

# **Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority**

## **Pay Policy Statement 2023-24**

### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1 This pay policy statement details a number of position statements relating to pay, in particular the pay relationships between different staff groups, and applies to all Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority employees.
- 1.2 This pay policy statement covers the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024.

### **2. Context of Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority**

- 2.1 The Authority is required to deliver statutory services under a number of legal instruments including Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004, the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, Crime and Disorder Act 1998, and the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. Under these statutory requirements it is required to provide the following:
  - 2.1.1 Trained personnel, services and equipment necessary to meet all normal requirements of a fire and rescue service.
  - 2.1.2 Arrangements to deal with calls for help and for summoning personnel and to provide crews with safety information.
  - 2.1.3 Provision to promote fire safety in its area.
  - 2.1.4 Provision to extinguish fire, protect life and property and limit damage in the event of fires in its area.
  - 2.1.5 Provision to rescue people in the event of road traffic collisions in its area.
  - 2.1.6 Arrangements to respond to emergencies where one or more individuals die, are injured or become ill or there is the likelihood of harm to the environment (including the life and health of animals and plants).
- 2.2 The Chief Fire Officer is appointed by the Authority and is responsible and accountable for the operational and strategic leadership, command and general administration of the Service.
- 2.3 The Authority recognises that the fire sector remains in a period of financial constraint, with budgets decreasing, and that there is a need to spend resources available in the best possible way to have the maximum impact on delivering the Authority's aims. Pay is a significant element of the budget and it is important that pay is maintained at levels that are affordable and sustainable and which deliver value for money for local taxpayers. There is also a need to ensure that pay keeps

pace with the broader job market if the Service is to attract and retain talented employees.

- 2.4 The Authority also recognises that there is a legitimate public interest in, and a degree of scrutiny of, the pay and rewards within the fire service, and in particular, the rewards of senior officers.
- 2.5 The statutory function of the Clerk & Monitoring Officer to the Authority is provided by Dorset Council under a Service Level Agreement.

### **3. Definitions**

- 3.1 The definition of senior officers in this pay policy statement covers the following members of staff - Chief Fire Officer, Deputy Chief Fire Officer, Assistant Chief Fire Officer - Director of Community Safety, Assistant Chief Officer - Director of People Services, Assistant Chief Officer - Director of Service Support, and Head of Financial Services & Treasurer.
- 3.2 The definition of 'lowest paid' employees relates to staff who are on the lowest pay grade of the corporate staff grading structure. The decision to exclude 'on call' competent operational staff has been made because the current variable nature of on call payments means that earnings significantly fluctuate year on year depending on the level of activity. This decision is in line with other local fire and rescue authorities.

### **4. Policy aims**

- 4.1 The Authority's approach to remuneration is a means to recruit and retain the talented people needed to maintain and improve the performance of the Service, and to lead the Service through the changes being faced. The amount paid should reflect the local market for comparable jobs and skills.

### **5. Pay reviews**

- 5.1 Some elements of pay and a number of core conditions of service are determined by national negotiation and consultation between Local Government Employers and respective trade unions or representative bodies as follows:
  - 5.1.1 Chief Officers are covered by the National Joint Council (NJC) for Brigade Managers (Gold Book).
  - 5.1.2 All other uniformed roles, including on call roles, are covered by the NJC for Local Authorities' Fire Brigades (Grey Book).
  - 5.1.3 The Head of Financial Services and Treasurer, the Head of Corporate Support and all corporate staff are covered by the NJC for Local Government Services (Green Book).

- 5.2 There are significant benefits for the Authority in using the national negotiating machinery on these elements as it is more cost effective to negotiate nationally than as a series of local negotiations.
- 5.3 Although there are national grades for uniformed roles as mentioned in 5.1.2 above, it is the Authority's decision on how the grading structure is used, whereas for the other two groups outlined in 5.1.1 and 5.1.3, the Authority has the power to determine scales and grading structures to meet its own requirements. The pay elements negotiated nationally relate to the cost of living increase and there remain sound reasons for this process to continue.
- 5.4 The NJC for Brigade Managers states that there is a two-track approach to determining levels of pay for Brigade Manager roles and these are:
- the NJC annually reviews the level of pay increase via consideration of affordability, other relevant pay deals and the rate of inflation at the appropriate date
  - all other decisions about the level of pay and remuneration to be awarded to individual Brigade Manager roles is taken by the Authority who will review the salary levels on a regular basis.
- 5.5 The Clerk & Monitoring Officer to the Authority coordinates this local review, where comparative national data for brigade managers and local and regional senior local government pay data is analysed, which is then considered by the Appointments and Disputes Committee.
- 5.6 The Deputy Chief Fire Officer's pay is linked to the Chief Fire Officer (CFO's) salary, as a result the DCFO receives 85% of the CFO pay. The Assistant Chief Fire Officer receives 75% of the CFO pay and as the Assistant Chief Officers are non-operational roles, the 20% operational salary component enhancement that is included with the ACFO salary is removed. The Head of Financial Services and Treasurer and the Head of Corporate Support are paid on a single spot point.
- 5.7 A schedule of Chief Officers' post specific remuneration will; as is usual practice, be contained within our statement of accounts.
- 5.8 Pay awards for staff covered by Gold Book terms and conditions take effect from 1 January each year. The pay settlement for 2022 and 2023 has not yet been agreed.
- 5.9 For staff on Grey Book terms and conditions, pay negotiations have not yet concluded, with the Employer full and final offer of 5% rejected by the trade union (FBU) and (at time of writing) a ballot for industrial action is underway.
- 5.10 There was a nationally agreed pay rise of £1925 for staff covered by Green Book terms and conditions.
- 5.11 Pay points for Grey Book staff are 'spot' rates, which relate to operational practice, whereas pay for Green Book staff utilises incremental grades.

5.12 The corporate staff grading structure utilises the Greater London Provincial Council job evaluation scheme.

## **6. Recruitment**

6.1 In line with the Localism Act, the Authority will be offered the opportunity to vote before salary packages of £100,000 or more per annum are offered in respect of newly created roles in the organisation. It is proposed that the Appointments and Disputes Committee will consider the salary package prior to recruitment, and the full Authority will vote on the salary package prior to appointment.

6.2 Corporate staff on Green Book terms and conditions are normally appointed to a post at the lowest scale point within the grade and progress through the grade is made on an annual incremental basis. On occasion, the reward package for corporate staff determined by the pay and grading system may not be consistent with reward packages offered for comparable posts in the wider labour market, and this may lead to recruitment and retention difficulties impacting on our ability to attract and retain talent. In such circumstances and in accordance with our pay and grading procedure, where there is a clear business need supported by objective market data, and other approaches have proved ineffective, the Service will consider offering the post at a higher scale-point of the grade or propose a market supplement payment in addition to the normal reward package for the post.

6.3 Staff on Grey Book conditions of service at levels above firefighter are appointed to a role at competent rate of pay. Staff at firefighter level are initially paid at 'Trainee' rate of pay and then are paid at 'Development' rate of pay until they have successfully completed the development programme and have been deemed 'competent'.

6.4 As outlined in 6.2, it is the Authority's policy to pay market supplements only in exceptional circumstances and to follow a clear and consistent framework for the determination of any market supplement payment which:

- ensures Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service meets its obligations under equal pay legislation
- maintains the overall integrity of its pay and grading structure; and
- allows market supplements to be considered only where a clear and demonstrable business need exists.

## **7. Allowances/additions to remuneration**

7.1 Operational staff who are conditioned to the Flexible Duty System (FDS) are provided with a car for business use and eligible corporate staff receive a car allowance.

- 7.2 No professional fees are paid for Brigade Managers or other staff. A corporate fee is paid to the National Fire Chief's Council (NFCC).
- 7.3 Uniformed Officers at Station Manager to Area Manager level who work on the flexible duty system are paid a pensionable supplement in accordance with the Grey Book requirements. Group and Area Managers also receive a further allowance in recognition of additional rota commitments.
- 7.4 Uniformed staff at Area Manager and below receive a Continuous Professional Development payment which is nationally determined, but payment is subject to local procedures agreed with the representative bodies.
- 7.5 The Authority does not provide benefits such as private health insurance.
- 7.6 Expenses are paid to all staff at relevant NJC negotiated levels for mileage and subsistence.
- 7.7 In addition to the above elements, there may be occasions when the Authority makes payments that are considered to be a benefit in kind. The following should not be considered an exhaustive list, but provide a flavour of the types of benefits in kind that may be payable to employees and regarded as taxable by HM Revenue and Customs when certain circumstances dictate:
- Relocation expenses over £8,000
  - Broadband/telephone line rental to support operational command and resilience.
- 7.8 Some additions to pay are agreed locally. Examples of these include:
- Training Instructor allowances
  - Payments for special responsibilities (e.g. technical rescue teams).

## **8. Transparency and pay multiple**

- 8.1 The Authority does not intend to pay bonuses or performance related pay to staff during the period 2023-24 and are not intending to introduce a system of 'earn back' pay during this period. The Chief Fire Officer is annually appraised by the Chair of the Authority, and he and the Deputy Chief Fire Officer conduct annual appraisals on the other principal officers.
- 8.2 By following national arrangements, the Authority does not utilise terms of remuneration that could be perceived as seeking to minimise tax payments. The Authority does not intend to introduce any terms of remuneration that could be perceived as avoiding these payments in 2023-24.
- 8.3 There are no chief officers with significant financial responsibility remunerated through 'off-payroll' arrangements.

- 8.4 Pay scales for Grey and Green Book staff are available on the Service website.
- 8.5 Details of the salary and expenses for officers whose remuneration is in excess of £50,000 are published annually in the Statement of Accounts, which is available on the website.
- 8.6 In addition to the information referenced at 8.4 above, the Authority complies with the Local Government Transparency Code 2015. We currently publish the following information:
- Our organisation chart covering staff in the top three levels of the organisation, including grade, job title, department, and team, permanent or temporary status, contact details, salary in £5,000 brackets, and salary ceiling (the maximum salary for the grade). This includes the salaries of the Chief Fire Officer and Senior Officers
  - The number of employees whose remuneration was at least £50,000
  - The responsibilities of all employees whose annual salary was at least £50,000, and
  - Details of bonuses and 'benefits-in-kind' of all senior employees whose salary was at least £50,000.
- 8.7 For the purposes of this statement, the pay multiple is calculated as the ratio between the Chief Officer's earnings and the median average earnings of employees.
- 8.8 Firefighters who are employed on the Retained Duty System (RDS) are regarded as 'on-call' employees. On-call staff are paid in accordance with a locally developed and negotiated on-call duty system pay model. On-call salaries have not been used in the pay multiple as it is felt this data would significantly distort any statistics downwards.
- 8.9 The calculation is based on total taxable earnings (including benefits in kind) for all employees other than those employed on the retained duty system.
- 8.10 In calculating the pay multiple in accordance with paragraph 8.7, the ratio in relation to those employed on Grey Book terms and conditions is 4.09. In relation to those employed on Green Book terms and conditions the ratio is 5.40.

## **9. Pensions**

- 9.1 The Authority offers, as appropriate, uniformed members of staff membership of either the Firefighters Pension Schemes, or the Local Government Pension Scheme. Corporate members of staff are entitled to be members of the Local Government Pension Scheme. These schemes operate on a combination of employer and employee contributions, covered by legislation, the details of which are in the public domain.

9.2 The Authority have approved policy statements which set out the Authority's position pension regulation discretions.

## **10. Payments on ceasing to hold office**

10.1 The following payments are made dependent upon the reason for leaving:

10.1.1 Resignation or leave date – Normal salary until the end of notice period

10.1.2 Redundancy – In accordance with procedure

10.1.3 Redeployment – In accordance with procedure

10.1.4 Dismissal with notice - In accordance with procedure

10.1.5 Summary Dismissal – Dismissal without notice.

## **11. Employment after retirement/redundancy**

11.1 The Authority has procedures in relation to Flexible Retirement and Reemployment and applies pension or salary abatement rules to any member of staff who are employed or re-employed when they are in receipt of a Local Government Scheme pension or Firefighters' Pension Scheme pension.

11.2 The Authority will only re-employ a retired ex-employee of the Service as a chief or senior officer if there are exceptional circumstances where their specialist knowledge and expertise is required for a defined period of time and in support of the test of 'public safety'.

## **12. Guidance that is not applicable to the Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority**

12.1 Section 38 (4) of the Localism Act requires the pay policy to include any policy to award additional fees for chief officers for local election duties. No fees are paid to Fire and Rescue Authority chief officers for this.