



# The Fire Brigades Union

GENERAL SECRETARY: MATT WRACK

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Mr. Edwin Poots - MLA,  
Minister for the Department of Health,  
Social Services and Public Safety

By email: [edwin@edwinpoots.co.uk](mailto:edwin@edwinpoots.co.uk)

Dear Edwin,

## **ACCESS TO MODIFIED PENSION SCHEME FOR RETAINED FIREFIGHTERS**

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

You may be aware that I wrote to the previous Fire Minister in England, 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 all the assurances the Modified Pension Scheme has not been implemented and we have no firm proposal as to when it will be.

We have recently written again to DCLG to raise our serious concerns that the relevant department has not committed the appropriate level of resources necessary to ensure the implementation of this Order within the previously outlined timescales.

We have previously expressed our views that the DCLG is focussing its resources on the proposals to worsen public sector pension arrangements and neglecting its obligation to implement this Order.

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

We are extremely concerned that RDS Firefighters in Northern Ireland have not had the opportunity to access the scheme. I am unaware of any measures you have taken to

address the delays that mean that RDS Firefighters in Northern Ireland are being prevented from taking up their legal right to access this scheme.

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 extremely frustrating that you are acceding to these delays while committing resources to working to implement badly thought out and detrimental changes that will undermine and attack our members pension rights.

I am sure you will recognise that you have a responsibility towards RDS Firefighters in Northern Ireland and must insist that you act to prevent the continuation of the delays.

I trust that 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

Cc Jim Barbour

SS/EMH