



Annual Benefit Statement– Information for members of the 2015 and Joint Membership Firefighters' Pension Scheme (FPS)

This factsheet has been prepared to support you to understand your Annual Benefit Statement (ABS). Your ABS will be issued by the Scheme Administrator, Dyfed Pension Fund (DPF) by the 31st August of each year if you are an active member.

What is an Annual Benefit Statement?

It is a legal requirement for pension administrators to provide active pension scheme members with an ABS. Your Annual Benefit Statement is a summary of your Fire Service Pension benefits up to 31 March.

In it, you'll find

Section 1 - Personal details including:

- name;
- date of birth;
- NI number;
- home address;
- marital status;
- current salary;
- current pension scheme start date.

The Firefighter Pension Scheme (FPS) 2015 start date will either show the date you moved into the 2015 scheme, the date you are expected to move into the 2015 scheme (taper protected member) or will be blank if you are a fully protected 1992 or 2007 scheme member.

Section 2 – Summary of total benefits as at 31 March, including:

- benefits accrued;
- death benefits; and
- nominated beneficiaries (if applicable).

The Death in Service Lump Sum and Annual Survivor Pension show the benefits payable had the member died on 31 March.

Members of the 2015 and Joint schemes may nominate. If a nomination has been received it is shown here.

Section 3 – Career Average Pension Benefits as at 31 March

Benefit calculations are based on pay figures supplied by NWFRS; it is important that you check the figure applied and contact NWFRS to report any perceived inaccuracies. This section shows:

- amount of Pension built up in the year;
- closing balance; and
- increase in cost of living.

This shows any effects of inflation on benefits already accrued.

Sections 4 to 6 (or section 4 only for FPS 2015 members)

The following Sections vary according to which pension scheme you are a member of. The ABS may provide the value of benefits payable from age 55 (reflecting, if applicable, any reductions for early retirement) and/or projections if you remain contributing to the Scheme until Normal Retirement Date (age 60).

Section 6 – Value of Pension Debits (section 5 for FPS 2015 members)

This section covers any pension debits; a pension debit is the amount by which the value of a member's rights under the scheme is reduced. A pension debit usually applies to a FPS member who is subject to a pension sharing order on divorcing their ex-spouse. The pension debits have been deducted from any of the benefits calculated in the ABS.

Section 7 – Annual Allowance details (section 6 for FPS 2015 members)

The Annual Allowance is set by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC). It is the amount your pension savings can increase in any one year without there being a tax charge payable.

Section 8 - Lifetime Allowance details (section 7 for FPS 2015 members)

The Lifetime Allowance is set by HMRC and is the total value of all pension benefits you can have without triggering an excess tax charge. Your statement shows the percentage of your Lifetime Allowance which is used up by your FPS pension. This percentage will need to be reported on retirement to any other pension provider you may have before you receive payment of that pension.

Section 9 – Service History details (section 8 for FPS 2015 members)

Who receives a statement?

Members who meet the following eligibility criteria:

- ***active members; or***

- ***active pension members (that means you have a pension in payment and are also contributing to the pension scheme).***

How will you receive your statement?

ABS' are uploaded onto the 'My Pension Online' (MPO) facility held on the administrator's website. Any members, who have elected to receive a hard copy, will receive the statement via post to their last known postal address.

<http://www.dyfedpensionfund.org.uk/local-government-pension-scheme/members/my-pension-online/>

As such, it's very important that NWFRS always holds your up to date home address. If you've recently changed address or do so in the future, be sure to update the self-service screen on MPO and inform NWFRS in writing as soon as possible.

When will you receive your statement?

Your ABS will be available via the 'My Pension Online' facility by 31 August every year. If you elected to continue receiving hard copies of the document, it will be distributed by the same date.

What do you need to do with your statement?

It's important that you check all the information in your statement carefully and make sure that both the personal details and pension scheme information are correct.

Model your future

You can use your ABS to find out if your pension is on track to deliver the retirement you want.

In conjunction with your ABS, the 'My Pensions Online' (MPO) modeller will enable you to:

- Produce estimates based upon different retirement options
- Compare results to see which retirement option suits you best
- Print the results for your records

What should I do if I do not understand the information contained in my Annual Benefit Statement?

Support available to help you

Notes of Guidance are also issued with your ABS; here you'll find further information which will help you to understand your pension benefits and how they're calculated.

In addition, some frequently asked questions follow below.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

I have not received my yearly Annual Benefit Statement, can I request one?

Please check My Pensions Online (MPO) as statements are held on the system, unless you have opted for distribution via the postal system.

You can request an in year Annual Benefit Statement if:

- *you're an Active scheme member and have not received a statement in the last 12 months;*
- *you intend on retiring within the next 6 months.*

How accurate is my Annual Benefit Statement?

Annual Benefit Statements are an **estimate** of your pension benefits earned in the Fire Service Pension Scheme(s).

They're based on the information provided by NWFRS and are designed to provide an indication of the benefits earned to date.

When you come to claim pension benefits, you can expect to receive a full and accurate quotation and as such, you shouldn't enter into financial commitments based on the figures provided in your ABS.

My personal details are incorrect. What should I do?

In order for us to be able to make corrections to your personal information NWFRS need written notification of the correct details. If your name has changed due to a change in marital or partnership status you must send in your marriage certificate to the Human Resources department. In addition to writing in to inform your employer, you can update your address via the MPO facility.

I need to update my death benefit nomination, how do I do it?

To make a new nomination or update a current one, you'll need to complete a new Death Benefit Nomination Form

<http://www.dyfedpensionfund.org.uk/media/1012/death-grant-form.pdf>

What information do you use to make the benefit calculation?

It's based on:

- the scheme(s) that you belong to;
- the number of years reckonable service within the final salary scheme(s);
- the amount of your earnings and contributions; and
- any other additional benefits you may have such as transferred-in service and Added Pension.

Please note that your ABS can only give an indication of the likely amount you can expect to receive when you retire. It isn't a guarantee of the actual amount that you'll receive - this must be calculated at the time of your retirement.

Which elements of my pay do you use to calculate the benefits on my Annual Benefit Statement?

We calculate the benefit amounts on your ABS using the following:

- Your basic salary and pensionable allowances as at 31 March

If you have any queries about the pensionable pay figure shown in your statement please contact NWFRS' payroll department.

However, upon retirement the full scheme calculation to find your best pensionable earnings will be used.

How much are pension contributions?

Contribution rates vary, depending on salary. You can find details about the contribution rate for each scheme on the administrator's website

www.dyfedpensionfund.org.uk

Is my previous service included on my Annual Benefit Statement?

Annual Benefit Statements only include your most recent period of active service. This includes any previous service that you may have aggregated to your current, active service.

Please note: If you've chosen not to aggregate your previous service, it **won't** be included on your Annual Benefit Statement.

I think my statement is incorrect. What should I do?

Most of the information that appears on your statement has been provided by your employer so NWFRS will need to provide Dyfed Pension Fund with correct details before the administrators can make any changes to your pension record. Please email pensions.helpdesk@nwales-fireservice.org.uk with a brief explanation of which details are incorrect and NWFRS will let you know how to go about getting the details amended. Please be patient in waiting for a response as NWFRS always receive a large number of queries when the annual benefit statements are issued.

If I ask you to update or correct my pension record, will I receive an updated Annual Benefit Statement?

The Administrator will update your pension record in time for next year's statement production.

Why does my Annual Benefit Statement only cover part of the year?

This could be because:

- *you joined after 1 April, in which case, your statement will only show the benefits you have built up from the date you joined until 31 March of that year.*

Does my Annual Benefit Statement take into account Split Pensions?

The figures on the statement do not take into account any adjustment that may be made at retirement to reflect a period at a higher rate of pay. The split pension, if it applies, will be calculated when the benefits are drawn.

What is the Annual Allowance?

Please see our administrator's factsheet for more information: <http://www.dyfedpensionfund.org.uk/fire-pension-scheme/fire-pension-scheme-1992/annual-allowance/>