New joiners	88	(-19)
Applications to transfer in/out	29	(-6)

The figures in brackets indicate movement since 30 April 2019.

- 2.2 The section has also processed the requests shown in the table below and achieved the levels of performance shown.

Request type	Received	Average Response time in days
Benefit Estimate	91 (-18)	75 (+36)
CETV for Divorce	16 (-3)	48 (-18)
General Information	39 (-25)	17 (-18)

The timely issuing of Annual Benefit Statements last year along with an increased understanding of the scheme by members may be the reason for the reduction in activity levels. The queries being received are now more complex in nature and this is driving an increase in response times.

3. **INTERNAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCEDURE (IDRP)**

Two further cases have progressed to IDRP since the last Board meeting. Both cases relate to the treatment of pay during temporary promotion. In both cases the members dispute has been rejected. One member has submitted an appeal. The other has not yet, but is still within time to do so.

4. **OPT OUT LEVELS AND REASONS**

During the 12 months ending 31 August 2019, 60 members opted out of the Firefighters' Pension schemes. These are primarily as a result of Auto-enrolment, which took place on 1 June 2019.

The primary reason for members leaving the scheme still appears to be cost. This is particularly noticeable amongst new recruits, who tend to have taken a drop in pay to become Firefighters. These staff are telling us that they will rejoin the scheme on becoming qualified.

Paul Gwynn
Payroll and Pensions Manager