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FIRE BRIGADES National Employers

30 April 2007

Mr T Crossley
Local Government and Firefighters' Pension schemes
Ashdown House
123 Victoria St
London SW1E 6DE

Dear Mr Crossley

Continual Professional Development (CPD) scheme

On behalf of the Employers' Side of the National Joint Council (NJC) thank you for your letter of 24 April. I am pleased to note confirmation that CPD payments should be pensionable.

However, I feel I must comment upon the concern indicated in your letter that it was "made clear to both the Employers and the FBU between 2003 and the end of 2006, if CPD payments are a temporary allowance, which would be subject to review and so could be withdrawn, we would not regard them as pensionable."

I cannot comment on separate talks that may have been held with the FBU. However in discussions with the Employers' Secretariat the aforementioned was the initial position outlined to us. But CLG officers then went on to say that the door was not entirely closed on the matter of pensionability and that should the NJC eventually decide to recommend that such payments, even if subject to review, should be pensionable CLG would consider a way forward upon receipt of a letter to that effect which also indicated the cost-neutral effect of the new scheme when compared to the pre-existing long service increment. Accordingly, following agreement in principle on the new scheme at the NJC meeting on 6 February a joint letter was forwarded to yourselves on 8 February recommending that such payments be pensionable and indicating the cost-neutral financial impact.

I fully respect the role of CLG as custodians of the integrity of the respective pension schemes and appreciate the hard work that has been carried out to comply with the NJC request that CPD payments be pensionable. However I do want to ensure, given the wide circulation of pertinent correspondence, that the position of the National Employers and the Employers' Side Secretariat in particular is clear.

Yours sincerely,

SARAH MESSENGER
Employers' Side Secretary