

ROBERT SYMS M.P.



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

30th May, 2014

Thank you for contacting me about the Government's consultation on firefighters' pensions.

First, on the question of other options and their costs, it is common knowledge that the Department for Communities and Local Government agreed to ask the Government Actuary's Department to cost proposals put forward by the Fire Brigades Union. All of the proposals that the Union requested to be costed were provided to them. However, these were FBU proposals which the Government had not taken a view on.

The Fire Minister, Brandon Lewis, wrote to the General Secretary of the Fire Brigades Union on 23rd April saying: "we are now considering [the FBUs] proposal across Government. While we are not yet in a position to respond positively to your suggested changes, I will inform you of the outcome of those deliberations as soon as possible". Rather than continue and finalise that process the Fire Brigades Union leadership chose to call a halt to discussions prematurely by announcing strike action.

As you will be aware the consultation has now been published, and asks the public for their views on a range of draft regulations and details covering a new firefighters' pension scheme.

The consultation will run until July 4th and is accessible here:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-the-regulations-to-introduce-a-new-firefighters-pension-scheme-from-april-2015>

I would encourage you to submit your views on the proposed reforms to the consultation.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Robert Syms
Member of Parliament for Poole

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