

Deferred Member's Newsletter

July 2018 Issue

As we notified you last year, we are no longer issuing paper copies of the annual statements. Following our introduction of Member Self-Service (MSS), your Annual Deferred Statement is now available to view by logging in to your MSS account.

If you haven't already registered, visit pension.fife.gov.uk and simply follow the instructions. You will need your National Insurance number to complete the process.

Once registered, you will be able to:

- Edit personal information
- Access your Benefit Statement
- Update security information

Your up to date forecast is available to view under the 'Documents' tab in your MSS account. Click on the My Documents link and open the Deferred Members ABS 2018 document. Guidance notes for the annual statement and the 2018 Deferred Members newsletter are also available to view in the 'Documents' tab.

The forecast is to help you plan for your future retirement. We try to make sure that this statement is accurate but it is not a statement of entitlement. If any of the details are incorrect please contact us. Please refer to the 'How to contact us' section at the end of this newsletter.

2018 Pension Increase

Your deferred benefits increase each April based on the Consumer Prices Index (CPI). The confirmed CPI for this year is 3.00% effective from 09 April 2018.

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Protect Yourself against Pension Scams

Don't let your benefits become prey to fraudsters. Fraudsters are singling out people like you and claiming that they can:

- Help you cash in your pension early
- Provide you with a pensions review

What they don't say is that you could face a significant tax bill.

Keep your pension safe by being aware of common warning signs such as:

- Contact out of the blue about your pension, by text, online or by a phone call
- Offers to access your pension before age 55 without telling you that you will be hit with a high tax bill
- Pressured to make a quick decision

For more information of the dangers of pension scams please visit:

www.thepensionsregulator.gov.uk/individuals/dangers-of-pension-scams.aspx

Pensions Reform Freedom and Choice

Reforms have been introduced offering greater flexibility in the way that individuals aged 55 and over can access their defined contribution (DC) pensions.

The LGPS is a public sector defined benefit (DB) pension scheme which means that the flexibilities under Freedom and Choice do not impact on how you can take your LGPS benefits. You can however transfer your benefits to a DC scheme offering flexible benefits but you should think carefully before doing so.

A transfer out of the LGPS is a major financial decision requiring careful consideration and can only be done after taking advice. We suggest that any members contemplating this course of action first read the Q&A for LGPS members which is in the 'Already a Member' section of our site. Please type www.fifedirect.org.uk/lgps into your browser.

You should note that, in accordance with the Pensions Schemes Act 1993, an election to transfer must be made at least 12 months before your Normal Pension Age (NPA) in the LGPS. NPA is defined by the scheme regulations in force at the time when you left the scheme.

The following sets out Normal Pension Ages in the LGPS

- If you left after 31 March 2015 your NPA is equal to your State Pension Age with a minimum age of 65
- If you left the LGPS between 1 December 2006 and 31 March 2015, your NPA is 65
- If you left the LGPS before 1 December 2006 your NPA is 65 unless you were in the scheme before 1 April 1998 in which case
 - Your NPA is 60 if you could have had 25 years' membership at that age had you remained in the scheme until then; or
 - Your NPA is the date between age 60 and 65 when you could have had 25 years' membership had you remained in the scheme; or
 - Your NPA is 65 if by that age you would not have had 25 years' membership had you remained in the scheme until then

The Pension Schemes Act also states that you are not entitled to transfer your deferred benefits if you are also an active member of the LGPS in respect of an on-going employment or you have already drawn benefits from the LGPS (either in your current employment or an earlier employment).

LGPS National Insurance Database

We participate in the National Insurance Database, a data sharing project that includes a number of other LGPS funds in the UK. Being part of this project allows us to quickly check if our members have LGPS benefits with another LGPS Fund to help us ensure that we correctly pay death 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.

GDPR

You can view the Fife Pension Fund privacy notice at www.fifedirect.org.uk/lgps and visit the GDPR section.

We are currently developing a Fife Pension Fund web site which we are aiming to have available by August 2018. Watch for updates in the 'News' section of your MSS account for details.

For more information on this newsletter contact the Pension Team.

- call 01592 583200, option 6
- pensions.section@fife.gov.uk
- or write to us at:

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