An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage

Circular LG(P) 05/2024

File Reference: EL.814

15th October 2024

Retained Firefighters Retirement Age-Mandatory Retirement age 62 years

A Chara,

I am directed by the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to refer to the compulsory retirement age of retained firefighters.

Summary

On 5 March 2024, Government approved changes in relation to the terms and conditions for members of certain uniformed services, including firefighters.

The changes applicable to Retained firefighters:

- An increase in the mandatory retirement age (MRA).

As part of the decision, the government agreed that the Minister for Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform should prepare legislation to give effect to the changes.

The provisions, which amend the relevant legislation to give effect to this Government decision were included in Part 11 of the Courts, Civil Law, Criminal Law and Superannuation (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2024, which was signed by the President on 23 July 2024.

The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage is provided with a new power under Section 158 of the Local Government Act to allow him, with the consent of the M/PER to set the age at which firefighters will retire.

In the Local Government Act 2001 (Retirement of Firefighters) Regulations 2024, the Minister has exercised this power and increased the Mandatory Retirement Age to 62 for both fulltime and the retained fire service. The minimum retirement age of 55 is not amended. The changes take effect from the **19 August 2024**.

Changes - Retained Firefighter Retirement Age

A retained firefighter shall retire upon attaining the age of 55 years. Where the firefighter wishes to serve beyond that age, and the fire authority who employs him or her is satisfied that he or she is declared as medically fit to do so having undergone the appropriate medical assessment, he or she may continue to serve as a firefighter upon attaining that age, but not beyond attaining the age of 62 years. Where a retained firefighter is declared not to be medically fit to continue to serve as a firefighter, he or she shall retire.

Interim measures

Circular letter LG(P) 02/2020 Retained Firefighters – Compulsory Retirement Age – introduced an interim measure, which enabled a retained firefighter continue to work until 60 years, this measure was further extended by Circular Letter LG(P)04/2024 – Retained Firefighters Compulsory Retirement Age – extension of interim measures, to the age 62 years. This interim arrangement will remain in place for those retained firefighters who have already availed of it. However, it will no longer be available to any new applicants as the new legislative provisions now apply.

Any queries in relation to this Circular should be directed to localservices@housing.gov.ie.

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Yours sincerely,



Sharon Finegan
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