

Pensions Newsletter

2020



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 easier than ever.



Pension Values

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



Documents

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



Update Details

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

Register

To register simply visit nespf.pensiondetails.co.uk and follow the 3 steps under "How to sign up."



Want to **reduce paper waste** and **clutter**? Switch to **paperless**.

Simply login to **My Pension** and set your communication preferences to electronic.

Coronavirus & Service Update

Following Government advice, our office is closed until further notice with staff now working from home to maintain our key services.

The Fund will remain functional and **pensions will continue to be paid**. However, while the Government advice remains in place, the Fund will operate as follows:

- **Phone:** Unfortunately due to homeworking, our helpline will be closed. If your query is not urgent, please contact us in another way.
- **Visiting:** No appointments, drop ins or face-to-face meetings will be held.
- **Mail:** There will be a very limited mail service so we may not be able to send or receive post. Alternatively information can be issued online via your My Pension account.
- **Email:** You can continue to email us at pensions@nespf.org.uk We will get back to you as quickly as possible.
- **Online:** With our online service, My Pension, you can upload documents such as completed forms or certificates directly to us instead of posting them. Likewise the Fund can upload documents that you can then view online.

There might be a delay to our normal response times however we aim to minimise disruption. The situation is evolving, and this information is correct as at 23 March. We will update our website and phone lines if there are further changes.

Cairngorm Mountains, Glen Lee, Angus, Aberdeenshire, Scotland



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 1.7%.

Will I get the full 1.7%?

You will receive the full 1.7% increase if:

- **You are over 55 (or under 55 but retired on ill health grounds), and**
- **Your pension began before 21st April 2019.**

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.

If your pension payments began after **21st April 2019**, you will only get part of the increase. The table below shows your pensions increase based on the date your pension began.



Pension began	Pension Increase
On or before 21st April 2019	1.70%
22nd April 2019 – 21st May 2019	1.56%
22nd May 2019 – 21st June 2019	1.42%
22nd June 2019 – 21st July 2019	1.28%
22nd July 2019 – 21st August 2019	1.13%
22nd August 2019 – 21st September 2019	0.99%
22nd September 2019 – 21st October 2019	0.85%
22nd October 2019 – 21st November 2019	0.71%
22nd November 2019 – 21st December 2019	0.57%
22nd December 2019 – 21st January 2020	0.43%
22nd January 2020 – 21st February 2020	0.28%
22nd February 2020 – 21st March 2020	0.14%

When will my pension increase?

The increase takes effect from 6th April. As this is part way through the month, you'll only receive part of the increase in your April pension payment. From May onwards, you'll have the full increase.

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

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 also increase to give you the full 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 Fund will pay the full increase in these cases.

State Pension Increase

The basic State Pension will increase by **3.9%**.

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

Ballindalloch Castle, Banffshire, Scotland



Tax

We do not set your tax code. We can only use the tax code HMRC provides us so any questions about your tax code must go directly to HMRC on 0300 200 3300.

Can't wait?

Access your **P60s** and **payslips** on **My Pension** now.

P60

A P60 will be issued to you at the end of April which details the amount of pension paid to you and the tax deducted from it during 2019/20. You can also view your current and previous P60s online via **My Pension**.

Tax

Your final tax code for 2019/20 can be found on your P60 and your new tax code for 2020/21 will be on your April payslip. If your tax code changes, you do not need to contact us as HMRC automatically notifies the Fund. If you do receive a letter from HMRC notifying you of a tax change you should check your April payslip to ensure the correct code has been used.

Pension Pay Days 2020/21

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

2020	
April	Wednesday 15th
May	Friday 15th
June	Monday 15th
July	Wednesday 15th
August	Friday 14th
September	Tuesday 15th
October	Thursday 15th
November	Friday 13th
December	Tuesday 15th

2021	
January	Friday 15th
February	Monday 15th
March	Monday 15th



Change of Circumstances

Please let us know if you change your:

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

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

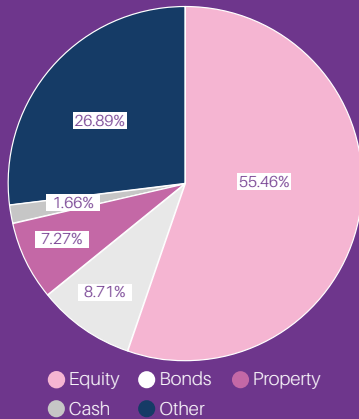


Fund in Figures

Income 2018/19	£(m)	Outgoing 2018/19	£(m)
Employee Contributions	30	Pension Benefits	137
Employer Contributions	109	Transfers & Refunds	4
Transfers In	3	Admin & Investment Costs	21
Investment Income	55		

Fund balance at 31 January 2020 - £4,852 million

Investment Assets



Top 5 Directly Held Stock

	£(m)	% of Fund
Tesla	75.0	1.55
Amazon	65.1	1.34
Alibaba	55.4	1.14
Tencent	53.7	1.11
Illumina	48.8	1.01

20,835
No. of Pensioners

68,096
Total Members

Responsible Investment

Renewables

The Fund has invested £100 million in UK based renewable assets, primarily deployed into wind, solar, energy centres and energy from waste facilities. The assets are part of a fund which has;

- **Saved 159,000 tonnes CO2 in 2019**
- **Projected saving of 225,000 tonnes CO2 in 2020**

That's the equivalent energy used by domestic households in a city the size of Exeter.

Engagement

The Fund is a signatory to Climate Action 100 and a member of the Local Authority Pension Fund Forum. Through these initiatives we work in collaboration with other likeminded investors to engage with companies worldwide on responsible investment issues.

Results

- **Rio Tinto** – has exited from mining coal and committed to an asset by asset review to set emissions reduction targets.
- **Royal Dutch Shell** – one of the world's oil and gas supermajors, released a joint statement committing to a range of industry leading climate commitments, including emission reduction targets.
- **ArcelorMittal** – After consistent engagement with LAPFF and other investors the company announced its aim to be carbon neutral in European operations by 2050.
- **PepsiCo** – the company committed to reducing use of virgin plastic across its portfolio by 35% by 2025. This pledge builds on the company's prior commitment to the UK Plastics Pact to increase its use of recycled content in plastics packing to 30%.

More information on our investments can be found on our website.

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 record 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 done in line with the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulation. More information on how your data is held and processed can be found online in our Privacy Notice.

Pansport Bridge, Elgin, Scotland



**Want your newsletter
digitally?**

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

Contact Us

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

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Coronavirus Update: See page 3 for changes to our service as a result of the Coronavirus outbreak.