

Annex F – Notes on the survivor's pension

Depending on the scheme you are a member of a survivor's pension is paid if, when you die, you are married or have a civil partner or eligible 'cohabiting partner' (someone you live with who would be entitled to a survivor's pension).

The table below shows whether a surviving partner would receive a pension when you die, based on your partnership status and which pension scheme you are a member of.

	FPS 1992	FPS 2006	Special FPS 2006	FPS 2015
Husband, wife or civil partner only	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cohabiting partner	No	Yes	Yes	Yes (if the scheme manager agrees)

Survivor's pension if you die in service

How a survivor's pension is calculated will depend on which pension scheme you were a member of at the date of your death. From 1 April 2022, all members were moved to FPS 2015.

Although the statement is based on your benefits at 31 March 2025, survivor's benefits are based on future entitlement.

Death in service survivor's pensions will be paid to eligible partners at 50% of the higher-tier ill-health pension that would have been payable.

Under FPS 2015, if your husband, wife or partner is more than 12 years younger than you there would be a reduction of 2.5% for every year or part of a year over the 12 years, to a maximum of 50%.

Death in service survivor's benefits for members of FPS 2015 with an equivalent FPS 1992 portion of pension are paid under FPS 2015, which means that if you are not married when you die, a cohabiting partner will still be entitled to half of the equivalent FPS 1992 entitlement as well as the FPS 2015 portion.

Survivor's pension if you die after you retire

How the survivor's pension is calculated will depend on which pension scheme you were a member of at the date you retired. Generally, a survivor's pension for a husband, wife or partner would be half of the pension that you would be entitled to when you retire.

Under FPS 2006 and FPS 2015, if your husband, wife or partner is more than 12 years younger than you, there would be a reduction of 2.5% for every year or part of a year over the 12 years, to a maximum of 50%.

If you die after you retire, and you are not married or in a civil partnership, survivor's benefits for members of FPS 2015 who have a 1992 portion of pension are calculated differently to those of FPS 2006 and FPS 2015. This is because a survivor's pension is only paid to a husband, wife or civil partner in FPS 1992 but to a cohabiting partner in FPS 2015.

This means if you are not married when you die, a cohabiting partner would be entitled to half of the FPS 2015 pension, but not to half of any FPS 1992 portion of pension, as this is only awarded to husbands, wives, and civil partners.

The table below shows survivor's pension options in the schemes for unprotected and taper-protected members.

	Transition 1992	Transition 2006 (standard)	Transition 2006 (special)
Transitional benefits	50% of 1992 pension due to husband, wife or civil partner	50% of 2006 pension due to surviving partner	50% of 2006 special member pension due to surviving partner
2015	50% of 2015 pension due to surviving partner	50% of 2015 pension due to surviving partner	50% of 2015 pension due to surviving partner

A transition member is a firefighter who is entitled to a pension in both the final salary scheme (FPS 1992, FPS 2006, special FPS 2006) and FPS 2015.

Nominating a beneficiary

The rules of FPS 2006 were amended in 2018 to remove the need for you to complete a nomination for someone (a 'qualifying partner') who you want a survivor's pension to be paid to.

However, we consider it best practice for members to record who they want a surviving partner's pension to go to if they die. This will save a surviving partner from unnecessary administrative duties at what would be a sensitive time.

Please contact your FRA to find out how to access the form or make any amendments to your decision.

Death in service lump sum

	FPS 2015
Death in service lump sum	3 x pensionable pay

Death on pension lump sum

A death grant may also be payable to FPS 2015 members if you die after retirement, and you have been receiving pension payments for less than five years. In these circumstances, the death grant would be the difference between five times the annual amount of pension and the number of instalments of pension paid. It is in effect a five-year guarantee of pension.

Members of FPS 2015 can fill in an 'expression of wish' form for beneficiaries to receive the death in service lump sum, though the final decision rests with the Fire and Rescue Authority.

Please contact your FRA to find out how to access the form or make any amendments to your decision.