Welsh Government

Consultation on amendments to firefighter pension schemes in Wales 2020

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| **Overview** | We are consulting on amendments to the Firefighters’ Pension (Wales) Scheme (the 1992 Scheme) and the Firefighters’ Compensation Scheme (Wales) 2007 (the 2007 Compensation Scheme) following the Supreme Court ruling in the case of Walker v Innospec, which has resulted in necessary changes to survivor benefits for civil partners and same sex spouses. We also believe that the Supreme Court ruling in the case of McLaughlin has affected the pension entitlements of children of unmarried parents and amendments to the 2007 Compensation Scheme) are required as a result.The consultation also covers proposed unrelated amendments to the 1992 Scheme, the New Firefighters’ Pension Scheme (Wales) (the 2007 Scheme), and the Firefighters’ Pension Scheme (Wales) 2015 (the 2015 Scheme) in respect of the calculation of split pensions, pension sharing on divorce, special member commutation factors and club transfer value payments.  |
| **How to respond** | To respond to this consultation, please complete the online form which can be accessed here: [https://gov.wales/amendments-firefighter-pension-schemes-wales-2020](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fgov.wales%2Famendments-firefighter-pension-schemes-wales-2020&data=02%7C01%7CNatalie.Spiller%40gov.wales%7Cc504f7260d084f51b67108d821889e91%7Ca2cc36c592804ae78887d06dab89216b%7C0%7C0%7C637296217937555951&sdata=8ZgqzbrqQYcveTb4CAN%2BZyEpBYwwAWm79IxMFeBvMF4%3D&reserved=0)Alternatively, respondents may use the separate response form provided, which can be emailed to fire@gov.wales or sent to the address below.The closing date for responses is 2 October 2020 |

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| **Contact details** | For further information:Fire Services Branch Community Safety Division Welsh Government Rhydycar Merthyr Tydfil CF48 1UZEmail: fire@gov.wales Tel: 0300 062 8226  |

**Response Form**

Your name:

Organisation (if applicable):

email / telephone number:

Your address

* Responses to consultations are likely to be made public, on the internet or in a report. If you would prefer your response to remain anonymous, please tick here:

**Question 1**

To what extent do you agree that the draft regulations achieve the aim of equalising survivor benefits for survivors of civil partnerships and same sex marriages?[[1]](#footnote-1)

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**Question 2**

Are you aware of any equality issues not covered here?

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**Question 3**

 Do you have any other views on the amendments set out in the draft regulations?

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**Question 4**

Do you agree that the amendments set out in the draft regulations comply fully with the Supreme Court judgment in the case of McLaughlin?*[[2]](#footnote-2)*

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**Question 5**

Are you aware of any equality issues not covered here?

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**Question 6**

Do you have any other views on the amendments set out in the draft regulations?

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**Question 7**

Can you foresee any challenges to the administration of the pension schemes with regard to the proposed draft regulations?

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**Question 8**

We are interested in understanding whether the proposals in this consultation document will have an impact on people with protected characteristics. Protected characteristics are: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and belief, sex, and sexual orientation. Do you think that the proposals in this consultation will have any positive or negative impacts on people with protected characteristics? If so, which and why/why not?

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**Question 9**

We would like to know your views on the effects that the above proposals would have on the Welsh language, specifically on opportunities for people to use Welsh and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English.  What effects do you think there would be?  How could positive effects be increased, or negative effects be mitigated?

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**Question 10**

Please also explain how you believe the proposed policy could be formulated or changed so as to have positive effects or increased positive effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language, and no adverse effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.

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**Question 11**

We have asked a number of specific questions. If you have any related issues which we have not specifically addressed, please use this space to report them:

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1. See regulation 4 (1992 Scheme) and regulation 11 (2007 Compensation Scheme) of the draft regulations. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. See regulation 12 of the draft regulations. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)