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**Sent:** 29 November 2021 15:18

**To:** Claire Hey <[Claire.Hey@local.gov.uk](mailto:Claire.Hey@local.gov.uk)>

**Cc:**

**Subject:** Pensions Update: Home Office informal and non-statutory immediate detriment guidance

**Sent on behalf of Peter Spreadbury, Deputy Director, Police Workforce and Professionalism Unit**

## **Withdrawal of informal and non-statutory Home Office Immediate Detriment guidance**

I wanted to inform you that I have today written to the Chair of the Firefighters' Scheme Advisory Board advising that the Home Office has withdrawn our existing informal and non-statutory guidance in relation to processing certain kinds of immediate detriment case ahead of legislation.

Although the decision remains for scheme managers to make, the Government does not advise schemes to process any immediate detriment cases before the legislation is in place, given the risk and uncertainty.

I also want to take this opportunity to provide some further clarity in relation to the funding position. As the Government does not advise that immediate detriment cases should be processed in advance of the legislation coming into force, we will not be in a position to provide any additional funding for those costs which are paid outside of the pension account. These costs include payments that are not considered to be legitimate expenditure under the pension scheme regulations and any associated administration costs including any charges from your pension administrator. These will need to be funded locally by your fire and rescue authority from local budgets.

In relation to immediate detriment costs paid from the pension account in the course of processing pipeline cases, FRAs will need to ensure that these payments comply with the financing regulations of the pension scheme. If they are considered to be legitimate expenditure then they will be considered for payment as part of the established processes for claiming the AME top up grant.

As it is for individual Fire and Rescue Authorities as the Scheme Manager to make decisions in relation to immediate detriment, I would be grateful if colleagues from the LGA could bring this update and the attached note to the attention of FRAs and Chiefs.

Your sincerely,

Peter

**Wadha Salah**

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