

West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority Pay Policy Statement

1 April 2024 - 31 March 2025

Introduction and purpose

This Pay Policy Statement (the 'statement') sets out West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority's (WYFRA) approach to pay policy in accordance with the requirements of Section 38 of the Localism Act 2011. The purpose of the statement is to provide transparency about WYFRA's approach to setting the pay of its employees by identifying:

- The methods by which salaries of all employees are determined.
- The detail and level of remuneration of its most senior staff i.e. Chief Officers, as defined by the relevant legislation.
- The Committees/Departments responsible for ensuring the provisions set out in this statement are applied consistently throughout WYFRA and recommending any pay policy amendments to the Fire Authority.

This policy statement has been approved by the Fire Authority and is effective from April 1st, 2024. It will be subject to review annually and in accordance with new or proposed legislation to ensure that it remains relevant and effective.

Accountability and decision making

The WYFRA Constitution outlines the responsibilities for decision making in relation to the recruitment, pay, terms and conditions and severance arrangements in relation to employees of WYFRA.

Responsibility and scale

WYFRA is directly responsible for a budget of circa £80 million and for the employment of 1,453 staff (as at December 31st, 2023).

Pay strategy and design

In determining the pay and remuneration of its employees, WYFRA complies with all relevant employment legislation. This includes the Equality Act 2010, Part Time Employment (Prevention of Less Favourable Treatment) Regulations 2000, The Agency Workers Regulations 2010 and, where relevant, the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Earnings) Regulations. WYFRA takes the following approach to assessing individual and overall pay levels.

- Salaries of 'Green Book' employees in the Service are set using locally determined pay scales within the nationally determined pay spine and the nationally agreed Job Evaluation Scheme, with the Hay Job Evaluation Scheme being used for posts at Grade EO1 and above.
- Salaries of 'Grey Book' employees in the Service are set using nationally agreed pay levels.
- Where applicable, annual awards are normally made in April for Green Book Employees, July for Grey Book Employees and January for Directors.
- WYFRA does not use performance related pay for its Chief Officers.
- WYFRA does not award bonuses to Chief Officers.

Pay structure

To encourage Green Book employees to develop in their role and to improve their performance, WYFRA has arranged salaries within 13 pay grades. There are also pay increments within each grade. Progression through the pay grade is based on:

- Meeting identified performance goals.
- Length of service.
- Promotion and development.

New employees will usually be appointed to the minimum pay level for the relevant grade unless relevant supporting experience can be identified. Managers have the discretion to recommend an employee for acceleration of increments within the grade when they have demonstrated exceptional performance.

Grey Book employees can move between roles through successfully completing the promotion assessment process. Within role, individuals will either be paid at a competent or development rate. This will be dependent upon them completing the requirements of development for that role.

From time to time, it may be necessary to pay special allowances or supplements to individual employees as part of their employment contract and/or outside of their

employment contract, where specific circumstances require this and where it can be justified in accordance with WYFRA policies.

Other employment-related arrangements

Subject to meeting the qualifying conditions, employees have a right to belong to a pension scheme. The pension schemes WYFRA employees are currently members of include:

- The Local Government Pension Scheme - The employee contribution rates, which are defined by statute, currently range between 5.5 per cent and 12.5 per cent of pensionable pay.
- Firefighters Pension Scheme 2015 - The employee contribution rates currently range between 11 per cent and 14.5 per cent of pensionable pay.

Under the LGPS, the Authority has the discretion to augment membership of the scheme up to a maximum of ten extra years, or enable early access to the scheme.

Pay arrangements for Chief Officers

West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority Chief Officers' pay is determined by the conditions of service to which officers are subject.

In this case, they are the National Joint Council for Brigade Managers of Fire and Rescue Services (Gold Book) and the Joint Negotiating Committee for Chief Officers of Local Authorities (Blue Book).

The information detailed below is approved by the Full Authority of elected members and the statement is available on the West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority website, www.westyorksfire.gov.uk.

	Salary Point One	Salary Point Two	Salary Point Three	Lease Car Contribution
Chief Fire Officer	£176,234	£180,753	£185,273	£8,655
Deputy Chief Fire Officer	£157,947	£161,998	£166,049	£7,588
Assistant Chief Fire Officer	£139,365	£142,940	£146,514	£7,588
Chief Finance and Procurement Officer	£116,138	£119,116	£122,095	£5,419
Director of Human Resources	£116,138	£119,116	£122,095	£5,419
Director of Corporate Services			£87,908	£5,419

The above is based on Full Time Equivalents.

- The Chief Fire Officer is currently paid at salary point 3.
- The Deputy Chief Fire Officer is currently paid at salary point 3.
- The Assistant Chief Officer is currently paid at salary point 3.
- CFPO is paid at salary point 3 .
- DHR is paid at salary point 3 (Up to May 31st.) The new DHR is paid at salary point 1 from April 1st.

Chief Officers also receive reimbursement for internet and telephone charges and for professional subscriptions.

Lowest paid employees

The lowest paid persons employed under a contract of employment with WYFRA are employed on full time 37 hours equivalent salaries in accordance with the salary scale currently in use within WYFRA.

As at 1 April 2023, this is scale point 4 within Grade 1 of the Authority's pay scale and has a salary of £23,114 (£11.98 per hour). The Living Wage currently stands at £11.44 per hour which equates to a salary of £22,010 per annum. The Authority is committed to paying the Real Living Wage. This currently stands at £12.00 per hour.

The Real Living Wage rates increase in November each year and the Authority has 6 months to implement any increase (the increase will be implemented on April 1st 2024). (It should be noted that the national pay award, effective from April 1st 2024, is still to be determined. It is likely that any award will ensure the Authority's lowest paid employees remain above the living wage. If this is not the case, then a salary supplement will be paid in accordance with Authority policy.

The term 'lowest paid employees' is defined as a full-time equivalent employee on the bottom scale column point of the Authority's pay scale or the lowest paid role/rank for Grey Book employees.

The Authority adopts this definition because pay arrangements for employees' who are not Chief Officers, are based upon nationally negotiated pay scales from the National Joint Council for Local Authority Fire and Rescue Services ('Grey Book') and the National Joint Council for Local Government Services ('Green Book').

The relationship between Chief Officers' pay and other Authority employees is represented by the pay multiple between the two categories:

- The pay multiple between the highest and lowest paid salaries is 8.01 (8.12 in 2023-24 and 9.09 in 2022-23).
- The pay multiple between the highest paid salary and the median salary of the whole of the Authority's workforce is 5.11. (5.33 in 2023-24, 5.19 in 2022-23).

Chief Officers' salaries are determined by reference to appropriate National Joint Council conditions of service, comparison of salaries in similar authorities and occasionally by reference to employment consultants. The last external review was completed in 2022.

All the information relating to the remuneration of Chief Officers is available in West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service's Statement of Accounts published on the website and is also available under 'Transparency' in the Finance section on the Authority website.

In addition, the pay scales of all other senior staff within the Authority are available under 'Transparency' in the Finance section on the Authority website.

Payment on termination of employment

Those Chief Officers who are contracted to the National Joint Council for Brigade Managers of Fire and Rescue Services are members of the Firefighters Pension Scheme (FPS). Those within the FPS pay contributions between 13.5% and 14.5%. Any payments made to them on retirement are subject to the rules and regulations of this pension scheme.

Similarly, those Chief Officers contracted to the Joint Committee for Chief Officers of Local Authorities are members of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) and are subject to the rules and regulations of that pension scheme. Those within the LGPS pay pension contributions of between 9.9% and 10.5%. In addition, there is provision at a local level for them to request flexible retirement via the Flexible Retirement Policy which is available on the Authority website.

Under the LGPS, the Authority also has the discretion to augment membership of the scheme up to a maximum of ten extra years, or to enable early access to the scheme.

In cases where an employee's contract is terminated on the grounds of redundancy or on grounds of efficiency there is discretion to pay a lump sum of up to 104 weeks' pay. Further details of these payments can be found within the Authority's 'Early Termination Policy' sited within the Human Resources section of the Authority website. This will be reviewed once the Government plans to cap public sector exit payments are enacted to ensure full compliance.

Those Chief Officers who are members of the Firefighters Pension Scheme do not receive any enhancements to redundancy payments.

Publication of pay policy statement

Upon approval by the Fire Authority, this statement will be published on the West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority website; www.westyorksfire.gov.uk. In addition, for posts where the full-time equivalent salary is at least £50,000, the Authority's annual statement of accounts will include a note setting out the total amount of:

- Salary, fees, or allowances paid to or receivable by the person in the current and previous year.
- Any bonuses so paid or receivable by the person in the current and previous year.
- Any sums payable by way of expenses allowance that are chargeable to UK income tax.
- Any compensation for loss of employment and any other payments connected with termination.
- Any benefits received that do not fall within the above.