

BOARD OF MEDICAL REFEREES CONTRACT

Issue

- The current contract to undertake the Board of Medical Referees (BMR) statutory function for the firefighters' pension schemes is with Health Management Limited (HML) and is due to expire on 30th September 2012.
- The Department is currently considering extending the contract for an additional period of up to 2 years, in line with the terms of the contract.

Recommendation

- The Department is seeking the views of Committee members on their experiences with HML under this contract before taking a final decision on whether to award a contract extension.

Background

1. Boards of Medical Referees are required to determine medical appeals by members of the firefighters' pension schemes against decisions by the employing fire and rescue authority.
2. Arrangements for the appointment of a BMR is a statutory function of the Secretary of State under Rule H2 of the Firefighters' Pension Scheme 1992, Rule 4 of Part 8 of the New Firefighters' Pension Scheme 2006 and Rule 2 of Part 6 of the Firefighters' Compensation Scheme 2006; and equivalent schemes in Scotland and Wales.
3. The current contract has been in operation since 1 October 2009, and covers England, Scotland, and Wales. Prior to the current contract with HML, the contract was held by BUPA.