



Department for
Communities and
Local Government

The Rt Hon Mark Francois MP
Minister of State for Communities and Resilience

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Matt Wrack
General Secretary, Fire Brigades Union
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23 September 2015

Dear Matt,

I wrote to you on 17 August 2015 in response to your letter of 11 August about issues relating to the Government's consultation on proposals for capping exit payments in the public sector.

In particular, you were concerned to ensure that the proposals did not impact on commitments that Ministers have given that a firefighter aged 55 or over who was unable to maintain the required operational fitness through no fault of their own, and for whom no suitable alternative employment can be found, would be awarded a local authority initiated unreduced pension.

Further to that correspondence, I wanted to draw your attention to the Government's response to the consultation which has now been published. This confirms that we will take forward the proposals on the cap by taking powers in primary legislation as part of the Enterprise Bill, with the measures being implemented through secondary legislation.

It also confirms that there are some payments to which the cap will not apply, including those related to injury attributable to the employment, ill-health retirement and certain fitness related requirements. This includes circumstances covered by the principles on firefighter fitness set out in the Addendum to the Fire and Rescue Service National Framework for England. The Government intends that those payments which are to be outside the scope of the cap will be listed in secondary legislation.

Yours ever,

THE RT HON MARK FRANCOIS MP