

For info

The story has broken in the local media (lancashire evening post) but may go national. When are we likely to receive response from Martin Hill/DCLG on scheme administration issues raised by LFRS

Brendan Hamilton

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From: SHQ- Stacey, Kathy  
Sent: 06 March 2008 16:05  
To: LFRS0- All Users  
Subject: Injury pension overpayments

Colleagues,

Some of you may be aware of the story in today's Lancashire Evening Post which refers to some work the service is carrying out to investigate the over-payment of injury pensions. While the news has "broken" in Preston, the issue affects our pensioners living across the county (and further afield). It may therefore become of interest to the wider media. The following quote is provided to you for background information and will be issued to the wider media if we are asked for it. Please can I request that if anyone receives any enquiries from the media about this issue that they refer the journalist to either myself or John Taylor in Corporate Communications.

Many thanks

Kathy Stacey  
Head of Corporate Communications

### Injury pension overpayments

"When a firefighter retires with an injury pension, the part of the pension relating to the injury can vary depending on the amount of money received through incapacity benefits paid by the Department of Work and Pensions. The onus is on the individual to notify the pension provider of any changes in the level of incapacity benefits paid.

"We have written to 167 people to ask for their permission to contact the DWP to request details of the benefits they are paid. 163 replied positively to this request and only four refused to give us the authorisation we needed to investigate their circumstances.

"As a result of the on-going work we have found that out of the 125 completed reviews, eight people have been UNDER paid, 87 people have been paid correctly and 30 have been over paid. The total amount of overpayments is £400K

"Whilst appreciating that this puts these people in a difficult position, we are talking about tax payer's money. While we will make every effort to deal sensitively with people who have been over-paid, we are committed to providing a value for money service and that means making sure that we manage our finances for the wider benefit of the community".

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