

An update for Pensioners of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS)

We are pleased to publish the latest edition of our newsletter; produced to keep you updated on any changes to the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) which may affect you. Inside you'll also find useful information about your pension and other areas of interest.

We wish to make you aware that, **with effect from 1 April 2021, the provision of our pension administration reverted from Orbis to Surrey County Council.** As a result, going forwards all communication received from us will feature 'Surrey County Council' branding.

My Pension Portal

Last year we made the move towards going paperless—primarily contacting members by email, via the website and through the 'My Pension' portal where possible.

Your April and May payslips, P60 and pensions increase advice notification will continue to be sent through the post, but we would like to remind you that you can access these using the 'My Pension' portal.

The portal will allow you to keep track of your monthly pension being paid and any tax changes that may occur.

The 'My Pension' portal also allows you to view and update your personal details such as contact details, UK bank details and home address.



If you haven't done so, you can register now by following the three steps below:

- 1) Go to mypension.surreycc.gov.uk
- 2) If you haven't got a username or password please click on '**Request One.**'
- 3) You will receive an email within 24 hours to complete your registration.

Having problems registering or logging in?

Watch our full video guide on how to register at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YaO2WII9aE4>

Or watch our video guide on how to reset your username or password at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qGRTPpim7ps>

You can also check our 'My Pension' portal guide, available at www.wccpensionfund.co.uk > Forms and Publications.

Keeping us Updated



It is vital that you tell us of any changes to your contact details. This helps us to keep our records up-to-date and allows us to keep you updated of any changes that may occur in the future.

Please note: In order to pay your monthly pension we must hold your current address in our records. It is your responsibility to keep us informed of any changes to your address.

You can inform us of any changes in writing using the contact details within your payslip or, alternately, by using our online 'My Pension' portal.

In the event that we are informed that you are no longer living at the address shown on our records, **we reserve the right to suspend payment of your monthly pension until you have provided us with confirmation of your address.**

In a situation in which your pension has been suspended, please note that if you update your address on the 'My Pension' Portal you will also need to contact the My Pensions Helpdesk (details on page 4) to confirm your new details.

Pensioner Survey Report

In 2020, we sent out a survey to our Pensioner members in order to get feedback on the services we offer, as well as enabling us to better plan for the future.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the survey.

We emailed out the results of the survey on 31 March and published the results of the 2020 Pensioner Member Survey onto your fund site: www.wccpensionfund.co.uk

In addition to showing the results of the 2020 Pensioner Survey, the report also includes:

- Helpful tools, links & resources
- Contact details
- Our plans for the future

We hope that you find the information contained within the report both enlightening and helpful.



Lifetime Allowance Freeze

The Chancellor announced a 5 year freeze on increases to Lifetime Allowance (LTA) in the budget. The current limit is £1,073,100.00 and will remain at this level until April 2026.

The LTA is the total value of all pension benefits that you can receive without triggering an excess benefits tax charge on retirement. It won't affect any pensions already in payment but may affect any other pensions that you bring into pay in the future.

For further details go to the LGPS member site at: <https://lgpsmember.org/ats/about-tax.php>

The McCloud Judgement

When the LGPS changed from a final salary to a career average pension scheme in 2014, protections for older scheme members were introduced, this is known as the underpin.

Similar protections were provided in other public pension schemes.

The Court of Appeal ruled that younger members of the Judges' and Firefighters' Pension schemes have been discriminated against because the protections do not apply to them.

The government has decided that the general principles established will apply to all public sector pension schemes and, therefore, it has consulted on amending the LGPS.

What does this mean?

The proposed changes would mean that a revised underpin will apply to all members, regardless of their age, who:

- Were active on 31 March 2012.
- Build up benefits in the 2014 Scheme
- Do not have a disqualifying break.

If the members benefits would be better, the underpin will be automatically applied.

What do I have to do?

When the new Regulations come into force, we will review all members receiving their pension, who started taking their pension from 1 April 2014 onwards.

If you meet the above criteria and your benefits would be better, the underpin will be automatically applied.

Remember: You do not need to apply for the underpin.

Explaining the Jargon

Consumer Price Index (CPI)

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is the official measure of inflation of consumer prices in the UK. This is currently the measure used to increase (each April) the value of your pension in payment and any deferred pension that you may have in the scheme.

The adjustment ensures your pension keeps up with the cost of living.

GMP

The LGPS guarantees to pay you a pension that is at least as high as you would have earned had you not been contracted out of the State Earning Related Pension Scheme (SERPS) at any time between 6 April 1978 and 5 April 1997.

This is called the Guaranteed Minimum Pension (GMP).

Scheme Year

The scheme year runs from 1 April to 31 March each year.

State Pension Age (SPA)

This is the earliest age you can receive the state basic pension and depends upon your date of birth.

You can use the Government's [State Pension Age calculator](#) to find out your state pension age.

For a full glossary of pension terms, please visit:

www.lgpsmember.org/glossary.php

Life Certificates

If you live abroad, you may receive a letter asking you to confirm your eligibility to continue receiving your pension. There is nothing to worry about if you get a Life Certificate in the post, but we do need you to fill it in and send it back to us as soon as you can.

We send Life Certificates because we have a 'duty of care' to protect our members' money and guard against fraud.

Useful Links

Scam Advice

Scams remain a huge problem within the pensions industry, with people often losing vast sums of money. Scammers are approaching members, promising attractive offers to get them to transfer their pension pot or to release funds from it. If you have any pensions which aren't yet in payment, then remember to take financial advice before releasing any funds.

For more information, please visit the Financial Conduct Authority or the Pensions Regulator websites.

[fca.org.uk/scamsmart](https://www.fca.org.uk/scamsmart)

[thepensionsregulator.gov.uk](https://www.thepensionsregulator.gov.uk)

Tell Us Once Service

Tell Us Once is a service that lets you report a death to most government organisations all at once.

If an informant does not notify us of a death of a pensioner member directly, the Tell Us Once service will notify us and we will contact the informant for further information.

For more information, please watch this short video: www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xw0Ob59HFEY

Or visit the Gov.uk website: www.gov.uk/after-a-death/organisations-you-need-to-contact-and-tell-us-once

Impartial Pensions & Retirement Advice


[moneyandpensionsservice.org.uk](https://www.moneyandpensionsservice.org.uk)


[thesilverline.org.uk](https://www.thesilverline.org.uk)

[moneyadvice.service.org.uk](https://www.moneyadvice.service.org.uk)




Our Contact Details

 **0300 200 1031**

 **Pension Services
Room 218, County Hall
Penrhyn Road
Kingston - Upon -Thames
KT1 2DN**

**View your pension online:
mypension.surreycc.gov.uk**

Problem accessing our portal?

 **0300 200 1034**