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Rt Hon Yvette Cooper MP  
House of Commons  
London  
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Dear Yvette,

12 April 2019

### Fire Pensions Grants

I am writing to you in your capacity as Chair of the Home Affairs Select Committee, and further to my letter of 13 December which set out the details of additional pension grant that would be paid to Fire and Rescue Authorities in 2019/20. As you will recall, in September 2018, HM Treasury announced that provisional results of the valuations of the public service pension schemes indicated that employer pension contributions would have to increase from April 2019. At the Budget, the Government announced that it would allocate funding from the Reserve to pay part of the costs of increases in public sector pensions contributions.

My letter of 13 December indicated that we would provide £98.5m of specific grant funding to fire and rescue authorities in England to assist with unexpected increases in pension contributions during 2019/20. However, now that the individual employer contribution rates for each fire pension scheme have been calculated by the Government Actuary's Department (GAD) it has become clear that the estimated costs to Fire and Rescue Authorities are higher than the original estimate. We will therefore be providing £115m of specific grant funding to Fire and Rescue Authorities this year. Funding decisions regarding additional pension costs in later years will be taken forward as part of the Spending Review.

The sector is aware of this increase in grant funding, and there will be no revisions to the methodology for distributing these funds which is based on an average of employer pension contributions over the three-year period 2017/18 to 2019/20. The allocations of additional funding for each fire and rescue authority are set out in the Annex of this letter.

I am arranging for copies of this letter and the attached information to be placed in the libraries of both Houses.

**RT HON NICK HURD MP**  
**Minister of State for Policing and the Fire Service**