



# Firefighters' Pension Scheme Circular

<b>Circular Number:</b>	FPSC 4/2008	<b>Date Issued:</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> May 2008
<b>Action:</b>	To note		
<b>Title:</b>	<i>The Provision of Boards of Medical Referees</i>		
<b>Issued by:</b>	Martin Hill Local Government Workforce Pay and Pensions		

<b>Summary:</b>	Extension of contract for provision of Boards of Medical Referees and revised schedule of charges.
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<b>Addressed to:</b>	<b>Please Forward to:</b>
The Clerk to the Fire and Rescue Authority	Pension and human resources managers
The Chief Fire Officer	Medical/Occupational health managers

## Enquiries:

### Pensions Team Leader:

Martin Hill	<a href="mailto:martin.hill@communities.gsi.gov.uk">martin.hill@communities.gsi.gov.uk</a>	020 7944 8641
Andy Boorman	<a href="mailto:andy.boorman@communities.gsi.gov.uk">andy.boorman@communities.gsi.gov.uk</a>	020 7944 8123
Anthony Mooney	<a href="mailto:anthony.mooney@communities.gsi.gov.uk">anthony.mooney@communities.gsi.gov.uk</a>	020 7944 8087

### Medical Appeals

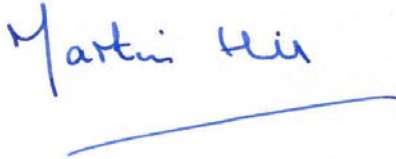
Philip Brown	<a href="mailto:Philip.Brown@communities.gsi.gov.uk">Philip.Brown@communities.gsi.gov.uk</a>	020 7944 6787
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**General Enquiries:** [firepensions@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:firepensions@communities.gsi.gov.uk)

Firefighters' Pension Scheme Website: [www.communities.gov.uk/firepensions](http://www.communities.gov.uk/firepensions)

## 1. Provision of Boards of Medical Referees

- 1.1 As you will know, BUPA Wellness currently holds the contract with this Department to provide Boards of Medical Referees. The Boards are held to consider appeals made on medical grounds against the decisions of Fire and Rescue Authorities under Rule H2 of the Firefighters' Pension Scheme 1992; Part 8, rule 4 of the New Firefighters' Pension Scheme 2006; and Part 6, rule 2 of the Firefighters' Compensation Scheme 2006.
- 1.2 The existing contract expired on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2008, and the Department had therefore been re-tendering the work with a view to having a new 3 year contract in place in due time. However, in spite of some expressions of interest, no bids for the work were received by the closing date. It is considered that this was in part due to the lack of experience of this type of work in the private sector and also uncertainty brought about by the current judicial reviews of some decisions by boards.
- 1.3 The Department intends to re-tender the work again and, in the interim, has negotiated for BUPA Wellness to continue to carry out the work in the short term. Agreement has been reached, and the contract has been extended until 30<sup>th</sup> September 2008. As part of this it has been agreed that the standard fee for a Board of Medical Referees hearing will rise from £5300 to £6000 for all cases submitted from 1<sup>st</sup> March 2008. The penalties for late postponement or withdrawal and those for late reports have risen on a pro rata basis. A Schedule showing the old and new charges is attached.



**Martin Hill**

## SCHEDULE OF CHARGES

### CASES REFERRED UNDER CONTRACT FROM 1<sup>st</sup> APRIL 2006 TO 29<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2008

<b>Standard Fee</b>	£5,300
<b>Additional Board Member</b>	Actual Cost
<b>Medical Tests</b>	Actual Cost
<b>Photocopying/collating</b>	Actual Cost
<b>Cancellations/Postponements</b>	
21 to 11 days prior to the hearing	Actual up to £2250
10 to 4 days prior to the hearing	£3180
3 days prior to the hearing	£4240
2 days prior to the hearing	£4770
1 day prior to the hearing	£5330
<b>Penalty for failing to meet hearing target</b>	£250
<b>Penalty for late reports</b>	

<b>Received – working days from hearing</b>	<b>Reduction in fee</b>	<b>Fee payable on standard case</b>
1-15	No reduction	£5300
16	£250	£5050
17-22	£500	£4800
23-28	£750	£4550
29-34	£1000	£4300
And so on for each 5 working days	+ £250	To nil

#### **Cases referred to Lawyers prior to the issue of the report**

Costs up to £350 will be absorbed by BUPA.

### CASES REFERRED UNDER CONTRACT FROM 1<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2008 TO 30<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2008

<b>Standard Fee</b>	£6,000
<b>Additional Board Member</b>	Actual Cost
<b>Medical Tests</b>	Actual Cost
<b>Photocopying/collating</b>	Actual Cost
<b>Cancellations/Postponements</b>	
21 to 11 days prior to the hearing	Actual up to £2550
10 to 4 days prior to the hearing	£3600
3 days prior to the hearing	£4800
2 days prior to the hearing	£5400
1 day prior to the hearing	£6000
<b>Penalty for failing to meet hearing target</b>	£300

## Penalty for late reports

<b>Received – working days from hearing</b>	<b>Reduction in fee</b>	<b>Fee payable on standard case</b>
1-15	No reduction	£6000
16	£300	£5700
17-22	£600	£5400
23-28	£900	£5100
29-34	£1200	£4800
And so on for each 5 working days	+ £300	To nil

## Cases referred to Lawyers prior to the issue of the report

Costs up to £350 will be absorbed by BUPA.