



Annual benefit statement 2023: guidance notes

These notes are a guide to your Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) annual benefit statement 2023. They cannot cover every circumstance, and if there is a dispute, the appropriate law will apply. They do not give you any rights under a contract by law. Your statement does not take account of any deductions that would be due if you take payment before normal pension age, have an annual allowance tax charge or a pension sharing order in place.

It is important that you check the information listed in your statement. If something is not right, contact the Pensions Team. Your employer provides the pay used in the statement. If you think it is wrong, you need to contact them.

Personal details

Your name: If you have changed your name, we will need a copy of your marriage certificate or change of name deed so that we can update your pension record.

Partnership status: Your partnership status shown on your pension record is shown here. If it is not correct, please contact the Pensions Team.

Employer: This is your employer at 31 March 2023. If you were paying into the scheme for more than one job at this date, you will receive an annual benefit statement for each job.

Date joined scheme: This is the date you joined the pension scheme in this job.

Scheme section: Since 1 April 2014, the LGPS has two sections to it – the main section and the 50/50 section. The section you were a member of on 31 March 2023 is shown on your statement.



Final salary pay: If you became a member of the LGPS before 1 April 2014 or have transferred in membership with a final salary link, your final salary pay shown in your statement is your full-time equivalent pay for the year to 31 March 2023. This information has been provided by your employer. If you joined the LGPS on or after 1 April 2014 and have not transferred in membership with a final salary link, this will show as zero. The definition of pay in the final salary scheme includes your normal pay, contractual shift allowance, bonus, contractual overtime (but not non-contractual overtime or additional hours), maternity pay, paternity pay, adoption pay, and any other benefit that is taxed and is shown in your contract as being pensionable.

CARE pensionable pay in main section: From 1 April 2014, your pension builds up in the Career Average Revalued Earning (CARE) scheme and your benefits calculated using your CARE pensionable pay during a scheme year (1 April to 31 March), which is provided by your employer.

If you paid into the main section of the scheme during the year to 31 March 2023, the figure given for 'CARE pensionable pay – main section' is the pensionable pay you received while paying into the main section. If you work part-time, your pensionable pay represents your actual pay and is not a full-time equivalent.

The definition of pensionable pay in the CARE scheme includes any pay received for extra hours worked, such as overtime and additional hours. This part of your earnings is not included in the final salary calculation of your pensionable pay (if applicable), unless overtime or additional hours forms part of your contract, so in some instances, your CARE and final salary pay may be different.

If you have been off work due to sickness, injury or during relevant child-related leave and you received reduced or no pay, the pensionable pay figure used to work out your pension for this period is your assumed pensionable pay (APP). APP is worked out as the pay you were receiving before your pay reduced or stopped. This means that you will continue to build up a similar pension to what you would have had if you had been working normally and receiving pay.

If you have any period of relevant child-related leave (for example, ordinary maternity leave, paternity leave, adoption leave, paid shared parental leave or any paid additional maternity or



adoption leave), the pensionable pay figure used to work out your pension is also your APP. ('Ordinary' maternity leave is the first 26 weeks of maternity leave and 'additional' maternity leave is the last 26 weeks.)

Any period of unpaid additional maternity or adoption leave will not be included. You can buy pension 'lost' during these periods by choosing to pay additional pension contributions (APCs). An APC calculator is available on the national LGPS website at www.lgpsmember.org.

If you are a member of the 50/50 section who goes onto nil pay while on child-related leave or sick leave, you will be put back in the main section from the beginning of the next pay period.

For a full explanation of final salary and CARE pensionable pay and how any periods of authorised unpaid leave may affect it, please visit the fund's website at www.shropshirecountypensionfund.co.uk

Changes to the CARE revaluation date

On 9 March 2023, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities formally put the LGPS (Amendment) Regulations 2023 before Parliament. The regulations change the date that revaluation is applied to LGPS CARE benefits. From 31 March 2023, the annual revaluation date will move from 1 April to 6 April. As a member currently paying into the LGPS, this simply means the date your CARE benefits are revalued will be 6 April rather than 1 April. There is no change in the amount of revaluation that will be added. Most members will not notice any difference following this rule change. If you are close to going over the annual allowance for pension savings, you might want to contact your pension fund to find out more.

Please note, this will not affect your annual benefit statement in 2023. This is because the benefits shown in your statement are worked out as of 31 March 2023 and so will not include the April 2023 revaluation. From the tax year 2023/2024 onwards, the inflation increase will be used in both the annual allowance calculation and the annual revaluation. This increase will be included in the benefits shown in your annual benefit statement for 2024. For 2023/24 this will be 10.1%.





CARE pensionable pay in 50/50 section: If you paid into the 50/50 section of the scheme during the year to 31 March 2023, the figure shown in your statement is the pensionable pay you received while paying into the 50/50 section.

The pay figure is based on the definition of CARE pensionable pay above. If a figure is shown, it means you have chosen to be in the 50/50 section. Your 50/50 section CARE pensionable pay is split from your main section CARE pensionable pay so that you can check the pension you have built up in each section. If you were a member of both the main section and the 50/50 section of the scheme at different times during the scheme year, you will have figures for both.

Summary of your total benefits

This section shows the values of your final salary benefits (if this applies) and your CARE pension at 31 March 2023. Although the final salary and CARE pension parts are worked out differently, they form a single benefit, with both parts added and paid together when you take your benefits. It assumes that you will take your pension benefits at your normal pension age (NPA), which is the date you reach age 65 or your State Pension age (whichever date comes later).

Your NPA is the date at which you can take the benefits you have built up, without any reductions. The benefits shown in this section will be reduced if they are paid before your NPA. This reduction is not included in this statement. You can use the benefit projector calculator in 'My Pension Online' to work out what reduction will be applied if you take your benefits early.

To qualify for LGPS pension benefits, you have to pay into the LGPS for at least two years, or transfer pension benefits from another scheme into the LGPS. If you leave the scheme with less than two years' membership, you may not qualify for LGPS pension benefits and will usually be able to choose to have a refund of your contributions.

Annual pension: This is the value of your pension at 31 March 2023, including your final salary pension (membership up to 31 March 2014) and CARE pension (for membership from 1 April 2014), which would be paid unreduced at your NPA and once your employment ends.



Lump sum retirement grant: This is the lump sum relating to your membership before 1 April 2008 and is paid when you take your pension benefits. If you were not a member of the LGPS before 1 April 2008, this section will show as zero.

Tax and pension benefits

Lifetime allowance:

The lifetime allowance is set by HMRC, and the standard lifetime allowance is currently set at £1,073,100. Unless you have protections, the maximum pension commencement lump sum is capped at 25% of your available lifetime allowance and cannot exceed £268,275 (£1,073,100 x 25%). The Government has confirmed that no one will be pay a lifetime allowance tax charge from 6 April 2023 and that the lifetime allowance will be abolished completely from April 2024. You can find out basic information about the lifetime allowance and the annual allowance on the tax section of the national LGPS website.

Your benefit statement shows what percentage of the lifetime allowance is taken up by the value of the LGPS benefits shown in this statement. The lifetime allowance percentage shown on this statement is an estimate only.

Annual allowance: The annual allowance is set by HMRC. It is the amount your pension savings can increase in any one year without having to pay a tax charge.

The increase in the value of your LGPS pension savings is known as the 'pension input' amount. The pension input amount includes any additional voluntary contributions (AVCs). You will only have a tax charge if the value of your pension savings for a tax year increases by more than the annual allowance and you do not have enough 'carry forward' from previous years.

The period your pension is measured over to assess its growth against the annual allowance is known as the pension input period (PIP). The PIP for all pension schemes is in line with the tax year (6 April to 5 April). If you have pension benefits elsewhere, you will need to take these into consideration when working out your pension input amount.





There is a 'carry forward' which allows unused allowance from the three previous pension input periods to be used if you have any excess in the current year. The annual allowance for most members during the 2022/2023 tax year was £40,000, except for some members who may have what is known as a tapered annual allowance.

If your pension input amount is more than the annual allowance, the fund will send you a pension savings statement by 6 October 2023. You can check your annual allowance on the 'annual allowance' screen on 'My Pension Online'. This screen takes into consideration your annual allowance used up across your LGPS pensions in the Shropshire County Pension Fund.

Your annual benefit statement does not take account of any deductions that would be due because you have decided to pay an annual allowance tax charge from your pension benefits.

There is more information about tax and your pension on the fund's website.

Maximum lump sum retirement grant option

When you draw your pension benefits you will have the option to exchange part of your pension for a lump sum, to increase any lump sum you may already have relating to your membership before 1 April 2008 or to give you a lump sum if you don't currently have one. H M Revenue & Customs (HMRC) limits will apply and every £1 of your annual pension you give up provides a lump sum of £12. Under current HMRC rules, the lump sum retirement grant is tax-free.

Reduced annual pension: This is the value of your reduced pension if you choose to take the maximum lump sum retirement grant allowed under HMRC rules.

Lump sum retirement grant: This is the value of your increased lump sum you can receive if you reduce your annual pension and paid unreduced at your normal pension age. These figures do not include any 'in-house' additional voluntary contribution (AVC) fund you may have. You will receive a separate statement showing your in-house AVC fund value.



Death in service benefits

The benefits shown in this section are worked out based on your pay information up to 31 March 2023.

Death in service lump sum: If you die while you are an active member of the LGPS, a death grant is paid. The amount of the death grant would be three times your assumed pensionable pay. If you die while you are an active member and also have deferred benefits in the LGPS, or are receiving an LGPS member pension (that is, not a survivor's pension) or a suspended 'tier 3' ill-health pension (or both), the amount of the death grant would be the greater of:

- the total of all death-in-service lump sums; or
- the total of all death grants from the deferred pension, pension in payment, or suspended tier-3 ill-health pension records;

Annual survivor's pension: A survivor's pension is paid if, when you die, you are married, have a civil partner or eligible cohabiting partner (someone you live with who would be entitled to a survivor's pension).

We have used the partnership status we have on our records. If our records show you are single, no benefit will be shown. No survivor's pension (other than to an eligible child) will be paid if you are single and are not survived by an eligible cohabiting partner at the date of your death.

If you have declared a cohabiting partner, the survivor's benefit is worked out as follows.

- For membership up to 31 March 2014: 1/160th of your final salary, for each year of your membership up to 31 March 2014, not including any membership built up before 6 April 1988 unless you chose to pay additional contributions to make it count.
- For membership from 1 April 2014: 1/160th of the pensionable pay or assumed pensionable pay you received in each year, plus a proportion of any transfer of pension rights credited to your pension account, plus an enhancement equal to



1/160th of your assumed pensionable pay for each year of membership you would have built up from the date of your death to your NPA.

If your status on our records is married or in a civil partnership, the survivor's benefit is worked out as follows.

- For membership up to 31 March 2014: 1/160th of your final salary for each year of your membership up to 31 March 2014.
- For membership from 1 April 2014: 1/160th of the pensionable pay or assumed pensionable pay you received in each year, plus a proportion of any transfer of pension rights credited to your pension account, plus an enhancement equal to 1/160th of your assumed pensionable pay for each year of membership you would have built up from your date of death to your NPA.

Survivor's pensions may be paid to eligible children. However, the rates of these pensions are not shown on your annual benefit statement.

If you have not told the fund your partnership status, when you die any eligible survivor's pensions will still be paid if the fund receives the relevant marriage or civil partnership certificate or, in the case of cohabiting partners, evidence that they meet the requirements for receiving a survivor's benefit. Please see the fund's website for more details about the requirements that cohabiting partners need to meet to qualify for a survivor's benefit.

The survivor's pension shown on your statement is based on the total of your final salary survivor's pension built up to 31 March 2014, any added years bought, any additional regular contributions (ARCs) that included a survivor's pension element, and the survivor's pension due under the CARE scheme. If you die after leaving the LGPS, a survivor's pension is still paid but could be a lower amount. For more information about how survivor's pensions are worked out, please visit the fund's website.

Your 'expression of wish' details for any lump sum death grant: Please check who you have nominated to receive any death grant that may become due if you die by checking your nominations in 'My Pension Online'.





If this section is blank, we have no record of your nomination. If you would like to make a nomination, or change one we have on record for you, you can update this in 'My Pension Online'. You can nominate whoever you like to receive your lump sum death grant (but, as an 'expression of wish', this is not legally binding). The fund decides who to pay the lump sum to.

Your Career Average Revalued Earnings (CARE) benefits

This section shows your CARE pension as at 31 March 2023.

Additional pension bought and transfers in: Any additional pension that you have bought during the scheme year under an additional pension contribution (APC), or shared-cost additional pension contribution (SCAPC) arrangement will be shown in this section. Any CARE 'earned pension' credited because of you transferring in pension rights from other schemes will be shown in 'Transfers in'. If you chose to buy additional pension, or if you transferred in other benefits before 1 April 2022, these are not shown in this section but will be included in the calculation of your total pension benefits.

Your total CARE pension account

Previous closing balance: Your CARE pension balance from the previous year will be shown here.

Adjustment for the cost of living: This is the amount of the cost-of-living adjustment added to your pension account on 6 April 2023. Your total CARE pension is adjusted on 1 April each year in line with HM Treasury Revaluation Orders. The adjustment can increase or reduce the value of your CARE pension.

In year build up: For membership from 1 April 2014, you have built up CARE pension. Each scheme year you are a member, your CARE pensionable pay will be divided by either 49 (if you are in the main section) or by 98 (if you are in the 50/50 section). The resulting amount is added to your pension account for that year. This figure is the 'in-year build-up' for the year to 31 March 2023.





Total: This is the total amount of CARE pension you have built up in your pension account as at 31 March 2023.

Your final salary pension benefits

If you joined the LGPS on or after 1 April 2014 and have not transferred in membership with a final salary link, the final salary pension amount on your statement will be shown as zero.

If you have final salary benefits, they are worked out as shown below. If you worked part-time before 31 March 2014, your final salary is converted to its full-time equivalent and your membership adjusted to the contractual hours you worked (including the weeks worked over school terms). The membership used in the final salary calculation includes any pension rights transferred in from previous pension schemes.

If you have chosen to buy additional benefits through additional regular contributions (ARCs) or added years, these will be listed under 'Additional benefits brought'.

Total final salary annual pension:

- For membership from 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2014: 1/60th of your final salary pensionable pay for each year you were a member of the scheme (or the equivalent for members working part-time during this period).
- For membership to 31 March 2008: 1/80th of your final salary pensionable pay for each year you were a member of the scheme (or the equivalent for members working part-time during this period).

Lump sum retirement grant:

- The lump sum retirement grant based on membership to 31 March 2008: 3/80ths of final salary pensionable pay for each year you were a member of the scheme (or the equivalent for members working part-time during this period).

Although the final salary and CARE pension parts are worked out differently and may have different NPAs, they form a single benefit, with both parts being linked and taken together.





Projection of your pension benefits until your normal pension age (NPA):

Normal pension age (NPA): This is your State Pension age or age 65, whichever comes later. Your NPA may change if your State Pension age changes in the future and before your benefits are paid. Your current NPA only applies to benefits built up in the CARE scheme. The NPA for any benefits built up in the final salary scheme is still age 65. However, final salary benefits and CARE benefits must be taken at the same time, and you must have left the job in which you built up the pension benefits. You can take your benefits earlier than your NPA, from age 55 onwards, although the amount may be reduced if you do. The figures in this statement do not take account of any early retirement reductions that would be applied. You can use the benefit projector calculator in 'My Pension Online' to work out what reduction will be applied if you take your benefits early.

Please note, the Government has announced that the earliest age you can take your pension will increase from 55 to 57 from 6 April 2028.

You can take your benefits later than your NPA, but the benefits must be paid to you before you reach age 75. If you have passed your NPA your projections will be shown as zero but the 'summary of your total benefits' section will be the current value of your benefits. If you take your benefits after your NPA they will be increased. The increases are based on guidance issued by the Government on the date you retire. Your statement does not show the late retirement increase that would be applied if you choose to take your benefits after your NPA. If applicable, this will be applied automatically upon payment of your benefits.

When you leave the scheme, your final salary benefits will be based on your final salary pensionable pay. This is generally the pensionable pay you received for the 12 months before leaving, or for one of the two years immediately before then if that amount is higher. Please note that, because your final salary pensionable pay when you leave the scheme may be different from the final salary pensionable pay used to work out the benefits in this statement, the actual pension benefits you receive could be higher or lower than the benefits shown in this statement.



The estimate of your benefits for service after 31 March 2014 is based on your CARE pensionable pay for the scheme year that ended 31 March 2023. It assumes that your pay will stay at the same rate as quoted in the statement until your NPA and does not assume pay inflation or inflation under HM Treasury Revaluation Orders for future benefits built up under the final salary or CARE schemes.

The estimated CARE benefits include any additional pension contributions (APCs) or shared cost additional pension contributions (SCAPCs) bought. The estimate assumes that you stay in the same section of the scheme that you were in at 31 March 2023 until your NPA.

Survivor's pensions from members who marry or enter civil partnerships while active members of the LGPS are based on all scheme membership. However, survivor's pensions for cohabiting partners and for those who marry or enter a civil partnership after leaving active LGPS membership may not be worked out in the same way. For more information about how survivor's pensions are worked out, please visit the fund's website.

Please remember to check the pay shown on your annual benefit statement. This is provided to us by your employer and is used in the calculation of your pension benefits.

**Go online**Find out more and log on to
'My Pension Online' at:www.shropshirecountypensionfund.co.uk**Call us**

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