

The logo for GMB Union, featuring the letters 'GMB' in white on an orange square background, and the word 'UNION' in white on a black rectangular background below it.

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19 December 2019

PUBLIC SECTOR PENSION UPDATE

GMB welcomes the recent Fire Brigade Union (FBU) victory on their Pension Scheme. Details at <https://www.fbu.org.uk/news/2019/12/18/firefighters-win-back-pensions-blow-government>

At the time of the McCloud judgement we issued the following press release which set out GMB position. Details at <https://www.gmb.org.uk/news/government-should-return-24bn-public-sector-workers>

Please note the implications of the FBU decision may not directly read across to other public sector pension schemes in Health, Local Government and the Civil Service. GMB is carefully monitoring and assessing the situation.

In the FBU case the principle of transitional protection has been found to be discriminatory on the grounds of age this is a consequence of the last pension reforms.

It is likely that when all outstanding Employment Tribunal ET cases have been heard (probably by the end of January 2020) the Government's Legal Department (GLD) will issue advice/instruction to the rest of the Public Sector Pension Scheme Advisory Boards this may include amendments to pension schemes to ensure that any such discrimination is eliminated and that appropriate remedy is given to anyone affected. We await the formal decision.

GMB is already involved in high level talks in anticipation of Government legal advice and are in non prejudice talks to prepare potential amendments to all the pension schemes where we have members to ensure every one gets the pension to which they are rightfully entitled.

Due to the General Election and the suspension of Parliament which only just re-opened this week there's been some delay in getting back round the table with employers and Government departments. Due to the festive closure it'll be the New Year before we pick up discussions.

We anticipate Legal advice from the Government around February 2020 and of course we will advise members should this be released earlier. Whatever happens it is likely to lead to some extensive sector scheme pension discussions. We are at the beginning of a process and unclear at this stage on the timings. GMB PS Team is monitoring the situation and are involved at the appropriate levels and will ensure that members will be kept regularly updated.

Should you have a query in the interim please send it to publicservices@gmb.org.uk
GMB is campaigning for pay justice and dignity in retirement.

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The GMB Union logo, consisting of the letters 'GMB' above the word 'UNION' in a white box.

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