

August 2019 Issue

Your 2019 Annual Benefit Statement

Your 2019 Annual Benefit Statement is now available to view by logging in to your MSS (Member Self Service) account.

As we notified you last year, we no longer issue paper copies of the annual statements. You can access your MSS account by going to our website at www.fifepensionfund.org and clicking on the link to Member Self Service at the top of the home page.

If you have not yet registered, you can do so now by going to www.fifepensionfund.org clicking on the Member Self Service link at the top of the home page and following the registration instructions. If you have any problems registering with MSS, there's a registration guide on the forms and publications page of the website.

Once registered, you will also be able to

- View your annual benefit statements (and guidance notes)
- Calculate your benefits at a date of your choice
- Make/update your nomination
- Update your address
- View scheme news / updates

Your 2019 benefit statement is available to view under the 'Documents' tab in your MSS account. Click on the My Documents link and open the Deferred Members ABS 2019 document. Guidance notes for the annual statement and the 2019 Deferred Members newsletter are also available to view in the 'Scheme Documents' tab.

The statement should be used to help you plan for your future retirement. Whilst we try to make the statement as accurate as possible please remember it is not a statement of entitlement. If you believe any of the details shown to be incorrect, please contact us as soon as possible. Contact details are at the end of this newsletter.

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2019 Pension Increase

Your deferred benefits increase each April based on the Consumer Prices Index (CPI). The confirmed CPI for this year is 2.40% effective from 8th April 2019.

www.fifepensionfund.org

The Fife Pension Fund has a new website at www.fifepensionfund.org.

By accessing our site you can find lots of useful information about the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) as well as links to forms, Member Self Service (MSS) and news bulletins.

Contact the Pensions Team on 01592 583200 (option 6) or pensions.section@fife.gov.uk or write to the Pensions Team, Fife Council, Rothesay House, Rothesay Place, Glenrothes, Fife KY7 5PQ

Accessing your benefits from age 55

Scheme changes effective from 28 June 2019 allow all deferred and pension credit members to access their benefits from age 55 years providing they are no longer in the employment which gave rise to the benefit (an individual with deferred benefits but now in a different local government employment would be able to access their benefits). Anyone accessing their benefits before Normal Pension Age (NPA) will have their benefits reduced for early payment. NPA is simply the age when you can take payment of your benefits in full and is defined by the regulations in force when you became a deferred member.

Early Payment Reductions

A member who elects to have their benefits put into payment before they reach their Normal Pension Age (NPA) will have their benefits reduced for early payment. The following table shows the current reductions that would apply. The Scheme Actuary may change these factors at any time. Where the number of years is not exact, the reduction percentages are adjusted accordingly.

Years Early	Pension Reduction % - Males	Pension Reduction % - Females	Retirement Grant Reduction % - All Members
0	00.00%	00.00%	00.00%
1	05.40%	05.40%	02.30%
2	10.40%	10.40%	04.60%
3	14.90%	14.90%	06.90%
4	19.20%	19.20%	09.10%
5	23.10%	23.10%	11.20%
6	26.80%	26.80%	13.30%
7	30.20%	30.20%	15.30%
8	33.30%	33.30%	17.30%
9	36.20%	36.20%	19.20%
10	39.00%	39.00%	21.10%
11	43.00%	43.00%	N/A
12	45.50%	45.50%	N/A
13	47.80%	47.80%	N/A

If you are thinking of taking early payment of your pension benefits, please in the first instance calculate estimates through Member Self Service (MSS). The calculator takes into account any reductions that will be applied.

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 sharing your data as it is being undertaken to comply with a legal requirement.

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

Pensions Reform

Freedom and Choice

Transfers

Freedom and choice allows 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 scheme. However, before retiring, members can transfer their LGPS benefits to a DC scheme offering flexible benefits. 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

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 so it is important that you get guidance or advice before making a decision.

The Pensions Advisory Service (thepensionsadvisoryservice.org.uk) and Pension Wise (pensionwise.gov.uk) provide free, independent and impartial information and guidance.

If you decide to transfer your pension, investigate the scheme you are thinking of transferring to and don't be rushed into making a decision. Take your time to make all the checks you need and ask all the questions you need to ask.

You can also visit the Financial Conduct Authority's ScamSmart website fca.org.uk/scamsmart to find out if what you are being offered is a known scam or has the signs of being a scam.

An election to transfer must be made at least 12 months before your Normal Pension Age (NPA) in the LGPS. You cannot transfer your deferred benefits if you are also an active member of the scheme or if you have already drawn benefits from the LGPS (either in your current employment or an earlier employment).

AVCs

It is now possible to take all or part of your in house LGPS AVC fund as one or more cash withdrawals from age 55 and at a different time from your main LGPS benefits. The first 25% of each withdrawal is tax-free. The remaining 75% of each withdrawal will be treated as income and subject to tax.

You can also transfer your AVCs without transferring your LGPS benefits to another pension scheme offering flexible benefits.

Remember you still have the option to take all or some of your AVC fund as tax-free cash if you take payment of the fund at the same time as your LGPS benefits.

Beware of PENSION SCAMS

Don't let a scammer enjoy your retirement

Fraudsters' 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
- Pressured to make a quick decision

Pension cold calling is illegal so you should be very wary.

To find out more about how pension scams work, how to avoid them and what to do if you suspect a fraud go to www.fca.org.uk/scamsmart



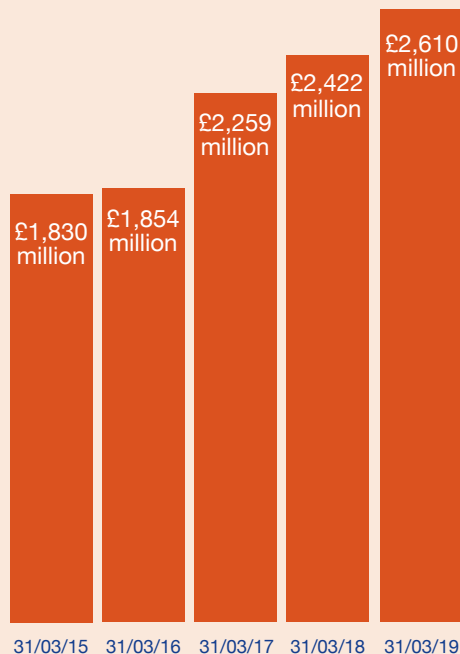
Fund News

Asset Allocation as at 31st March 2019

Equities	61%
Bonds	14%
Absolute Return	10%
Property	9%
Cash	4%
Infrastructure	2%

Change in Market Value of Assets

Change in Market Value of Assets under management since 31/03/15 as at 31/03/19



Scheme Membership as at 31st March 2019

Active Members	16,670
Deferred Members	7,293
Pensioners / Dependant Members	13,151
Total Members	37,114

Protecting your loved ones

Lump Sum Death Grant

The LGPS regulations do not specify who is paid a lump sum death grant. We make the final decision on who to pay the lump sum to. Before we make any decision we will consider any wishes you have expressed but we are not bound by this.

Your current nomination is shown on your 2019 statement. You can update your nomination online through MSS or completing an expression of wish form available from the forms and publications section on our website.

- If you left service before 1 April 2009, die before becoming a pensioner and are not an active member on your death, we pay out 3 times your deferred pension as a lump sum death grant.
- If you left service after 31 March 2009, die before becoming a pensioner and are not an active member on your death, we pay out 5 times your deferred pension as a lump sum death grant.
- If you are also an active member of the LGPS in Scotland, the lump sum death grant payable is the higher of your death grants. These amounts will not be added together.

Survivor Benefits

You do not need to nominate your wife, husband, civil partner or dependent children to receive a pension on your death but we advise that you make a nomination for the lump sum death grant and keep it up to date.

Cohabiting Partner's Pension

If you ceased to be an active member before 1 April 2009, we do not pay a cohabiting partner's pension.

If you were an active member after 31 March 2009 and are living with someone you are not married to, we may pay a cohabiting partner's pension.

At the date of your death, you and your partner must have been free to marry or form a civil partnership.

Also, your partner must provide evidence to show that for at least 2 years before your death

- You were living together as a married couple/civil partners
- Your partner was financially dependent on you or you were financially interdependent

Keeping up to date

For more information visit www.fifepensionfund.org

Or contact the Pension Team.

☎ 01592 583200 (option 6)

@pensions.section@fife.gov.uk

or write to us at:

The Pension Team,
Fife Council,
Rothesay House,
Rothesay Place,
GLENROTHES,
Fife, KY7 5PQ