**CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM**

**CONSULTATION on implementing the 2015 remedy for the firefighters’ pension schemes**

***1. Name/Organisation***

**Organisation Name**

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**Title**

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**Surname**

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**Forename**

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***2. Postal Address***

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| **Postcode**  | **Phone**  |  |
| **Email** |

***3. Permissions* - I am responding as…** (please complete either sections (a), (b) and (d) or sections (c) and (d):

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|  |  |  | **Individual** | **or** | **Group/Organisation** |  |  |  |
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| **(a)** | Do you agree to your response being made available to the public (in Scottish Government library and/or on the Scottish Government web site)?***Please state yes or no:***  |  | **(c)** | The name and address of your organisation ***will be*** made available to the public (in the Scottish Government library and/or on the Scottish Government web site). |
| **(b)** | Where confidentiality is not requested, we will make your responses available to the public on the following basis |  |  | Are you content for your ***response*** to be made available? |
|  | ***Please state yes to one of the following:***  |  |  | ***Please state yes or no: ……………***  |
|  | Yes, make my response, name and address all available | **..........** |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | ***or*** |  |  |  |  |
|  | Yes, make my response available, but not my name and address | **……...** |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | ***or*** |  |  |  |  |
|  | Yes, make my response and name available, but not my address | **………** |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **(d)** | We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?***Please state yes or no: ……………………………………….*** |

***4. About you***

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| I am responding …[ ]  as a member of the 1992 scheme (old scheme)[ ]  as a member of the 2006 scheme (new scheme)[ ]  as a member of the 2015 scheme (CARE scheme)[ ]  on behalf of an Employer Organisation[ ]  on behalf of a Trade Union/Staff Association[ ]  other (please specify) |

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| What is your gender? I am a woman [ ] I am a man [ ] Other [ ]  |

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| I am employed as…[ ]  a firefighter[ ]  I’m retired[ ]  other (please specify) |

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| What is your working pattern?I work part-time [ ] I work full- time [ ] Not applicable [ ]  |

**CONSULTATION COMMENTS**

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Please use this space to provide any comments on the amendments.

Question 1 - Immediate choice and Deferred choice – Do the proposals in this consultation achieve the policy intention of giving all eligible members a choice of retirement benefits for the remedy period?

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| Comments: |

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Question 2 - Remediable Service Statements (RSS) – Do the policy proposals in relation to scheme members’ receiving an RSS achieve what is required in the Public Service Pensions and Judicial Offices Act 2022 (PSPJOA 2022) and The Public Service Pensions (Exercise of Powers, Compensation and Information) Directions 2022 (PSP Directions 2022)?

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| Comments: |

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Question 3 - Deferred Choice - Does the proposed deferred choice (DC) RSS request timing of between six and 12 months from retirement, and the election period of 12 weeks from when the RSS is issued seem reasonable, in that it gives eligible members a suitable window to make a decision with consideration for the proximity to retirement and administrative requirements?

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| Comments: |

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Question 4 - Deferred Choice - Does the proposed deferred choice (DC) election period of 12 weeks from when the RSS is issued seem reasonable, in that it gives eligible decision-makers enough time to make a DC decision taking into account the administrative requirements and the emotional impact of bereavement?

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| Comments: |

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Question 5 - Deemed Election – Do you agree with the proposal for when and how a deemed election may be made? If not, please say why.

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| Comments: |

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Question 6 – Added pension – Do the policy proposals for members with added pension ensure that all eligible members are put in the same position?

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| Comments: |

Question 7 – Contributions correction – Do you agree with the proposal that eligible members who owe the scheme an amount for contributions can choose to pay the amount either as a lump sum, or in instalments over a set period, or to defer payment until benefit crystallisation?

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| Comments: |

Question 8 – Contributions - Do you agree with the proposal for scheme members who are entitled to a refund of remedy period contributions to be able to

 defer the repayment, to avoid having to repay it on retirement if they choose reformed scheme benefits?

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| Comments: |

Question 9 – Ill-health retirement – Does the proposal for ill health retired members meet the requirements in the PSPJOA 2022?

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| Comments: |

Question 10 – Contingent decisions – Do the proposals for contingent decisions adequately provide members with an opportunity to revisit pension-related decisions taken during the remedy period?

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| Comments: |

Question 11 – Divorce and dissolution – Do the proposals for the treatment of pension sharing align with the requirements of the PSPJOA 2022?

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| Comments: |

Question 12 – Survivor benefits and child pensions – Does the proposed “Child’s pension or allowance - guarantee” ensure that children are fairly treated in line with the requirements of the PSPJOA 2022?

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| Comments: |

Question 13 – Do you agree with the overall policy approach set out in the consultation to address the discrimination with the transitional protection arrangements?

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| Comments: |

Question 14 – Do you agree that overall, the draft regulations deliver the policy objectives and requirements set by the PSPJOA 2022?

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| Comments: |

Question 15 – Do the equalities considerations set out in the equalities analysis address the impact of the remedy on members with protected characteristics?

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| Comments: |

Question 16 – Do you have any other comments about this consultation?

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| Comments: |

Please e-mail your response to SPPAPolicy@gov.scot or send via mail to:

Firefighters’ Consultation (2015 Remedy)

SPPA Policy

7 Tweedside Park

Tweedbank

Galashiels

TD1 3TE

**The closing date for receipt of comments is 23 July 2023**