

# Short guide to the Firefighters' Pension Scheme 2006



**East Sussex**  
Fire & Rescue Service

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### How is the 2006 Pension worked out?

To be eligible for a FPS 2006 pension you must have built up at least 3 months qualifying service.

### Final Pensionable pay

This is usually averaged over the last 365 days of service. However if either of the 2 previous yearly periods would produce a greater amount then the final pensionable pay from one of those could be substituted. This protects members against a reduction of pay in the later years of service.

### How is a pension calculated?

The FPS 2006 is a final salary scheme which means that your pension will be a proportion of your final pensionable pay. For each year of service you will receive final pensionable pay multiplied by 1/60th. Each day of pensionable service will count as 1/365th of 1/60th.

### What do I pay?

Your contribution rate is based upon your pensionable pay. Your employer also pays towards your retirement benefits.

### Strike

Replacing Strike contributions is a similar process to replacing contributions lost through other types of unpaid leave. If you decide to replace the lost pension you must pay back the employee's and the employer's contributions. Any election to pay back the contributions must be made within 6 months of the strike action.

### Leaving or opting out

#### Opting out

If you do not want to be a member of the FPS 2006 you can opt out at any time by giving a signed, opt out form to the relevant Fire & Rescue Service. You will have the option to transfer accrued rights to another pension arrangement or to take a deferred pension.

If you subsequently wish to re-join the Scheme, you will not be allowed to, as the Scheme is closed.

You may wish to obtain independent financial advice before you make a decision to opt-out.

### Deferred Pension

If you leave the FPS 2006, either to enter into another employment or because you have opted out of the scheme, you would be entitled to a deferred pension. A deferred pension comes into effect when a leaver has sufficient service to qualify for a pension but is not eligible for immediate payment as they are not old enough or not retiring on grounds of ill-health. A deferred pension would normally be put into payment at the age of 65. You could, however, request earlier payment at or after age 55.

### Pensions Transfers

As an alternate to a deferred pension, upon leaving the FPS 2006, you could request that your pension rights should be transferred to another pension arrangement. If you leave your employment with your current Fire & Rescue Service and transfer to another Fire Authority, provided there is no break in service between employments, you would remain a member of the FPS 2006. However, if you leave to take up employment as a firefighter in Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland, a transfer payment would be paid because different funding arrangements apply.

### Pension scams

There are some schemes that will let you access your pension before Normal Pension Age if you transfer it to them. These are called pension liberation scams or pension loans. Promises of early cash are likely to be false, and you could lose your pension savings and face serious tax consequences for taking an 'unauthorised' payment. You can find out more about pension liberation on [The Pension Regulator Website](#).