

Ministear airson Slàinte Coimhearsnachd agus Cùisean Lagha
Minister for Community Safety and Legal Affairs

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Brandon Lewis MP
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Ur faidhle/Your ref:
Ar faidhle/Our ref:
24 January 2013

Dear Brandon,

We were most interested to see the publication of the review of firefighters' Normal Pension Age (NPA) last week. The review does not appear to give unequivocal support for the proposed firefighters' NPA of 60, and I suspect there will be a strong read across between these findings and any similar exercises for the other emergency services. I would be most grateful if you could share with me your planned response to this review and how it has affected your current thinking on the design of the new post-2015 pension scheme.

The Scottish Government is committed to genuine engagement on how a reformed firefighters' pension scheme can be designed to suit Scottish circumstances; the new scheme should reflect the unique nature of firefighters' work and within that context be affordable, sustainable and fair. We believe that pension reform should be taken forward in partnership with public sector workers rather than being imposed by Treasury direction. We believe that, at a time of wage restraint and financial hardship, it is wrong to ask public employees to pay more for their pensions in this way,

We are most grateful to those who deliver high-quality public services across Scotland. I know the value that Scotland's communities place on effective, responsive public services, and I look forward to decisions on all the terms and conditions of Scotland's public service workers being taken here in Scotland.

For their information I have copied this letter to Scottish firefighters' pensions stakeholders.

Yours

Roseanna

Roseanna Cunningham