



Circular

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Title:	GAD Guidance for calculating Statutory Cash Equivalent Transfer Values – Special Members of the New Firefighters Pension Scheme 2007
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Issued by:	Cerys Myers Fire Services Branch
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Addressed to:	Please forward to:
Chief Fire Officers Chairs of Fire and Rescue Authorities Clerks to Fire and Rescue Authorities	Treasurers Pensions Officers

Summary
This circular provides actuarial guidance for Scheme Managers in relation to Statutory Cash Equivalent Transfer Values for special members of the New Firefighters Pension Scheme 2007.

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Introduction

1. The UK Government announced on 16 March 2016 a change in the SCAPE discount rate used for public service pension scheme calculations. As a result of the announcement, the Government Actuary has reviewed the factors used for member calculations under the firefighters' pension schemes.
2. This is not a devolved matter, and the Welsh Government cannot deal with queries about the Treasury's announcement. However, it directly affects firefighters' pension schemes and the rights of scheme members. As a result, the Welsh Government has issued revised guidance and factors under a number of circulars. For ease of reference, the circular references are listed below:-
 - W-FRSC(2016)04 - Firefighters' Pension Scheme 1992 – Review of Commutation Factors following the change in the SCAPE Discount Rate
 - W-FRSC(2016)11 - Firefighters (Wales) Pension Schemes – SCAPE Change Factor Review - Firefighters' Pension Scheme (1992)
 - W-FRSC(2016)12 - Firefighters (Wales) Pension Schemes – SCAPE Change Factor Review – New Firefighters Pension Scheme 2007
 - W-FRSC(2016)13 - Firefighters (Wales) Pension Schemes – SCAPE Change Factor Review – The Firefighters' Pension Scheme 2015 (Wales)

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3. The Firefighters' Pension Scheme (Wales) Amendment Order 2014 (SI 2014 No. 330 and 331) amended the 2007 Scheme to provide those employees who were employed in Wales as retained firefighters during the period from 1 July 2000 to 5 April 2006 with pension benefits – “special members” . .
4. The Government Actuary has updated the existing guidance and factors in relation to the New Firefighters' Pension Scheme 2007 Statutory Cash Equivalent Transfer Values through addenda as outlined in W-FRSC(2016)12.
5. The Addendum attached to this circular at Annex 1 relates to special members in the 2007 Scheme. It should be used in conjunction with “*New Firefighters' Pension Scheme 2006: Statutory Cash Equivalent Transfer Values*” and “*Addendum to GAD guidance note “New Firefighters' Pension Scheme 2006: Statutory Cash Equivalent Transfer Values*”.
6. It sets out the general method for assessing:
 - Calculation of a CETV for a special member who ceased purchasing benefits prior to the CETV calculation date
 - Calculation of a CETV for a special member who is paying periodic contributions as at the CETV calculation date

7. Please note that references within the Addendum to the '*New Firefighters' Pension Scheme (England)*' and the '*The Firefighters' Pension Scheme (England) Amendment Order 2014 (SI 2014 No. 445)*' may be taken to relate to the equivalent Welsh Statutory Instruments. Similarly the Guidance referred to in paragraph 5 above makes clear that references to the New Firefighter Pension Scheme 2006 may be taken as the New Firefighter Pension Scheme 2007 for Wales.
8. The Orders to introduce the modified scheme and amendments to firefighter pension schemes are:-
 - **WSI 2014/3242 (W.329) The Firefighters' Pension (Wales) Scheme (Amendment) Order 2014**
 - **WSI 2014/ 3254 (W.330) The Firefighters' Pension Scheme (Wales) (Amendment) Order 2014**
 - **WSI 2014/3256 (W.331) The Firefighters' Compensation Scheme (Wales) (Amendment) Order 2014**
9. If you have any queries in relation to the content of this circular, please e-mail fire@wales.gsi.gov.uk in the first instance. However, please note individual scheme members should not be directed to the Welsh Government. The Welsh Government does not hold the detailed records about career histories which are needed to respond to such queries.

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