



## David Leeson

Scottish Fire & Rescue

**“If there's anyone struggling like I was, I'd tell them to put their pride to one side and ask for help from The Fire Fighters Charity”**



When diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis (MS) in his late 20s, David Leeson made a decision: he was going to get more out of the disease than it would get out of him. Now, aged 45, he says MS has changed his life in ways he could never have imagined.

“I was devastated to have to leave my job after 12 years in the fire service,” says the former Scottish firefighter from Fife. “But my MS has opened doors for me that I never thought I would be there, and it's thanks to the Charity for making it possible.”

In the early days of his diagnosis, David's symptoms progressed quickly, forcing him to use a wheelchair. But the heavy one given him by the NHS was cumbersome and difficult to manoeuvre. Unable to afford the lightweight chair that would give back independence, he approached the Charity's Welfare team.

“The whole process was incredibly easy and the Charity was a huge help to me. My lightweight chair transformed my world. It's given me more independence than I ever thought possible. I'm more active now than I was before my diagnosis!”

David has gotten into coastal rowing and can drive using hand controls, none of which he'd be able to do with a heavier chair. He has also developed a love for wheelchair curling, and has represented both Team GB and Scotland in competitions.

“I can't thank the Charity enough for the help they've given me. It may seem like a small thing, having a lighter wheelchair, but it has made a massive difference. If there's anyone who is struggling like I was, I would tell them to ask for help, because it's there for you if you need it. There's a bit of pride involved sometimes, but put that to one side, because a little bit of help might make a massive difference to your life as well.”

[www.firefighterscharity.org.uk/david-leeson](http://www.firefighterscharity.org.uk/david-leeson)

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