



The Fire Brigades Union

GENERAL SECRETARY: MATT WRACK

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29th April 2013

Brandon Lewis MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
Communities and Local Government
Eland House
Bressenden Place
London
SW1E 5DU

By email: brandon.lewis@communities.gsi.gov.uk

Dear Brandon,

ACCESS TO MODIFIED PENSION SCHEME FOR RETAINED FIREFIGHTERS

We have raised the issue of Retained Firefighters gaining access to the Modified Pension Scheme on numerous occasions over recent months.

I wrote to your predecessor Bob Neill on this issue and received written assurance on 22 July 2011, that everything possible would be done to enable the order to be implemented by the end of 2011. We were subsequently informed that the target implementation date had encountered further slippage and that the new date for implementation would be April 2012.

Despite your numerous assurances the Modified Pension Scheme has not been implemented and we have no firm idea as to when it will be.

We have previously raised our serious concerns that your department has not committed the appropriate level of resources necessary to ensure the implementation of this Order within the previously outlined timescales. We have made clear that the department responsible is focussing its resources on the Government's proposals to worsen public sector pension arrangements and neglecting its obligation to implement this Order.

Despite seemingly endless verbal assurances from members of the department this remains the case.

We share the views of our members who have been very patient but are extremely angry and frustrated by these continual delays and seemingly worthless assurances.

It is appalling that the Government continues to rush ahead with ill-thought and detrimental changes to our members pensions but cannot find the time or resources to implement an improvement which was won through Court action by the FBU on behalf of our Retained members. We frequently hear words of praise from Government about the value placed on the contribution made by Retained Firefighters. Such praise would have a little more credibility if you actually implemented these changes required by law.

I trust that you will recognise the unacceptable delays that have taken place on this matter and give it your urgent attention.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Wrack', with a stylized, cursive script.

MATT WRACK
General Secretary

SS/EMH