

Deferred pension statement - frequently asked questions

When will I get my pension?

You can take your deferred pension from the age of 55. You don't need your employer's approval, as long as you've left the job linked to the pension. However, the Government has announced that from **6 April 2028**, the minimum age will rise from 55 to 57.

Usually, your pension is payable without reduction from the date shown on your statement as 'Normal date pension payable from'. We'll remind you about two months before this date. If you'd like your pension earlier, please get in touch at least two months before you'd like it paid.

How do I get my pension?

You can ask to take your pension by sending a secure email to us at pensions@westnorthants.gov.uk with your:

- full name
- date of birth
- National Insurance reference
- email address.

Once we receive your details, we'll send you the necessary claim forms.

Will I get a lump sum?

A lump sum may be available depending on when your pension was built up:

- **Before 1 April 2008:** You'll automatically receive a lump sum based on your pension benefits from this period.
- **After 1 April 2008:** You've the option to exchange part of your annual pension for a tax-free lump sum.
 - The exchange rate is **£12 lump sum for every £1 of annual pension** you give up.
 - Limits may apply, and the total lump sum **can't exceed 25%** of the total pension value.

If your pension is being paid under a pension sharing order following divorce, this option may not be available.

Can I take my pension benefits early if I can't work because of ill health?

Yes, deferred pensions can be paid at any age due to **permanent ill health** without any early-payment reduction. However, if you get your pension before the age of 55, any **cost-of-living increases** may not be applied until you reach **55**.

What happens if I die before you've paid my deferred pension?

If you die before we've paid your deferred pension, we may pay a **lump-sum death grant** to your loved ones. You can update your nomination details:

- on your [online pension account](#)
- using the '**Death Grant - Expression of Wish** form' on our [website](#).

We'll usually pay your chosen beneficiary, especially if their details match your **Will**, but we have the final say.

After your death, the following people may be paid a pension:

- your **husband, wife, or civil partner**
- an **eligible co-habiting partner** (someone you live with as if you were married). As long as you were an active member of the **LGPS on or after 1 April 2008** in the job linked to your deferred pension
- any **eligible children**.

What happens if I've re-joined, or plan to re-join, the LGPS with another Pension Fund?

If you've re-joined or are planning to re-join the LGPS with another Fund in **England or Wales**, you must tell:

1. your **new Fund** that you've a deferred benefit with us
2. **us** that you're an active member of another LGPS Fund in England or Wales
3. your **new Fund** about any service you've built up in any other **public service pension scheme** between leaving us and joining them - even if you've had a refund for that service.

You must do steps **1 and 2** to make sure you're given your choices about transferring your pension. If you don't do step **3**, some of your statutory rights may not apply. For example, if you transfer LGPS membership from **before 1 April 2014**, those benefits may be worked out under the **1 April 2014 rules** instead of the ones in place when they were built up.

Why have I had more than one statement?

You'll get a separate statement for each deferred pension you have. Each statement shows the **date you left that job** on the first page.

What's the McCloud remedy?

In **2014 and 2015**, public service pension schemes changed from **final salary schemes** to **career average schemes**. As part of this change, **older members received protections**. However, in **2018**, the Courts ruled that younger members had been unfairly excluded from these protections.

As a result, changes made in the LGPS from **1 October 2023** removed the discrimination found in the case. These changes are known as the **McCloud remedy**.

Who's affected?

Not all LGPS members are impacted. If you're protected, we'll review the protected part of your pension when you retire. If your final salary scheme would have provided a higher pension, we'll increase it accordingly. This increase is called your **final guarantee amount**.

Your statement includes an estimated final guarantee amount, reflected in your yearly pension figures. For some members, this estimate is zero because their career average pension is already higher than what they would have received under the final salary scheme.

How's the final guarantee amount worked out?

The estimate is based on the pay information used for this statement. When you take your pension, we'll calculate the actual figure, which may be higher or lower than the current estimate—but it will never be negative.

What if no estimate is shown?

In some complex cases, we couldn't provide an estimated final guarantee amount in this year's statement.

If our records show that you're not protected, your statement will confirm this. However, you may be protected if you were a member of the LGPS or another public service pension scheme before your current membership began. To check, please fill in the '**McCloud: Public service pensions history**' form for your respective Fund.

For further details, visit: www.lgpsmember.org/mccloud-remedy/