

Mr Bob Neill MP  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State  
Department for Communities and Local Government  
Eland House  
Bressenden Place  
London  
SW1E 5DU

7<sup>th</sup> February 2012

Dear Minister,

### **Retained Firefighters' Pensions**

I am writing to raise the LGA Fire Services Management Committee's concerns about the pension scheme liability associated with retained firefighters' pensions.

We are aware that Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) has been negotiating a settlement with the Fire Brigades Union (FBU) in line with the outcome of the Employment Tribunal (case number: 6100000/21). We understand that these negotiations are at an advanced stage and that DCLG will be bringing forward a consultation shortly.

Following parliamentary approval for the amending Order, retained firefighters employed between 1<sup>st</sup> July 2000 and 5<sup>th</sup> April 2006 inclusive will be eligible to purchase service under the terms of the modified New Fire Pensions Scheme (NFPS).

Once retained firefighters purchase service under the terms of the settlement a balance of scheme liability will be generated. To date, there has only been limited discussion between department officials and the sector on the potential scale of the scheme liability or the possible approaches to meeting this liability.

The scheme liability will depend on the number of retained firefighters who choose to purchase service and this is an unknown. However, we are concerned that the liability could be very large.

We have asked DCLG officials to provide further information on the potential financial risk to the pension scheme and we are writing to fire authorities to raise the profile of the issue.

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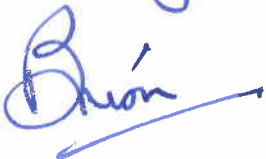
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This is an urgent matter as fire authorities consider their budgets for next year and their future financial position. We want to ensure any financial risk to fire authorities is managed over the long term in order to ensure financial stability.

I would welcome an early opportunity to meet with you to discuss this matter.

Kind regards  


**Councillor Brian Coleman, AM FRSA**  
Chairman, LGA Fire Services Management Committee and Fire Commission