



North East Scotland Pension Fund

nespf

Pensions Newsletter 2022

Your Pension Increase

Pensions are increased each April to keep up with the cost of living. This year the full pensions increase is **3.1%**.

However depending on your age and the date you retired, you may not get the full increase.

If you are under age 55 and did not retire due to ill health, your pension will not increase this year. When you turn 55, your pension will increase to the level it would have been had it increased every year since you retired.

If your pension payments began after **26th April 2021**, you will only get part of the increase. The table below shows how much your pension will increase by based on the date your pension began.

Date Pension Began	Percentage Increase
On or Before 26 April 2021	3.10%
27 April 2021 – 26 May 2021	2.84%
27 May 2021 – 26 June 2021	2.58%
27 June 2021 – 26 July 2021	2.33%
27 July 2021 – 26 August 2021	2.07%
27 August 2021 – 26 September 2021	1.81%
27 September 2021 – 26 October 2021	1.55%
27 October 2021 – 26 November 2021	1.29%
27 November 2021 – 26 December 2021	1.03%
27 December 2021 – 26 January 2022	0.78%
27 January 2022 – 26 February 2022	0.52%
27 February 2022 – 26 March 2022	0.26%

When will my pension increase?

Your pension will increase from 11th April. As this is part way through the month, you will only receive part of the increase. From May onwards, your monthly pension will include the full increase.

You will receive a payslip in April which will confirm your new pension amount. If your pension has increased by 50p or more per month, you will also receive a payslip in May showing your new monthly payment.

Why is the increase lower than expected?

If you paid into the Fund before 6th April 1997 and have now reached State Pension Age, it is likely you will have a Guaranteed Minimum Pension (GMP).

GMP is the minimum amount of pension we must pay you. Your GMP is also increased but some or all of the increase is paid with your State Pension. So while the increase from us may be lower than expected, your State Pension will also increase, giving you the full increase you are entitled to. The exception to this is members whose State Pension Age is after 5th April 2016; the Fund will pay the full increase in these cases.

State Pension Increase

The basic state pension will increase by **3.1%**.

For more information on your State Pension visit the Department for Work and Pensions at www.gov.uk or call **0345 606 0265**.





One thing that's certain in life – Taxes

P60

A P60 will be issued to you at the end of April. Your P60 will show you how much pension has been paid to you over the last 12 months and the tax deducted from it.

Remember to keep your P60 safe as it will be needed if you have to complete a self-assessment tax form.

Tax Codes

Your final tax code for 2021/22 can be found on your P60. Your tax code for the coming year (2022/23) will be on your April payslip.

If your tax code changes, you do not need to contact us as HMRC automatically notify us of any changes. If you receive a letter from HMRC informing you of a change to your tax code, please check your April payslip to ensure the correct code has been used.

Can't wait?

Your P60s and
payslips will be
available online
by mid-April

Questions About Tax

We do not set your tax code. We can only use the tax code that HMRC provide us so any questions must go directly to them. You can contact HMRC at **0300 200 3300**.

Pay Days 2022/23

Your pension is paid on the 15th of each month. If this falls on a Saturday, Sunday or public holiday, it will be paid on the previous working day.

2022	
April	Friday 15
May	Friday 13
June	Wednesday 15
July	Friday 15
August	Monday 15
September	Thursday 15
October	Friday 14
November	Tuesday 15
December	Thursday 15
2023	
January	Friday 13
February	Wednesday 15
March	Wednesday 15

Change of Circumstances

Please let us know if you change your:

- ▶ **Name**
- ▶ **Marital Status**
- ▶ **Address**
- ▶ **Bank details**

You can update your address and bank details online through My Pension. Alternatively, you can send a letter notifying us of any changes. We cannot accept changes to bank details over the phone for security reasons.



COVID 19: The latest on our Service

Throughout the duration of the coronavirus pandemic, our priority has been to ensure that you, our pensioner members, continue to receive your pension on time each month. Please be assured that your pension with us is safe, its value will not change and it will continue to be paid each month.

Our staff have adapted to new working practices, and we continue to work from home with some office presence. At present we are closed to visitors and no appointments or face-to-face meetings will be held. We thank you for your patience and understanding at this time.

Contacting Us

If you have a question, we ask you to use our online resources first. The answers to most questions can be found on our website, or on your My Pension account. However, if you do not have online access or have urgent queries our phonelines are open from 10:30am – 12:00pm, Monday to Friday. You can also email or write to us using the contact details at the end of the booklet.

New Office

A reminder that we have moved to new office premises. Please ensure any post is directed to our new address which can be found at the end of the booklet.

We will continue to follow Government advice and update our website with any service changes.

Your Pension Online

See all your pension details in one place, at any time.

My Pension is our secure, online tool that gives you instant access to your pension details so keeping up to date with your pension is now easier than ever.



Pension Values

- ▶ Check your pension value
- ▶ See your survivor's/partner's pension
- ▶ View the value of your death grant



Documents

- ▶ See payslips and P60s
- ▶ Upload forms, certificates and other documents
- ▶ Access newsletters, guides and forms



Update Details

- ▶ Change bank account details
- ▶ Update address and contact information
- ▶ Make or change death grant nominations



Security

- ▶ Secure access with two step authentication
- ▶ Accredited and Certified to meet latest cyber security requirements

To register visit nespf.pensiondetails.co.uk and follow the "How to sign up" steps.

Fund in Figures



£5.7bn
Total Fund Value



2,071
Votes at AGMs



70,979
Members



24,064
Pensioners

40,473
Users of
My Pension



Financial Summary for 2021/22

Income	£m
Employee Contributions	32
Employer Contributions	110
Transfers In	1
Investment Income	59

Outgoing	£m
Pension Benefits	158
Transfers & Refunds	11
Admin & Investments Costs	27

Top 5 Directly Held Stock as at 31 Dec 2021

	£(m)	% of Fund
Amazon	115,589,174	1.83
Nvidia	65,533,688	1.04
Tesla	61,733,394	0.98
Microsoft	58,398,941	0.93
ASML Holding	54,785,554	0.87

Responsible Investment and Environmental, Social & Governance

As a long-term investor the Fund has a duty to engage with the companies we invest in on environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues, and to work with others to effect change.

ESG in practice

There are several things that we as an investor can do to make changes for the better.

► Climate Statement

The NESPF recognises the risks associated with climate change and the potential for these to impact on the long-term value of the Fund. However, we also see the opportunity for investment reward, particularly for green energy investments as we transition to a lower carbon economy. We believe that company level engagement delivers the best outcome by successfully influencing behaviour, an effect divestment would fail to deliver. The Fund's approach to managing climate-related risks and opportunities involves both its asset allocation decisions and a robust approach to engagement and voting.

► Direct Investment

The Fund has been increasing exposure to renewable energy opportunities since 2017, including wind, solar and energy from waste infrastructure projects. Approximately £200 million in dedicated renewables has been funded to date, with a new \$100 million commitment made to a Global Renewables mandate currently being drawn down.

The Fund continues to seek further investments in low carbon and sustainable initiatives where there are opportunities to meet the Fund's return requirements and risk parameters.



► **Collaborate**

There are limits to what we can achieve as a single investor and believe greater progress can be made through collaboration with other investors.

To accomplish this, we are members/signatories of the following ESG initiatives:

- **Climate Action 100**
- **Carbon Disclosure Project**
- **Principles for Responsible Investment**
- **Local Authority Pension Fund Forum**
- **We also engage with our Fund Managers on a regular basis.**

By working together, we can use our collective size to influence decision making and promote better standards of corporate responsibility.

Examples of Positive Engagement

Solar Panel Installation

We are investing just under £1 million to install 3,000 photovoltaic solar panels on to the roof of a distribution warehouse owned by the Fund in Wolverhampton.

Once finished, the panels will be able to produce 979,200 kWh of electricity per annum, which is enough to boil a kettle 8,901,818 times or supply electricity to 268 UK households for an entire year. The electricity generated will save 248 tonnes of CO₂ emissions per annum, which is comparable to planting 1,550 trees.

More information on our investments can be found on our website www.nespf.org.uk/about/investment

Managing Your Data

To comply with regulations the Fund shares limited information with other public service bodies to prevent and detect fraud.

LGPS National Insurance Database

This is a data sharing project with all other Local Government Pension Funds in Scotland. It allows funds to identify if a member has any LGPS records elsewhere in the country; information which is necessary to help administer the pension scheme and calculate pension benefits.

National Fraud Initiative

The Fund has a legal obligation to participate in the NFI, a counter-fraud exercise led by Audit Scotland. It compares information about individuals held by different public bodies to identify circumstances that might suggest the existence of fraud or error.

Tell Us Once

This service allows the Fund to be automatically notified when a death is registered.

The Fund does not sell any information to third parties and data collected and shared is processed in line with the UK General Data Protection Regulation and Data Protection Act 2018. More information on how your data is held and processed can be found online in our Privacy Notice.

Contact Us

If you have any questions or would like more information, please get in touch.

North East Scotland Pension Fund
Level 1
2 Marischal Square
Broad Street
Aberdeen AB10 1LP

Tel: 01224 264 264 (Mon-Fri, 10:30am-12pm)

Email: pensions@nespf.org.uk

Web: www.nespf.org.uk

**Want your
newsletter digitally?**

Contact us or login to **My Pension**
and set your communication
preferences.