

## **EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO**

### **The New Firefighters' Pension Scheme (Amendment) (No 2) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015**

**SR 2015 No. 10**

### **The Firefighters' Pension Scheme (Amendment) (No 2) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015**

**SR 2015 No. 11**

#### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1. This combined Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared by the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to accompany the Statutory Rules (details above) which are laid before the Northern Ireland Assembly.
- 1.2. The Statutory Rules are made under powers conferred by Article 10(1), (3), (4) and (5) of the Fire Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1984 and is subject to the negative resolution procedure.

#### **2. Purpose**

- 2.1. These Orders amend the New Firefighters' Pension Scheme Order (Northern Ireland) 2007 and the Firefighters' Pension Scheme Order (Northern Ireland) 2007. Some of the amendments are to correct minor drafting errors and others are to revoke changes made last year and revert to the previous provision.

#### **3. Background**

- 3.1 This Department has policy responsibility for Firefighters' pensions, which are administered by the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service (NIFRS). Firefighters' pensions have, in line with other public sector pension schemes in Northern Ireland, operated on the basis of parity with their counterparts in England, Scotland and Wales. In July 2014 amendments were made to current Firefighters legislation, in order for Northern Ireland to remain in parity with GB counterparts.

#### **4. Consultation**

- 4.1 The Department originally consulted on the amendments from 26 September 2011 until 16 December 2011, however due to operational processes further amendments are now required in order that the legislation fits with local NI procedures.

#### **5. Equality Impact**

- 5.1. The Order will have no adverse differential impact on equality of opportunity.

## **6. Regulatory Impact**

- 6.1. As the Order will impose no additional costs on businesses, charities or the voluntary sector a full Regulatory Impact Assessment has not been completed.

## **7. Financial Implications**

- 7.1. There will be no additional costs for the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service arising from these amendments.

## **8. Section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998**

- 8.1. It is the view of the Department that this Order is compatible with section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.

## **9. EU Implications**

- 9.1. Not applicable

## **10. Parity or Replicatory Measure**

- 10.1. This Order will ensure Northern Ireland maintains parity with equivalent schemes across GB.

## **11. Additional Information**

- 11.1. Not applicable