



Department for  
Communities and  
Local Government

Mr John Bruce  
[REDACTED]

Our Ref: 034124/13

Your Ref:

6 December 2013

Dear Mr Bruce,

Thank you for your letter of 7 November addressed to the Rt Hon Theresa May MP, the Home Secretary, about the firefighters' pension scheme. Your letter has been passed to the Department for Communities and Local Government to respond to as the Department responsible for policy on firefighter pensions in England.

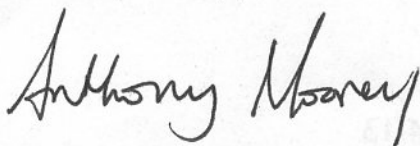
In your letter you have referred to a particular incident where the Lancashire Fire and Rescue Authority (LFRS) made the decision to require one of its firefighters to retire early with an ordinary pension. You have set out that it is your view that the individual's retirement had been caused by a qualifying injury and, as such, should have entitled him to payment of an enhanced ill-health pension and compensatory injury award. You have also suggested that this practice may affect other former employees of the LFRS.

There are currently two firefighters' pension schemes in operation in England, namely the Firefighters' Pension Scheme 1992 and the New Firefighters' Pension Scheme 2006. Whilst the Department has responsibility for the policy framework and legislation of both these schemes, it does not have any involvement in the administration of member pensions. Each employing fire and rescue authority is directly responsible for the local administration of the pensions in respect of the firefighters they employ, and for implementing the rules of the firefighter pension schemes, and to seek legal advice where they think it necessary.

You should be aware that there are established internal established internal disputes resolution procedures for dealing with a dispute between an individual and their employer on pension related issues. In the case where the individual remains dissatisfied with the outcome, they will have a further option of referring their case to the Pensions Ombudsman. LFRS should be able to provide any member of the scheme with details of the process on request.

The Department for Communities and Local Government has no role in the dispute resolution procedures and, in the event that the matter gets referred to the Pensions Ombudsman, it would be inappropriate for me to comment further on this issue.

Yours sincerely,



**Anthony Mooney**