

You will be aware of reports in the media about pension discussions and I know people will be keen to be clear on the impact of these on our own talks.

There is clearly some pressure from Treasury that the individual scheme discussions should report some progress back at the earliest opportunity and there are reports that there are threats to impose or remove some unions from further discussions.

In relation to our own discussions with CLG we have been very clear that we are unable to agree anything since there is no detailed proposal from CLG. We have also made it clear that we will not be rushed into finalising any proposal, especially as the cost ceilings for the Firefighters scheme were only set on 8 December. As you will be aware cost ceilings in the four main schemes were originally set at the beginning of October.

There is a meeting of the TUC Public Services Liaison Group this afternoon which we will be attending and we will consider the outcome of that in due course.

The Executive Council has agreed that should it be necessary to meet at short notice that will be done, currently it is not thought necessary, but that will be reviewed as discussions with the CLG and other unions progress.

We are also awaiting reports on the LGPS and will provide information at the earliest opportunity.

I will provide a further update tomorrow if necessary.

Best wishes.

Matt Wrack
GENERAL SECRETARY