

FIREFIGHTERS' PENSION COMMITTEE

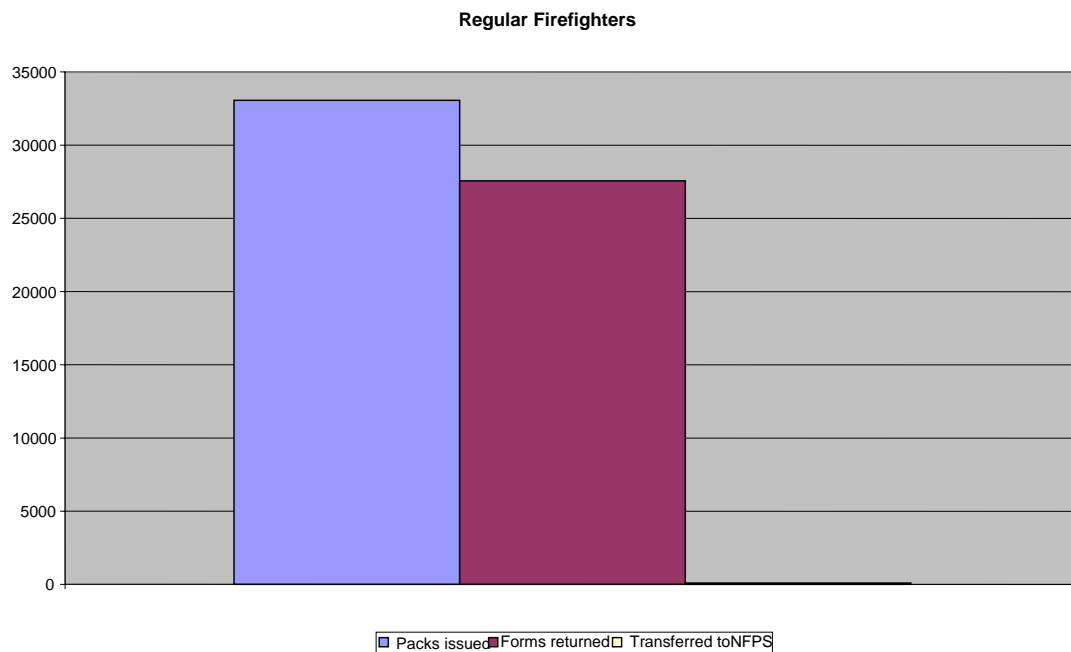
OPTIONS EXERCISE: OUTCOME

Note by DCLG

1. At the conclusion of the Options Exercise, Fire and Rescue Authorities were asked to provide the Department with information about its outcome. Some returns are still outstanding, but 53 have been received and the data is set out on the accompanying spread sheet.
2. The charts below summarise the main information.

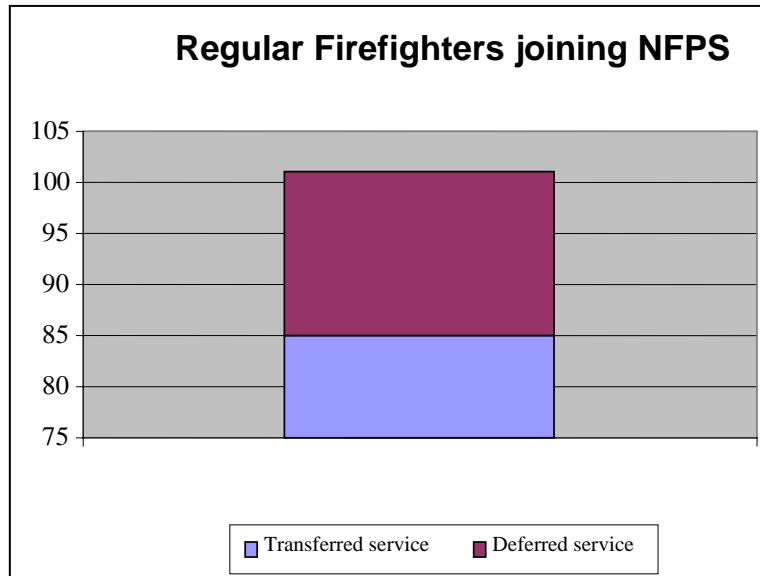
Regular firefighters

3. Options packs were sent to 33,054 regular firefighters. Decision forms were completed and returned by 27,561 (83%): we advised authorities to make every effort to get every firefighter to complete and return their form. Only one authority achieved a 100% return but overall it represents a significant achievement.

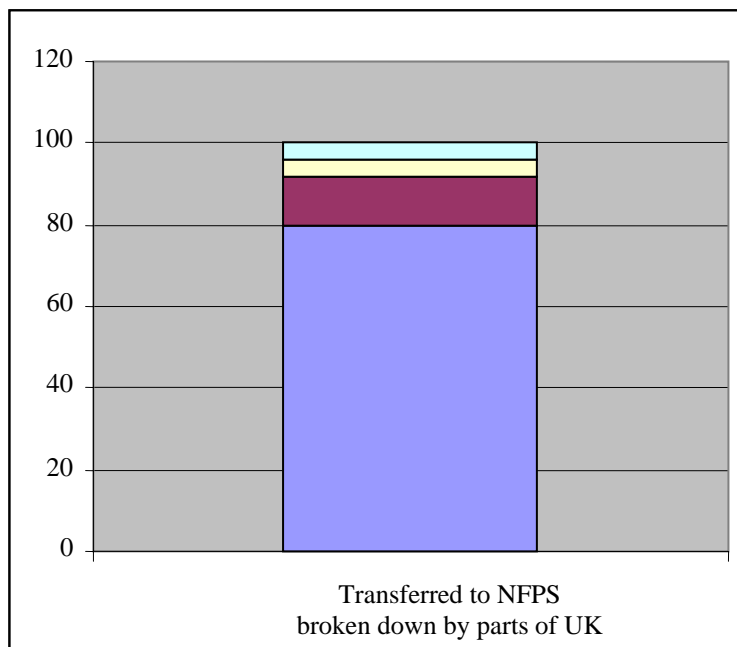


4. 101 (0.3%) firefighters opted to transfer to the NFPS. Of these 85 transferred service from the FPS to the new scheme and 16 took a deferred pension in the FPS and transferred for future service to the NFPS.

5. It should be noted that the cap of 45 years on transferred and future service before age 60 was a factor which inhibited transfers.

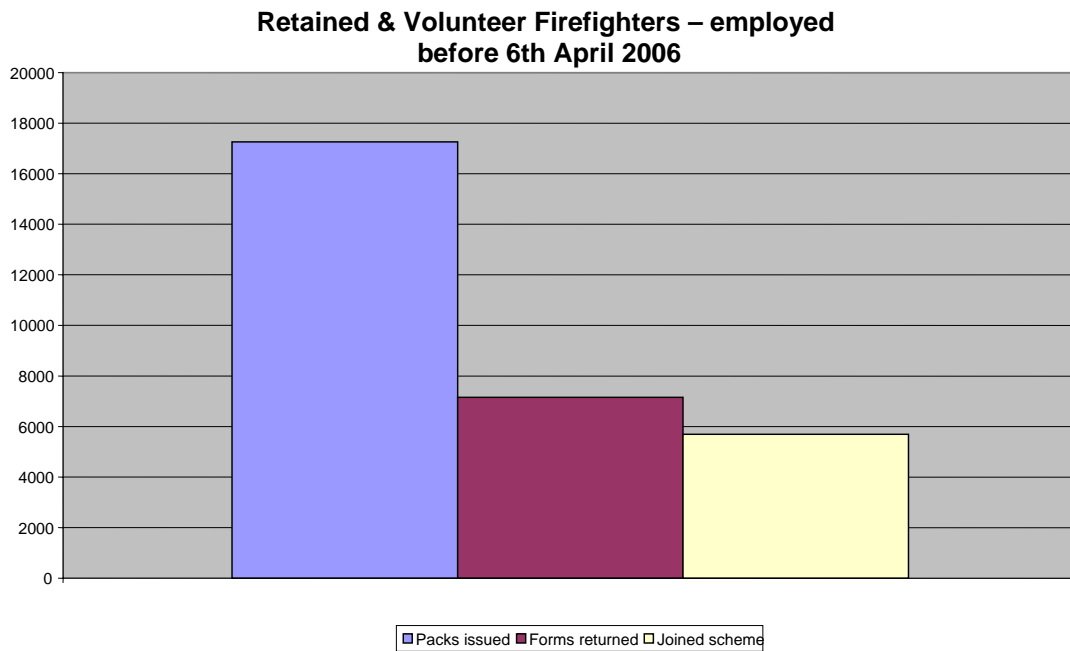


6. The table below sets out the breakdown of these in the separate parts of the UK. In England there were 80; in Scotland 12; in Wales 5; and in Northern Ireland 4.



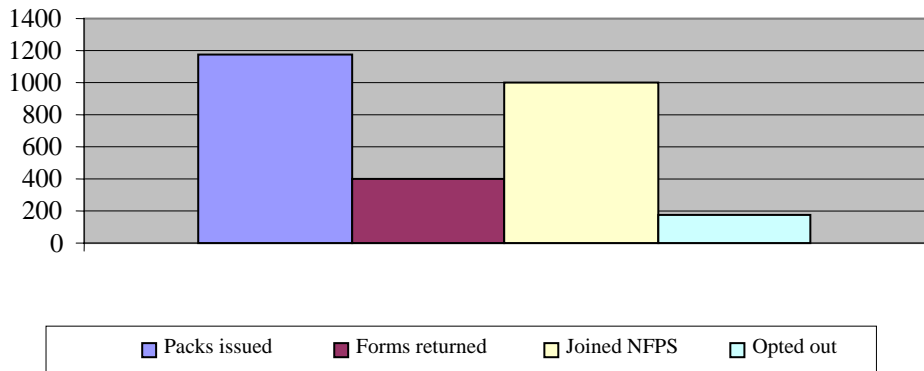
Retained firefighters

7. Option packs were sent to 17,254 retained and volunteer firefighters, including day crewers who undertake retained duties. Of these 7,153 (41%) returned their decision forms and 5,695 (33%) opted to join the NFPS.



8. Of retained and volunteer firefighters employed on or since 6th April, 1,179 received option packs. Of these 397 (34%) returned their decision forms and 177 (15%) opted not to join the pension scheme.

Retained & Volunteer Firefighters - joined on or after 6th April 2006



9. The Committee is invited to note.