

aboutMyPension

Fife Pension Fund

aboutMyPension is for information. Any decision made in regards to your benefits is made in accordance with the overriding LGPS (Scotland) Regulations as amended.

2018

Hello and welcome to the 2018 About My Pension newsletter which provides you with important information about your LGPS benefits.

We hope you find its contents useful, and if you have any ideas or topics you would like us to cover in future please get in touch.

The last year has been another busy year for the pension team. A major administrative focus was the valuation of the fund. We worked closely with our employers to ensure that accurate membership data was submitted to the actuary. You can view the 2017 valuation report in the forms and publications section at www.fifepensionfund.org



A new Fife Pension Fund website

We are pleased to announce the launch of a new website at www.fifepensionfund.org

The new website replaces the pension site on FISH and FifeDirect. The site has individual sections for active, deferred and pensioner members, providing guidance and updates. You can also access Member Self Service from the site.

In this edition...

New website

Your 2018 benefit statement

The LGPS is valuable

Pension scams

Freedom and Choice

Increasing your benefits

LGPS 2018

Death Grants

Pension savings tax

GDPR Privacy Notice

Your data

Fund Information

Keeping us up to date

Your 2018 Annual Benefit Statement

Your benefit statement is available on Member Self Service.

If you have not already registered you can start the registration process at pension.fife.gov.uk.

You will need your National Insurance number to complete the process. If you have any problems registering please phone 01592 583200 and select option 6.

Once registered, you will also be able to

- Edit personal information
- View scheme membership details
- Update security information
- Carry out pension calculations

When you leave the pension scheme, either by retirement, or if you defer your pension benefits, you'll still be able to access your pension record on-line.

The registration details that you create when you first register will still be valid and you'll have access to either your deferred or pensioner record.

Don't let a scammer enjoy your retirement!

The Financial Conduct Authority and the Pensions Regulator have joined forces to launch a new ScamSmart advertising campaign alerting the public about pension scammers.

Pension scam tactics include

- Contacting you out of the blue
- Promises of high/guaranteed returns
- Free pension reviews
- Access to your pension before age 55 without telling you will be hit with a large tax bill
- Pressure to act quickly

To find out more how pension scams work, how to avoid them and what to do if you suspect a fraud go to

www.fca.org.uk/scamsmart/

Increasing your benefits

As a LGPS member you have peace of mind that you are in a first rate pension scheme, however you may be interested in paying extra to top up your benefits.

You can buy more LGPS pension by paying Additional Pension Contributions (APCs).

You can also make Additional Voluntary Contributions, known as AVCs, to one of our in house AVC schemes which are administered by Prudential and Standard Life.

Full information on increasing your benefits can be viewed in the paying in section at www.fifepensionfund.org

The LGPS is valuable (and pension scammers know this!)

The LGPS is one of the best pension schemes there is.

The LGPS provides:

- **A pension that keeps pace with inflation**
- **A pension for your surviving spouse or partner**
- **A tax free lump sum** in exchange for some of your pension at retirement
- **Death in service protection** of three times your pensionable pay
- **An ill health pension** from any age if you have two years' service and are permanently unable to work

Your pension contributions are tax free and your employer contributes to the cost of the LGPS.



Protecting your loved ones Lump sum Death Grant

If you die in service, a lump sum of three times your pensionable pay is paid out.

If you have other LGPS membership(s) the actual amount payable would be determined after considering your other LGPS membership(s)

The LGPS regulations do not spell out who the death grant is paid to.

Fife Pension Fund has absolute discretion in deciding to whom a death grant is paid but by completing a nomination form you can help ensure quick and accurate payment of the death grant to the person or persons you would like it paid to.

The easiest way of keeping your nomination details up to date is by updating the information through Member Self Service.

Alternatively you can download, complete and return an 'Expression of Wish Form' available from the forms and publication section at www.fifepensionfund.org

Even if you have already completed one, please do remember to keep it up to date – this is especially important should your circumstances change. However, if you do not complete one, we will still pay out the lump sum death grant, but we will use our discretion to decide who to pay it to – normally a spouse, partner and so on. But it is far better to let us know your wishes.

Change to the Local Government Pension Scheme

Voluntary early retirement from age 55

The Local Government Pension Scheme (Scotland) Regulations 2018 came into force on 1 June 2018.

The regulations

- Allow active members aged 55 and over to retire and take immediate payment of their benefits without needing employer permission

However, benefits are reduced if a member takes payment

- Before age 60
- From age 60 but before Normal Pension Age (linked to State Pension Age) or without full rule of 85 protection

Benefits are reduced to take into account they are being paid for longer.

If you are thinking of retiring early, please in the first instance calculate pension estimates on-line through Member Self Service. If you have not already registered, you can start the process at pension.fife.gov.uk. If you have any problems registering please phone 01592 583200 and select option 6.

The estimates will take into account reductions that would apply at your proposed retirement date. The earlier you retire, the greater the reductions.

If you still wish to retire early

- And you are a Fife Council employee or you work for a Council Trust a formal request to retire must be made through First Contact
- Otherwise contact your employer directly

Freedom and Choice

Freedom and choice reforms were introduced in 2015 allowing individuals aged 55 and over greater flexibility in the way they can access their defined contribution (DC) pensions.

The reforms do not mean that LGPS members can release funds directly from the LGPS.

However, before retiring, members can transfer their LGPS benefits to a DC scheme offering 'flexible benefits'.

If you are contacted by a legitimate pensions company, don't give up your pension rights lightly.

A transfer out of the LGPS is a major financial decision and can only be done after taking independent financial advice.

We suggest that any member considering this course of action first read the Freedom and Choice Q & A for LGPS members in the forms and publication section at www.fifepensionfund.org

Your Data

GDPR

The Fund's privacy notice and a Q&A for LGPS members can be viewed in the forms and publications section at www.fifepensionfund.org

LGPS National Insurance Database

We are participating in a data sharing project with all other LGPS funds in the UK. We are doing this as we need to see if our members have LGPS benefits with another LGPS Fund in order for us to pay death in service benefits.

This also allows us to participate in the Tell Us Once DWP initiative. You cannot opt out of us sharing your data as it is being undertaken to comply with a legal requirement.

National Fraud Initiative

The Fund has a statutory obligation to participate in the National Fraud Initiative (NFI). This is a counter-fraud initiative led by Audit Scotland. It is a national data matching exercise to detect fraud or error. Your data will be shared as part of this exercise.

TAX

HM Revenue & Customs imposes two limits on the amount of tax free pension savings you can make.

These limits are known as the Annual Allowance (AA) and the Lifetime Allowance (LTA).

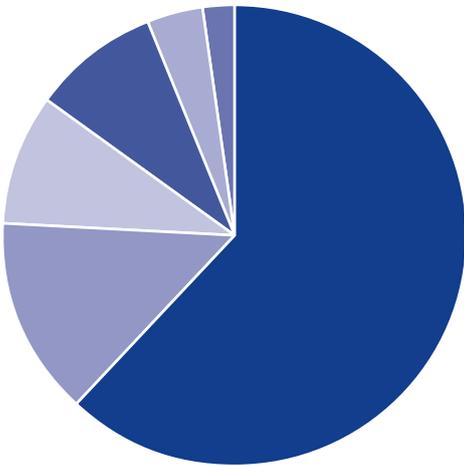
These limits do not affect the vast majority of LGPS members.

If you want more information about how these limits work, factsheets are available in the forms and publications section at www.fifepensionfund.org

Fund Information

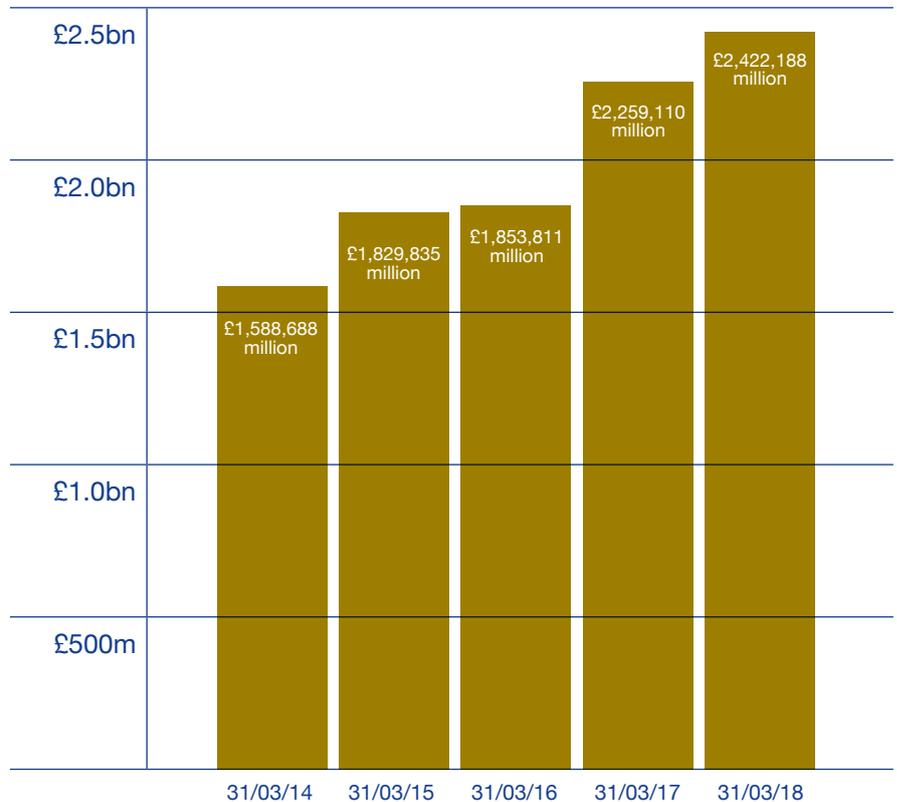
Asset Allocation as at 31st March 2018

Equities	62%
Bonds	14%
Absolute Return	9%
Property	9%
Cash	4%
Infrastructure	2%



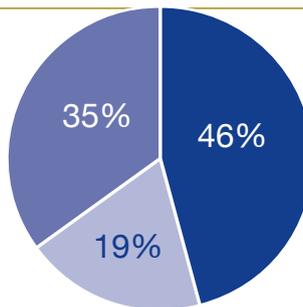
Change in Market Value of Assets

Change in Market Value of Assets under management since 31/03/14 as at 31/03/18



Scheme Membership Statistics as at 31st March 2018

Active Members	16,620
Deferred Members	6,894
Pensioners / Dependant Members	12,522
Total Members	36,036



Member Self Service

- Edit personal information
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Keeping us up to date

If you're moving house please inform your employer who will then notify the Pensions Team.

Contact Details

For more information on this bulletin contact the Pension Team.

☎ 01592 583200 (option 6)

@ pensions.section@fife.gov.uk

or write to us at:

The Pension Team,
Shared Service Centre,
Fife Council,
North Street,
Glenrothes,
Fife KY7 5LT