



Dear Member,

As part of the administration of your Injury Pension under the Firefighters' Compensation Scheme, the HSC Pension Scheme (on behalf of the Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service) has a legal obligation to ensure that you receive the correct level of Injury Award.

Under Schedule 1, Part 1.3 of the Scheme, certain social security benefits must be taken into account and may reduce the amount of Injury Pension payable. These benefits include:

- Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit
- Reduced Earnings Allowance
- Incapacity Benefit / Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Severe Disablement Allowance
- Disablement Gratuity

To ensure your award remains accurate, we carry out an annual review of relevant benefits, normally using updated information received each April. In addition, it is your responsibility to notify us immediately of any changes to these benefits throughout the year, including any increase, decrease, commencement, or cessation.

Important – Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)

At present, a formal data-sharing agreement is not in place which would allow us to obtain ESA information directly from the Department for Communities.

Therefore, in the interim, you are required to take action yourself to ensure we receive accurate ESA details. This may involve requesting confirmation of your ESA entitlement and providing this information to us when requested.

To help facilitate improved administration in the future, you are asked to complete and return the attached consent form. Once a data-sharing agreement is established, this consent will allow us to obtain ESA information directly on your behalf, reducing the need for you to provide this information manually.

What You Need to Do

- Inform us immediately of any changes to relevant benefits
- Provide ESA information when requested until further notice
- Complete and return the attached consent form

Your cooperation will help ensure that your Injury Pension is calculated correctly and that any overpayments or underpayments are avoided.

If you have any questions or require assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

**NIFRS Team
HSC Pension Service**



**Northern Ireland
Fire & Rescue Service**



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DECLARATION OF CONSENT

I hereby give my consent to allow HSC Pensions Service on behalf of Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service (NIFRS) to approach the Social Security Agency (SSA) in order to receive information relevant to the assessment of my correct entitlement to Injury Pension. I also give consent for the SSA to provide the necessary information.

I understand that this consent will be valid for a period of 2 years from the date of signature below.

SIGNATURE: _____ **DATE:** _____

PRINT NAME: _____

NATIONAL INSURANCE NO: _____

PENSION REFERENCE NUMBER: _____

CURRENT ADDRESS:

POSTCODE: _____

