

Deferred annual benefit statement 2021 – guidance notes

We have provided these notes to explain your Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) deferred annual benefit statement 2021. 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. Shropshire County Pension Fund is not liable to pay any benefits arising through error or omission.

Please make sure you read our update about the McCloud judgement in the deferred members newsletter 2021. As the Government is still considering the changes need to be made to the LGPS following this Court of Appeal ruling, it has not been possible to show the effect of this ruling in this year's annual benefit statements.

Marital status

The marital status we have recorded on your pension record will be shown on your statement. If this is incorrect, please send us a copy of the certificate confirming your marital status.

Employee ref

This is the reference number shown on your deferred pension record and would normally be the post number of the former job linked to your LGPS benefits

Date of leaving

This is the date your employer told us that you left the pension scheme for this job.

Date benefits payable from

Your benefit statement shows the benefits due at normal pension age. This is the date your deferred benefits are due without a reduction. If you left the scheme before the 31 March 2014, you have a normal pension age of 65. However, if you left before the 31 March 2008 you may also have a protected normal pension age of between 60 and 65, if you were a member of the scheme before 1 October 2006. If your date of leaving is after 31 March 2014, the earliest date unreduced benefits can be paid from is your state pension age, or age 65, whichever is later. This date may change if the government changes state pension ages in the future.

Annual pension

This is the value of your deferred annual pension as at 12 April 2021. This year, your deferred pension benefits received an increase of 0.5%. This is the rate set by the government in line with the Pensions Increase Treasury Order and based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) at September 2020. If you left the scheme after 31 March 2020, you will have a proportion of this increase added to your pension.

How your deferred benefits are worked out depends on when you left the scheme. For membership up to, and including the 31 March 2014, benefits are calculated using your final salary at the date of leaving the scheme. For membership from 1 April 2014, benefits are calculated using the CARE method. Please refer to our website for more information.

Lump sum retirement grant

This is the current value of your deferred lump sum retirement grant at 12 April 2021. Your lump sum is also adjusted each year in line with the Pensions Increase Treasury Order. If you joined the LGPS before 1 April 2008, you will receive an automatic one-off, tax free lump sum retirement grant based on your membership built up before 1 April 2008. This is in addition to the annual pension. If you joined the LGPS after 1 April 2008, your benefits do not include an automatic lump sum retirement grant, but under current rules, all members have the option to give up some annual pension in exchange for a lump sum amount. For every £1 of annual pension you give up, you will get an extra £12 towards your retirement grant (subject to certain HMRC limits).

Surviving spouse/ partner's pension

This is the current value of a survivor's pension due, when you die, if you are married or have a civil partner/ cohabiting partner. Please note, if you left before 1 April 2008 your benefits do not provide a pension for a cohabiting partner due to the scheme rules at the time.

Any survivor benefits shown on the statement are based on your marital status recorded at your date of leaving the scheme and may not reflect your current marital status. When we pay your benefits, your record will be updated with your current status.

Death grant

If you die before receiving your deferred benefits, a death grant is due. If you left the LGPS before 1 April 2008, the death grant is the deferred lump sum retirement grant. If you left the LGPS after 31 March 2008, the death grant is five times your annual pension. If you are contributing to the LGPS in another job or pension fund, any death grant due is limited to either the death in service grant or the death grant from your deferred pension (or multiple deferred pensions), depending on which is greater.

Your nomination details

Please check who you have nominated to receive any death grant that may be due when you die. If this section is blank, please update your details online through 'My Pension Online'. You can also fill in and return the 'expression of wish' form which can be found on our website. You can nominate whoever you like to receive your death grant but, as an 'expression of wish', this is not legally binding. The fund decides who to pay the lump sum to. If you do not make a nomination, any death payment will form part of your estate and will NOT automatically be payable to your next of kin.

Your membership details

This section shows your membership in this scheme, including any periods of part-time service. Membership shown up to 31 March 2014 is only used when working out final-salary benefits.

For more information about your LGPS benefits contact the Shropshire County Pension Fund:

Phone: 01743 252130

Email: pensions@shropshire.gov.uk

Website: www.shropshirecountypensionfund.co.uk

Address: Pensions, PO Box 4826, Shrewsbury, SY1 9LJ