

# **WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

## **PENSION BOARD**

**4 JUNE 2019**

### **PENSION SECTION SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

#### **1. WEST MIDLANDS FIRE SERVICE FIREFIGHTERS' PENSION SCHEMES MEMBERSHIP AS AT 30 APRIL 2019**

Active Firefighters	1,398	(-7)
1992 Scheme members	193	(-56)
2006 Scheme members	8	(-1)
2015 scheme members	1,043	(+39)
Non-members	154	(+11)
Pensioners	2,177	(+24)
Dependants	401	(+6)

The figures in brackets indicate movement since 31<sup>st</sup> October 2018.

#### **2. ANNUAL ACTIVITY LEVELS**

2.1 During the last twelve months (01/05/2018 to 30/04/2019) the following levels of activity have been experienced:-

Age Related Retirements	71	(+10)
Ill Health Retirements	5	(No change)
Opt outs	28	(+2)
Other leavers	40	(+32)
New joiners	107	(+3)
Applications to transfer in/out	35	(+4)

The figures in brackets indicate movement since 31<sup>st</sup> October 2018.

- 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	109 (-4)	39 (+4)
CETV for Divorce	19 (-8)	66 (+15)
General Information	64 (-27)	35 (+6)

Following a change to the SCAPE rate the calculation of CETVs for divorce cases was placed on hold. This has resulted in an increase in response times as anticipated. The increase however does not take the average response time outside our target value.

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 will be the driver for the lengthening of the response times.

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

Two further cases have progressed to IDRP since the last Board meeting. An update regarding all cases over the last two years will be provided to the next Board meeting.

4. **OPT OUT LEVELS AND REASONS**

During the 6 months ending 30<sup>th</sup> April 2019, 12 members opted out of the Firefighters' Pension schemes. Of those opting out 9 of these were male. The average age at opt out was 32 and the average length of service was 3 years 242 days. The mean average salary at opt out was £26,562. Of those choosing to opt out only 1 did so within the first three months of joining the scheme.

As requested by the board some further information was gathered on those members opting out and it can be seen that three members worked at the same station, Kings Norton. We have contacted these three members directly to ascertain whether any further underlying link can be found.

We have also contacted the remaining opt out members with the same set of questions used previously and this will continue to take place for all opt outs going forward.

Paul Gwynn  
Payroll and Pensions Manager