

Pensions Newsletter 2018





Welcome to your Annual Pensions Newsletter for 2018

Once again we have focused on the most common queries raised by pensioners and used feedback from last year's survey to make improvements.

Suggestions on our newsletter and service are always welcome so please let us know your thoughts. Contact details can be found on the back of the booklet.

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View your Pension Online

Keeping up-to-date with your pension is now easier than ever with My Pension – our secure online tool which gives you instant access to your pension information.

With **My Pension** you can:

- **Check your pension payments and view monthly payslips**
- **See the value of your spouse's pension**
- **View and print your P60s - these can also be used for official purposes**
- **Update your bank or contact details**
- **Change your death benefit nominations**



Join the 12,000
members already
using My Pension

Registering for My Pension is easy, simply visit <https://axis.nespf.org.uk> and follow the 3 steps to complete your registration. Unfortunately members receiving a Teacher's compensation pension are not able to register for My Pension.



Pensions Increase

Pensions are increased each April to keep up with the cost of living. The increase is based on the rise and fall in the cost of living up to the previous September. This year the increase is 3%.

Will I get the full 3%?

You will only receive the full 3% increase if:

- **you are over 55 (or under 55 but retired on ill health), and**
- **your pension began before 24th April 2017.**



If you are under age 55 and did not retire due to ill health, then you will not receive any increase. When you turn 55, your pension will increase to the level it would have been, had it increased every year since you retired. The new amount will be paid from your 55th birthday.

If you left your employment and started your pension after **24th April 2017**, you will only get part of the increase. The table below shows the percentage increase based on the date your pension began.

pension began	pension increase
On or before 24th April 2017	3%
25th April 2017 to 24th May 2017	2.75%
25th May 2017 to 24th June 2017	2.50%
25th June 2017 to 24th July 2017	2.25%
25th July 2017 to 24th August 2017	2%
25th August 2017 to 24th September 2017	1.75%
25th September 2017 to 24th October 2017	1.50%
25th October 2017 to 24th November 2017	1.25%
25th November 2017 to 24th December 2017	1%
25th December 2017 to 24th January 2018	0.75%
25th January 2018 to 24th February 2018	0.50%
25th February 2018 to 24th March 2018	0.25%

When will my pension increase?

The Pensions Increase is applied to your pension on **9th April**. As this is part way through the month, the increase will only be applied to part of your pension. From May onwards, your monthly pension will include the full increase.

A payslip will be issued in April confirming your new pension amount. If it has increased by more than 50p per month, then you will also receive a payslip in May showing your new full monthly payment.

View payslips
and P60s
online with
My Pension

Why is the increase lower than I 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 have to 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 increase as well to give you the full pension increase you are entitled to. The exception to this is members whose State Pension Age is between **5th April 2016 and 5th April 2021**; the Pension Fund will pay the full increase.

State Pension

Reminder that the basic state pension will increase by 3%.

For more information on your state pension visit the Department of Work and Pensions at **www.dwp.gov.uk** or call **0345 606 0265**.



Pension Payments & Tax

P60s

A P60 will be issued to you towards the end of April detailing the amount of pension paid to you and the tax deducted from it during 2017/18. You can also view your current and previous P60s online at My Pension. From 2017 onwards these are available in an HMRC approved format, so if you need to, you can just login and print off a copy for official use.



Tax Codes

Your final tax code for 2017/18 can be found on your P60 and your new tax code for 2018/19 on your April payslip. You may also receive a letter from HMRC notifying you of a change to your tax code. HMRC automatically notifies the Pension Fund of tax code changes so you do not need to contact us.

The Fund can only use the tax code HMRC provides us with, so any questions about your tax code must be directed to HMRC on 0300 200 3300.

Pay Dates 2018/19

Your pension is paid on the 15th of each month. If the 15th is a Saturday or Sunday, your pension will be paid on the previous Friday.

2018	
April	Friday 13th
May	Tuesday 15th
June	Friday 15th
July	Friday 13th
August	Wednesday 15th
September	Friday 14th
October	Monday 15th
November	Thursday 15th
December	Friday 14th

2019	
January	Tuesday 15th
February	Friday 15th
March	Friday 15th



Change of Circumstances

Please let us know if you change your:

- **Name**
- **Marital status**
- **Address**
- **Bank, or you wish your pension to go to a different account**

You can change your details either through My Pension (address and bank details only) or by sending a signed letter notifying us of any changes.



Returning to Work

Most members can return to work without it affecting their pension. However if you return to work for an employer who participates in the Local Government Pension Scheme, any pension in respect of compensatory added years (CAY) may be reduced or suspended. **This only affects those who retired on the grounds of redundancy or efficiency and received CAY.**

The regulations are very complex so please contact us if you start working again so we can tell you if your pension will be affected.

Death Benefits

As a member of the LGPS, your loved ones may be entitled to a lump sum death grant, survivor's pension and/or a children's pension upon your death. Whether these are payable and how much they are depends on when you were a member of the pension scheme.

In order to ensure any death benefits are paid to your loved ones and to avoid any overpayment of pension, it is important that the Fund is notified of a pensioner's death as soon as possible.

More information is available on our website.

See the value of your spouse's pension online at My Pension.

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 Scheme (LGPS) Funds in the UK. It allows funds to identify if a member has an LGPS record elsewhere in the country, information which is necessary to calculate a member's death benefits.

- **National Fraud Initiative (NFI)**

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

- **Tell Us Once**

The NESPF is also part of the Tell Us Once Service which means the Fund is automatically notified when a death is registered.

The Fund does not share or sell any information to third parties and data collected and shared is done in line with the Data Protection Act (and the General Data Protection Regulation).

The Fund's privacy policy has recently been updated in line with new regulations. See the Fund's website for more information.



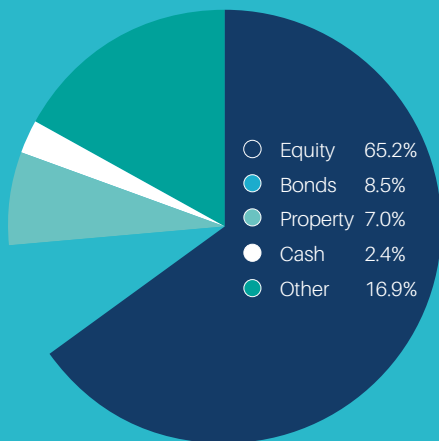
Fund Update 2018

Fund Value at 31 January 2018

Income to the Fund 2016/17	£ (m)	Expenditure 2016/17	£ (m)
Employee Contributions	29	Pension Benefits	122
Employer Contributions	99	Leavers & Transfers	5
Transfers received	2	Administration & Investment Costs	18
Investment Income	50		

Pension Fund Assets as at 31 January 2018

Total value of the Pension Fund assets **£4,266 million**



Top 6 Directly Held Stock as at 31 January 2018	£(m)	% of Fund
Amazon	86.9	2.04
Facebook	82.0	1.92
Tencent	64.0	1.50
BAT	60.4	1.41
Illumina	32.1	1.31
Tesla	54.2	1.27

Fund in numbers

66,236
Members

21,303
Pensioner Members



Award nominations
including DB Scheme of the Year & Public Sector Scheme of the Year



Award win
Quality of service at the LGC Investment Awards 2017

Responsible investment

As a long term investor the Fund actively engages with the companies we invest in on governance, social and environmental issues. Some of our work includes:

- **2988 votes at 191 company AGMs**
- **Membership of the Principles of Responsible Investment**
- **Signatories to the Sustainable Stock Exchange**

We Need You! Let us know what you think

Surveys will once again be mailed to a random sample of members alongside this newsletter with an online version available at

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/pensions2018>

All feedback is greatly appreciated as it assists in the planning and production of future communications so please take the time to share your opinions.



What's on

Taste of Grampian

Saturday, 2nd June 2018

**Thainstone Centre,
Inverurie, Aberdeenshire**

One day food and drink festival, Taste of Grampian, will return again for 2018 bringing its annual host of fine fare from around the North East. With the festival traditionally featuring entertainment including street vendors, cook schools and children's activities, Taste of Grampian is a fun-packed day out for all ages.

www.tasteofgrampian.co.uk/

Highland Games

Sunday, 17th June 2018

Hazlehead Park, Aberdeen

Indulge in some of Scotland's favourite traditions with pipe bands and Highland dancing, before witnessing a test of strength and determination as competitors take to the field to battle out age-old events such as toss the caber and tug o' war. There will also be a range of stalls selling the finest local produce and information stands as well as a number of family friendly activities.

Looking to get involved in a local interest group?

U3A is a part of a world-wide organisation offering social, educational and recreational events and activities for retired and semi-retired people. With various groups located around the North East, members can come together with like-minded people to take part in a multitude of activities such as learning languages, craft making, book clubs and visits to local heritage sites.

For more information and to find your nearest U3A group visit:

u3asites.org.uk/scotland/members



Contact Us

We hope you found this newsletter useful. If you have any questions or would like more information, please get in touch. If you would like to receive this newsletter in an alternative format, including Braille, large print or electronically, please let us know.

You can speak to the Pensions Section in person by visiting the Customer Service Centre in Marischal College:

**Monday-Friday (except public holidays)
between 9:00am - 4:30pm.**

**North East Scotland Pension Fund
Business Hub 16
3rd Floor - West,
Marischal College
Broad Street
Aberdeen AB10 1AB**

Tel: 01224 264 264 (Mon-Fri 9:00 - 17:00)

pensions@nespf.org.uk

www.nespf.org.uk

 **@nespf**

Let us know what you think of our newsletter and how we can improve our service by completing our short online survey at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/pensions2018>