



North East Scotland Pension Fund

nespf

Pensions Newsletter

2026

Your Pension Increase

Pensions are increased each April to keep up with the cost of living. This year the full increase is **3.8%**.

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. 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 21 April 2025, you will only get part of the increase. The table below shows how much your pension will be increased by based on the date your pension began.

Date Pension Began	% Increase
On or before 21 April 2025	3.8%
22 April 2025 to 21 May 2025	3.48%
22 May 2025 to 21 June 2025	3.17%
22 June 2025 to 21 July 2025	2.85%
22 July 2025 to 21 August 2025	2.53%
22 August 2025 to 21 September 2025	2.22%
22 September 2025 to 21 October 2025	1.9%
22 October 2025 to 21 November 2025	1.58%
22 November 2025 to 21 December 2025	1.27%
22 December 2025 to 21 January 2026	0.95%
22 January 2026 to 21 February 2026	0.63%
22 February 2026 to 21 March 2026	0.32%

How is the pensions increase decided?

The Fund does not set the pension increase amount. We must follow pension legislation which states the Pensions Increase to be applied each April is to be based on the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) for the previous September. So the 3.8% increase in April, is based on the CPI rate from September 2025.

When will my pension increase?

Your pension will increase from 6 April. As this is part way through the month, you'll only receive part of the increase. From May onwards, your monthly pension will include the full increase you are entitled to.

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 has my pension not increased by the relevant value in the table opposite?

If you paid into the Fund before 6 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 it 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 value of increase you are entitled to. The exception to this is members whose State Pension Age is after 5 April 2016. The Fund will pay the full increase in these cases.

What is the state pension increase

The basic State Pension will increase by 4.8%. This is higher than the Fund's pension increase because of the 'triple lock'. The triple lock means that Government must increase the State Pension by whichever of the following is highest:

▶ **Wage growth, or** ▶ **Inflation, or** ▶ **2.5%**

So while your NESPF pension will increase in line with inflation, as wage growth was the highest this year, the triple lock will mean your State Pension increases in line with this instead.

For more information on your State Pension visit www.gov.uk/browse/working/state-pension or call **0800 731 0469**.

Why is my net pension less despite the pension increase?

While there have been increases to both public sector pensions and the State Pension, personal tax allowance remains frozen at £12,570. You pay income tax if your total annual income, including any pensions, adds up to more than your Personal Allowance (the amount of income you do not have to pay tax on).

Your State Pension counts as taxable income but the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) does not deduct tax from your State Pension. For some members, the pensions increase will mean that you exceed this limit, and you will now pay tax, or will pay more tax because you have been pushed into a higher tax bracket.

You may find that your gross pension with the NESPF increases but that your net pension is reduced due to a change in tax code.

However the net income across both your State Pension and NESPF pension will, most likely, remain higher than before.

Tax

P60

Any questions about tax must be directed to HMRC on 0300 200 3300.

We have to issue your P60 by the end of May, but always aim to get it to you even sooner. Your P60 will show you how much pension has been paid to you over the last 12 months and the tax deducted from it.

Tax Codes

Your final tax code for 2025/26 can be found on your P60. Your tax code for the coming year (2026/27) will be on your April payslip. If your tax code changes you do not need to contact us as HMRC automatically tell us about 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?

You can see your P60s and payslips on My Pension+ the minute they are processed - no need to wait for the mail!

State Pension

The State Pension is taxable but cannot be taxed at source. Any tax due from exceeding your Personal Allowance, may therefore be taken from your NESPF pension through an adjustment of your tax code by HMRC.

Pay Days 2026/27

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.

2026		2027	
April	Wednesday 15	January	Friday 15th
May	Friday 15	February	Monday 15th
June	Monday 15	March	Monday 15th
July	Wednesday 15		
August	Friday 14		
September	Tuesday 15		
October	Thursday 15		
November	Friday 13		
December	Tuesday 15		

Are you entitled to more money?

When it comes to retirement, a little extra money can go a long way. That's why it is important to ensure you are receiving all of the income you are entitled to. Below are two resources you can use to check that you are not missing out:

1. Tracing Lost Pensions

With most adults having several employments during their lifetime, it can be easy to lose track of what pension pots were paid into and when. If you know the name of the scheme or suspect you may have had a pension with a previous employer, you can contact them directly to enquire about any pension you may be due.

However if you don't know the name or can't make contact, you can use the Pension Tracing Service. This is a free, Government-led service which searches a database of pension schemes to provide you with the contact details you need. To find out more about this service visit www.gov.uk/find-pension-contact-details

2. Pension Credit

Another source of income which may help during retirement is Pension Credit, a weekly benefit to boost your pension pot.

Pension Credit is a means-tested benefit separate from your State Pension. It can give you extra money if you are over State Pension Age and on low income.

There are an estimated 700,000 pensioners missing out on this cash boost so visit www.gov.uk/pension-credit-calculator to check your eligibility and get an estimate of how much you could get.

Financial Support

With the cost of living crisis putting added strain on everyone's finances, you may find yourself in need of assistance. Here's where you can find extra support:



Age Scotland: Provides information on a range of topics from energy bills to benefits that you may be entitled to. Call for free, confidential advice over the phone **0800 12 44 222** or visit www.ageuk.org.uk/scotland/



Citizens Advice: Get help with queries about employment, housing, debt, benefits and consumer issues like energy bills. Call free on **0800 028 1456** or visit www.cas.org.uk/

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.

Note: We cannot accept bank details over the phone for security reasons.

Going Online with our *My Pension+* Portal

Check your pension details at any time

My Pension+ is a secure online tool that gives you instant access to your pension details. *My Pension+* lets you:



Pension Values

- ▶ Check your pension value
- ▶ See your spouse's/partner's survivor's pension



Documents

- ▶ View and download 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

- ▶ *My Pension+* is fully accredited and certified to meet the latest online security requirements

To sign up to *My Pension+* visit nespf.pensiondetails.co.uk

Are your beneficiaries up to date?

If you pass away while your pension is in payment, your pension will no longer be payable. However, there are some other benefits which may be payable to your loved ones upon your death, including a death grant. This is a tax-free cash lump sum which will be paid in certain circumstances. Whether a death grant is payable and the value of the death grant depends on when you left the scheme and how long you were receiving your pension.

It is important to consider who you would like to receive this death grant and ensure that we have the correct details. **Up to date death grant nominations can make processing and payment easier during a difficult time for loved ones and help ensure that we understand your wishes.**

You can tell us who your preferred beneficiaries are by updating your death grant nominations via **My Pension+** or by completing an **Expression of Wish form** available on our website. Please note the Fund does not have to follow your wishes but we will do so wherever we can. If you are receiving a survivor's pension, a death grant will not be payable when you pass away.

Your Feedback

We always welcome feedback to ensure we can continue to shape our services to meet the needs of our members.

- ▶ **91% of members said the 2025 Pensions Newsletter contains helpful information**
- ▶ **88% of respondents said they find value in receiving the Pensions Newsletter**
- ▶ **Pensions Increase, Pension Pay Dates and Tax information were ranked as the most useful topics**

Some comments we received following our Pensions Newsletter 2025 are as follows:

“First class, customer service was excellent. Very polite and helpful.”

“High quality services in every way. Extremely happy.”

“Thank you for being so very helpful in every way needed; just awesome.”

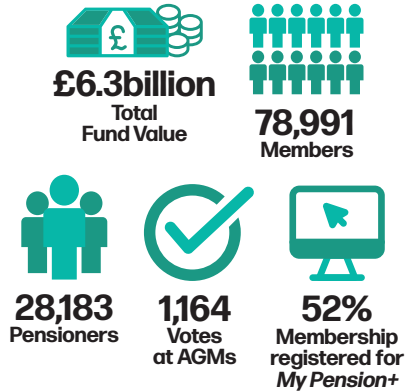
“The staff were really nice and kind and at a difficult time, you helped a lot.”

“I’m very grateful for the efficient provision and management of my pension from NESPF, particularly because it was activated thanks to a ‘search’ by NESPF some 20 yrs ago to trace me. It happened at a time when my employment situation had been disrupted. I still feel thankful every month - thank you!”

Please scan the **QR Code** to complete the survey and provide feedback about the Fund to help improve our services.



Fund in Figures



Financial Summary

Income	£m
Employee Contributions	41
Employer Contributions	108
Transfers In	4
Investment Income	85

Outgoing	£m
Pension Benefits	213
Transfers & Refunds	9
Admin & Investments Costs	25

Top 5 Directly Held Stock as at 31/12/2025

	£(m)	% of Fund
Amazon.com	129.2	1.87
Nvidia	122.4	1.77
Microsoft	80.4	1.16
Tencent	74.2	1.07
Mastercard	66.9	0.97

Responsible Investment & ESG

As a long-term investor, the Fund is committed to engaging with the companies we invest in on environmental, social, and governance (ESG) issues, and collaborating with others to drive meaningful change.



Help us reduce our carbon footprint by opting to get your newsletter, payslips and P60s online.

Simply contact us or login to *My Pension+* to update your communication preference.

ESG in Practice

There are several actions we can take as investors to promote positive change.

► Climate Statement

NESPF acknowledges the risks posed by climate change and the potential impact on investment values. However, we also recognise the opportunities for investment returns, particularly in green energy investments during the transition to a lower carbon economy. Our approach to managing climate-related risks and opportunities includes both strategic asset allocation and a strong focus on engagement and voting.

► Direct Investment

Since 2017, the Fund has been increasing its exposure to renewable energy opportunities, including wind, solar, and energy-from-waste infrastructure projects. Currently, the Fund holds approximately £200 million in direct renewable energy investments, including direct investments in local renewable energy via a grid infrastructure asset, and investment in an energy company that has created a biodiverse lake in Spain on a former open cast mine.

► Collaboration

We understand that there are limits to what we can achieve as a single investor. By collaborating with other investors, we can leverage our collective influence to drive better corporate responsibility standards. The Fund is a member or signatory of several ESG initiatives, including:

- **Climate Action 100**
- **Carbon Disclosure Project**
- **Global Investor Statement**
- **UN Principles for Responsible Investment**

Local Authority Pension Fund Forum

The Fund has been actively collaborating with the Local Authority Pension Fund Forum (LAPFF) to enhance our responsible investment practices. LAPFF is the leading voice for local authority pension funds across the UK, advocating for responsible investment and corporate governance. Through this collaboration, we have been able to leverage our collective influence to drive positive change and promote better standards of corporate responsibility.

The Forum meets quarterly and provides an opportunity for discussion and debate on a broad range of investment issues concerned with shareholder responsibilities and action.

Responsible Investment Initiatives

We have been working diligently on enhancing our responsible investment section on the website. This includes adding asset-specific examples, revamping the area, and publishing our first-ever TCFD report.

To find out more about our involvement with LAPFF visit www.nespf.org.uk/about/investment/responsible-investment/lapff/

More information on our investments can be found on our <https://www.nespf.org.uk/about/investment/responsible-investment/climate/direct-investment/>



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Contact Us

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

North East Scotland Pension Fund

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Tel: 01224 045 045 (10:00-16:00 Monday to Friday)

Email: pensions@nespf.org.uk

Web: www.nespf.org.uk

Visit: Face-to-face appointments must be booked in advance to ensure availability and can be booked via our website at www.nespf.org.uk/contact-us/ or by phone.

Receive your Pensions Newsletter your way. Whether you would like to get your Newsletter via email or in the mail, it is up to you.

Choose your communications preference on *My Pension+*, or contact us using the details above and we can change it for you.

A reminder that we are also on social media:

 Facebook: **North East Scotland Pension Fund**

 LinkedIn: **North East Scotland Pension Fund**

Data Protection

Member privacy is paramount to us and all personal information collected will be managed in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). To enable us to carry out our statutory duty, we are required to share your information with certain bodies but will only do so in limited circumstances. To find out more, view our Privacy Notice available on our website www.nespf.org.uk/about/data-privacy/