



**Northern Ireland
Fire & Rescue Service**

PENSION TRANSFERS

Firefighters' Pension Scheme

Information Leaflet

Preparing for your future.

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with us using the links below.**

#STOPFire

The purpose of this leaflet is to give members of the Firefighters' Pension Scheme a basic understanding of the rules around transfers in and out of the pension scheme.

As the final salary schemes are now closed, the rules in this leaflet relate to the **CARE** scheme.

The statutory rules are the legal basis of the scheme. You should note that nothing in this leaflet can override the rules. In the event of any difference, the rules will apply.

We have tried to use as little jargon as possible. Where we have had to use technical terms, they appear in bold and are explained in the Glossary at the back of the leaflet.

What is a pension transfer?

A pension transfer is when you move your pension from one pension provider to another pension provider.

You may decide to transfer your pension if you change employer and want to move your pension funds from your old workplace pension scheme to the one of your new employer.

You may also decide to transfer pension from a personal pension.

Types of transfer into the Firefighters' Pension Scheme

You can transfer pension benefits from:

1. Another occupational or workplace pension scheme i.e. from a previous employment
2. A personal pension scheme

The public sector transfer club

The Public Sector Transfer Club, also known as the Club, allows easier movement of employees and their pensions from one employer to another. These are mainly within the public sector but some private sector schemes can participate.

The Club means those who move between Club schemes can transfer their pension on special terms, so they will receive a similar amount of pension in their new scheme.

Any part of a club transfer value payment from another scheme that relates to a members final salary benefit must be paid into the NFPS.

Transfers from another UK Fire & Rescue Service

In order to avail of Club transfer terms for the transfer of benefits from another UK Fire & Rescue Service, you should adhere to the deadlines for Club transfers.

If you transfer FPS or NFPS benefits from a UK Fire & Rescue Service under club terms, they will be paid into the equivalent FPS or NFPS schemes in NIFRS.

Transfers from another UK Fire & Rescue Service under non-Club terms is treated as a transfer of an Occupational Pension on Standard Terms and there is no restriction on transfer timeframes.

Deadlines

The deadlines to process a transfer into the Firefighters' Pension Scheme are:

Occupational Pension on Club Transfer terms	12 months of joining NIFRS
Occupational Pension on Standard terms	No restriction
Non-occupational i.e. Personal Pension	12 months of joining the pension scheme

The deadline applies to the date on which you give final instruction to NIFRS to accept a transfer from another scheme. You should allow time for each scheme to prepare transfer quotations. Final instruction cannot be given to NIFRS until quotations have been prepared.

It is advisable to commence this process as early as possible to avoid the risk of breaching the deadlines.

Transfers cannot be progressed in the year before you reach **Normal Pension Age**.

How do I progress a transfer into the Firefighters' Pension Scheme?

If you would like to request an estimate of the pension benefits that a transfer value would buy in the Firefighters' Pension Scheme you should complete Form SC165 which is available on the HSC Pension Service website.

Completed forms should be forwarded to HSC Pension Service (contact details at the end of this leaflet).

Transfers out of the Firefighters' Pension Scheme

NIFRS is restricted from allowing transfers to occupational or personal pension schemes that offer **flexible benefits**.

If you want to transfer your benefits out of the Firefighters' Pension Scheme you should contact your new employer or pension provider and follow their transfer process.

Your questions answered about transfers

Can I transfer my NIFRS final salary pension into the NIFRS CARE scheme for example from the FPS or NFPS into CARE?

No. You cannot transfer pension from a **connected scheme**.

Glossary

CARE The Firefighters' Pension Scheme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 which is a defined benefit career average public sector pension scheme.

Connected Scheme is a scheme that makes provision in relation to firefighters within Northern Ireland

FPS The Firefighters' Pension Scheme Order (Northern Ireland) 2007 which is a defined benefit final salary public sector pension scheme.

NFPS The New Firefighters' Pension Scheme Order (Northern Ireland) 2007 which is a defined benefit final salary public sector pension scheme.

Flexible benefits means money purchase or cash balance benefits.

Normal Pension Age under the **CARE** scheme is Age 55.

Contacting Us

For further information about transfers you can contact us at HSC Pension Service by a number of different methods:-

Post:

HSC Pension Service
Waterside House
75 Duke Street
LONDONDERRY
BT47 6FP

Tel: 028 7131 9111

Email:

NIFRSQueries@hscni.net

Website:

www.hscpensions.hscni.net