

Pensioner Matters



Local Government Pension Scheme

Newsletter from LGSS Pensions Service, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire Pension Funds

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You can find all our forms and guidance on the pensioner area of our website <http://pensions.cambridgeshire.gov.uk>

Pensions Increase 2014

Based on the increase in the Consumer Prices Index over the year to September 2013, pensions in payment will increase by 2.7% with effect from the 7th April 2014. Any pension which began after the 22nd April 2013 will be increased by a proportionate amount depending upon the number of months since it began.



If you are a retired member aged under 55 you will have to wait until you are 55 for your pension to be increased, unless you retired due to ill health and are receiving an ill health pension. Survivors' and dependents' pensions are both increased regardless of age.

If your pension includes Pre 88 GMP, and you have reached your State Pension Age, this part of your LGPS pension will not normally receive any increase as the State will pay the increase through your State Pension. If your pension includes Post 88 GMP this part of your pension will increase by 2.7% on the 6th April 2014.

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Pension Payment Information

Payment Dates

The dates that your pension will be paid into your bank account during 2014 are detailed below:

Month	Payment Date
April 2014	30/04/2014
May 2014	30/05/2014
June 2014	30/06/2014
July 2014	31/07/2014
August 2014	29/08/2014
September 2014	30/09/2014
October 2014	31/10/2014
November 2014	28/11/2014
December 2014	31/12/2014

At the time of going to print payment dates for January, February and March 2015 were not available. However, when known, this information will be available on the pay dates page on the Pensioners' area of the Cambridgeshire Pension Fund website <http://pensions.cambridgeshire.gov.uk> Alternatively, please call the LGSS Pensions Service directly (contact details at the end of the newsletter).

Pay Advices

Pay advices are currently issued every March for the end of the financial year, every April for when Pensions Increase is applied to your pension and every May to reflect a full month on your new rate of pension. After that you receive a pay advice only when there is a change in the net payment of £5.00 or more from the previous month, or when there is a change in the tax code that HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) instruct us to apply to your pension.

Income Tax

Following the annual increase in State Pensions, also in April, it is usual for HMRC to adjust the personal tax coding of those pensioners in receipt of State retirement benefits. Usually, any new code issued for this will be applied in April or May and may result in a change in the amount of tax payable by you on your increased pension.

Enquires concerning the validity of any new tax code should be referred to the address shown over. When corresponding with the tax authorities please quote reference CCC Pensioners 120/C50150 and your National Insurance number.

HMRC

Customer Operations
Room BP4009
Benton Park View
Longbenton
Newcastle NE98 1ZZ

Telephone: **0300 200 3300**

P60s for the tax year 2013/14 will be dispatched by the 31st May 2014 which is the statutory deadline set by HMRC.

Re-employment following Retirement

On 30th October 2012 a new policy came into place for our pensioners regarding reductions to pensions in payment following re-employment where you may join the LGPS.

Re-employments that started, or material changes that took effect, on or after that date will only lead to reductions for those who were awarded additional pension, additional membership or a credited period and are therefore in receipt of an augmented pension or annual compensation.

If you take up employment that allows you to join the LGPS again you must notify the LGSS Pensions Service in writing of your re-employment, regardless of whether your earnings may affect your pension and/or any annual compensation payments you may have been awarded. In addition, you must notify us of any subsequent material change in your employment, such as if you change your working hours or your post is regraded.

Former Members of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

If you have been awarded Compensatory Added Years and also receive a pension from the Teachers' Pensions Scheme, and if you take up employment within the Education sphere this may affect your pension and/or annual compensation.

Therefore, you must notify the Teachers' Pensions Scheme of any such employment.

Head of LGSS Pensions Service Retiring

Steve Dainty, Head of LGSS Pensions Service will be retiring on 11th May 2014. Steve took up the post in May 2011 following a long career in Local Government. Throughout these 3 years Steve has worked hard to create the LGSS vision of sharing services, by successfully combining administration for the Cambridgeshire Pension Fund and the Northamptonshire Pension Fund.

In recognition of his work and the positive changes he brought about he was awarded the title of Pensions Manager of the Year at the UK Professional Pensions Awards in September 2012.

Last year, Steve won the Award for Leadership at the Celebrating Success awards. His nomination said: *“Steve is a determined, engaging and motivating leader whose tenacity and innovative approach always achieves the very best results.”*

We wish Steve the very best for the future.



The LGPS 2014

On the 1st April 2014 a new look LGPS came into place – the LGPS 2014. The Scheme is now a career average rather than a final salary scheme, which means that a member's pension is now worked out based on their pensionable pay in that year and added to a pension account.

At the end of each Scheme Year (31st March) the amount in a members pension account is adjusted in line with the Consumer Price Index to ensure it keeps its value.

Also, for pension built up from the 1st April the Normal Pension Age is the same as a members state pension age (but with a minimum of age 65), however increased flexibility now means that a member can retire and draw their pension at any age between 55 and 75.

These are just some of the changes that have taken place – more can be found on the national website – www.lgps2014.org

Potential impact of LGPS 2014 on existing pensioners

The vast majority of changes to the Local Government Pension Scheme from 1st April 2014 do not affect those whose scheme membership ended before that date. However, there are some changes to benefits payable upon death on or after 1st April 2014 that can affect those already in receipt of an LGPS pension based on your own membership (i.e. not a pension payable to a surviving spouse, civil partner, co-habiting partner or child):

- If you also have membership of the LGPS after 31st March 2014 and die in service, a single death grant representing the greater of the death grant for death in service or the death grant in respect of the pension in payment (if any) would be paid, not both.

Do you know the signs of being scammed?

- Those with active membership of the LGPS after 31st March 2008 have, subject to certain conditions, been able to nominate a co-habiting partner to receive a survivors pension. The need for there to be a formal nomination in order for a pension to be paid to a cohabiting partner has been removed in relation to deaths after 31st March 2014. The other criteria will still need to be satisfied as before.
- If you have left membership of the LGPS prior to 1st April 2014 and entered into a civil partnership after leaving, the pension payable to any surviving civil partner will only be based on membership after 5th April 1988, unless you elect before 1st April 2015 to retain the old provision whereby the pension would be based on all of your membership. The election should be made in writing to the Pensions Service at the address in the Contact Us section at the end of the newsletter.

National Fraud Initiative

Cambridgeshire County Council is required by law to protect the public funds they are responsible for. We may share information with other bodies responsible for auditing or administering public funds for the purpose of preventing and detecting fraud. Along with other authorities we work with the Audit Commission to clamp down on pension fund fraud nationally. We have a statutory duty to submit data to the Audit Commission's 'National Fraud Initiative'. We make sure that the information provided complies fully with the Data Protection Act.

More information regarding the National Fraud Initiative can be found at www.audit-commission.gov.uk/fraud/nfi/pages/default.aspx



Are you or someone you know being scammed?

Would you know the signs of a scammer or rogue trader?

Supporting Business and Communities, which includes Trading Standards, are here to help. They look after consumer matters which includes tackling financial abuse resulting from fraud and rogue trading that can have devastating effects on elderly and vulnerable residents.

These crimes are largely unreported by victims who remain silent for fear of looking foolish or of having their ability to manage at home questioned. However, people still lose thousands of pounds to postal and telephone scams every year. In many cases elderly and vulnerable people lose life savings and their long term financial security causing great emotional harm and stress.

Help is at hand to support vulnerable residents who may have already become trapped in the cycle of responding to scam mail/calls and to support them to break out of it. But there are also simple steps you can follow to protect yourself.

Scams are schemes to con you out of your money. They can arrive by post, phone call, text message or email or a scammer may turn up at your home. It could be a scam if:

- the call, letter, email or text has come out of the blue
- you've never heard of the lottery or competition they are talking about and didn't buy a ticket
- you are asked to send money in advance or give your credit card or bank details
- you are told you have to respond quickly so don't get time to think about it or talk to family and friends before you decide. You may be told to keep it a secret.

Telltale signs that may show you are already a victim of a scam:

- Receiving numerous letters each day. These will often appear official and offer anything from large sums of cash to magical cures in exchange for a fee of between £20 and £50.

Over time these fees increase, with the promise that the prize will finally be forthcoming after one last payment. Needless to say, prizes never materialise.

- Targeting by telephone, receiving frequent calls during the day and high telephone bills due to ringing 090 premium rate numbers.
- Victims of one type of scam are prime targets for other fraudsters, such as rogue traders who knock at the door and offer to do home improvement work e.g. fixing a loose roof tile, cleaning the roof or relaying driveways. Quotes will start low but once the work has been completed the price will have spiralled into thousands of pounds.

If you suspect you or someone you know is being targeted by scammers, or you would like advice and support contact: **Citizen Advice Service on 08454 040506**

All information is treated in the strictest of confidence.

Pensioner Representative

Whilst the LGSS Pensions Service is able to answer any questions that you may have about your LGPS Pension, we also have a Pensioner Representative who is also able to assist with your queries. He can be contacted by email John Walker at jswalker@care4free.net

Contact Us

If you have any queries regarding your pension or want to inform us of re-employment, a change in bank or building society details or home address please contact the LGSS Pensions Service.

Remember to quote your National Insurance number with any enquiries.

Post

**LGSS Pensions Service
Northamptonshire County Council
PO Box 202
John Dryden House
8–10 The Lakes
Northampton
NN4 7YD**

Telephone

01604 366537 (Option 5)

Email

pensions@northamptonshire.gov.uk

Website

<http://pensions.cambridgeshire.gov.uk>

