

**Dorset County
Pension Fund**



administered by **Dorset Council**



Deferred Benefit Illustration 2025

Dear

Your Annual Pension Benefit Statement

We're pleased to send you your latest annual benefit statement. It shows the pension benefits you've built up in the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) up to the date you left the scheme. These benefits increase each year in line with the cost of living. This year, they've been updated by 1.7% based on the 2025 Pensions Increase Review.

The statement includes:

- The value of your pension so far, including cost of living increases.
- Helpful explanations to make the information easier to understand.

Following the introduction of the McCloud Remedy the calculation of any potential McCloud underpin should be shown where it applies. Unfortunately, we do not have the software in place to fulfil this requirement for this year, therefore we are exercising our discretion as set out under Regulation 2(6) of The Local Government Pension Scheme (Information) Regulations 2024 to delay this for a further year. This information will be included in your 2026 Annual Benefit Illustration. Further information can be found on page 5.

Please read the whole booklet carefully. If you have any questions after reviewing the information, please do not hesitate to contact us. We also welcome your feedback on this statement.

For more information, visit:

- www.dorsetpensionfund.org
- www.lgpsmember.org

Or email us at: pensionshelpline@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Important: This statement is for information only. If you're thinking about retiring, please contact us for a formal pension estimate.

If you're still working and paying into the LGPS, you'll get a separate statement for that job by 31 August 2025.

Yours sincerely,



Karen Gibson
Service Manager for Pensions

Personal details

Please check this section carefully and let us know any incorrect personal information. If we do not hold your partnership details, or your details are incorrect, please tell us in writing, by post or email, enclosing photocopies as appropriate of your:

- Marriage / civil partnership certificate
- Spouse / partner's birth certificate
- Decree Absolute / final notice / dissolution order

If you have become divorced or your civil partnership has been dissolved, we will require photocopies of the relevant legal documents to amend our records.

Full name:

Date of birth:

Partnership status:

Pension folder reference:

Date left scheme:

Cohabiting Partners (Post 01/04/2008 members only)

If you left the scheme after 1 April 2008 it is possible for a cohabiting partner to receive a pension on your death. To be considered a cohabiting partner your relationship has to meet certain conditions laid down by the LGPS, for example you must have been free to marry and be living with your partner for a period of at least two years. A cohabiting partner will be assessed for eligibility at the date of your death.

If you are cohabiting, please complete a death grant nomination as explained on page 6, this is especially important for you.

Rejoining the LGPS

If you rejoin the LGPS in England or Wales you should notify the fund, in which you are now an active member, of this deferred benefit, unless this is with the Dorset County Pension Fund.

You should also notify the Dorset County Pension Fund of any new active membership with other Funds in the LGPS.

Present value of scheme benefits

This shows the current value of your benefits, assuming your benefits will be paid either at your Normal Retirement Date or the date, if earlier, when your benefits would be paid without any reduction. If you choose to take your pension benefits before that date a reduction will apply. Your Normal Retirement date is explained on page 7. The amounts do not include any potential McCloud Remedy underpin as explained on page 5.

In some cases there is a minor reduction in the annual pension (called 'modified annual pension') because reduced, or 'modified', contributions were made to the Scheme before 1 July 1980.

Date valued to:	7 April 2025
Current pension:	per year
Retirement lump sum:	
Contingent partner's pension:	per year

Pensions Increase of applies and is included in the above pension figures.

Increases to benefits

Your deferred benefits increase in line with inflation. The benefits shown above have been index-linked up to and including the 2025 Pensions Increase Review Order of 1.7%.

Debits to pension

The above amounts have **not** been reduced by any applicable Pension Debits for divorce or Scheme Pay Offset for Annual Allowance tax charge(s).

The amount of debit is:

Pension Debit from Pension:	per year
Pension Debit from Lump Sum:	
Scheme Pays Offset:	per year

Claiming your deferred pension

The Dorset County Pension Fund will write to you just before you reach your Normal Pension Age, providing details on how to claim your pension. Your Normal Pension Age is shown on page 7.

If you would like to access your pension earlier, with a reduction, you will need to contact us using the details on page 11 of this leaflet. Your pension can be taken from age 55 at the earliest.

The McCloud Remedy

Your benefits shown in this illustration have not had any increases due to the McCloud Remedy. If you are due an increase to your pension entitlement due to the McCloud Remedy, for any pension membership between 1 April 2014 and 31 March 2022, this will be assessed and applied when you start receiving your pension.

Not all LGPS members are affected by the McCloud remedy. The basic rules are set out below.

You will not be affected by the McCloud remedy if:

- you turned 65 before 1 April 2014
- you left the LGPS before 1 April 2014.

Your LGPS pension is protected by the McCloud remedy if:

- you were a member of the LGPS or another public service pension scheme before 1 April 2012
- you were a member of the LGPS in the remedy period between 1 April 2014 and 31 March 2022
- you were under age 65 in the remedy period, and
- you have not had a disqualifying gap of more than five years when you were not paying into the LGPS or any other public service pension scheme.

If the Dorset County Pension Fund is unsure if you are affected by the McCloud Remedy, you will be contacted and asked to provide evidence of your service in other public service pension schemes if applicable.

Death before benefits become payable

If you die before the benefits become payable, in addition to any survivor's pension shown, there would be a lump sum death grant payable. The grant would be paid to your next of kin, legal personal representatives or your nominated beneficiary. Payment may be made immediately, without waiting for Grant of Probate or Letters of Administration to be taken out, if the fund has a completed, current Expression of Wish / Death Grant Nomination Form.

Death grant:

Death Grant Nomination

The section below shows who you have nominated to receive a death grant upon your death. If this section is blank, no nomination has been made, this means if a death grant becomes payable, your wishes cannot be taken into consideration. If you would like to nominate or change your existing nomination details, please complete an 'Expression of Wish' form. You are able to do this on My Pension, further details on page 10 or by emailing a form, details of where to find this form are included on page 11 of this booklet.

Beneficiary	Percentage of benefits payable

The Dorset County Pension Fund Scheme Administrator has absolute discretion over who receives any lump sum death grant.

This death grant would only be payable if you are not currently an active member of the LGPS in England or Wales. If you have rejoined the LGPS in England or Wales, the death grant payable would be the greater of:

- the total death grant from all deferred benefits, pensions in payment and suspended Tier three ill health pensions, or
- three times your pay (Assumed Pensionable Pay) in your new active employment.

Normal Pension Age

If you left before 1 April 2014 your Normal Pension Age would be 65. However if you were a member of the pension scheme before 1 April 2008 and were born before 1 April 1960 you may have a protected earlier pension age, between age 60 and 65.

If you left after 1 April 2014 your Normal Retirement Age would be the same as your State Pension Age. You can find out what this is at **www.gov.uk/calculate-state-pension**

Your Normal Pension Date is currently:

However, if you left after 1 April 2014, this may change in the future as and when the Government changes State Pension Ages.

If you draw your pension before your Normal Pension Age your pension benefits will be subject to a reduction.

Retirement lump sum

When receiving your deferred benefits on retirement you will have the option to take part of your benefits as a tax-free cash lump sum by giving up part of your pension. The maximum lump sum that you can take is 25% of the capital value of your pension benefits. Details of this will be provided at retirement. If you have membership before 1 April 2008, you will have some automatic provision for a retirement grant based on 3/80th of your final pay. However, any service after 1 April 2008 will not generate an automatic lump sum.

How your benefits are calculated

Pension benefits built up before 1 April 2014 are based on the length of time you have been a member of the pension scheme (total membership) and your full time equivalent final pay. On 1 April 2014 the way pension is calculated changed to a yearly amount being added to your "pension account".

Membership prior to 1 April 2008

Pension benefits up to 1 April 2008 are based on 1/80th of your final pay, plus 3/80th as a tax free lump sum (retirement grant).

Membership between 1 April 2008 and 31 March 2014

From 1 April 2008, for each year of membership or part year, your pension is calculated as 1/60th of your final pensionable pay.

Membership from 1 April 2014

Every year from 1 April 2014 an amount of pension is earned, which is added to your pension account. This is calculated as 1/49th of your actual pensionable pay.

If you have service transferred in from previous employments, or pension providers, this will be included in your benefit calculations.

III Health Pension Access

If you are suffering from permanent ill health you can apply for early payment of your benefits. You can do this at any age.

You will need to apply in writing to your former employer who will refer you to a nominated Occupational Health professional to determine whether your condition qualifies you to receive early payment under the scheme rules.

Pension Scams

Unfortunately, pension scams are on the rise in the UK. In some cases, the scammer will try to persuade you to transfer your pension to a different scheme, often a scheme the scammer has set up themselves. Falling victim to a pension scam could mean that you lose some or all of your pension savings.

The Government has identified common pension scam risks which, if present, may suggest you are in danger of being scammed. The Government calls these red and amber flags.

If you elect to transfer, to help protect your pension from scammers, the Government requires us to decide whether any red or amber flags are present. We will not need to do this if you transfer to a different public service pension scheme, an authorised master trust scheme or an authorised collective defined contribution scheme.

Pension scams, where people may be tricked into handing over their pension pots by scammers, are on the increase; millions of people fall victim to scams every year. The tactics used by pension scammers to encourage people to transfer their pension savings to them are constantly changing. Some of the tactics include offering free pension reviews, health checks and promises of better returns to their savings, pensions loans, up front cash or other promotions to tempt them. Most of these are bogus.

However, once you've transferred your money into a scam, it's too late. You could end up losing all your pensions savings and in some cases face a tax bill of up to 55%.

For information about pensions scams please visit

www.fca.org.uk/consumers/pension-scams

AVCs

If you paid Additional Voluntary Contributions (AVCs) to either Utmost Life & Pensions (previously Equitable Life) or the Prudential whilst in active membership these are not included in this illustration. You should receive a separate communication from either company with details of your AVC.

Full details of your AVC fund will be provided on retirement.

Early access to your pension

The earliest you are able to access your pension benefits, unless on grounds on ill health, would be age 55.

Please be aware that if you access your pension before your normal retirement age, the reduction applied for taking benefits early may be high.

Transferring benefits

If you have joined or are thinking of joining another pension arrangement you may wish to consider transferring your LGPS benefits to it. You should contact your current pension provider for further information and on your instruction they may write to us for a transfer quotation. Please be aware that your LGPS pension is a valuable asset and advice should be sought before making any decision to transfer out your pension.

Online Access to your Deferred Pension

Checking your pension is now as easy as online banking with our secure My Pension website. With My Pension you can:

- Update personal information and contact details
- Communicate with the fund and upload documents
- Estimate how much your pension could be when you retire
- Make or change your death grant nomination details.

Visit <https://mypension.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk> to log in or register for My Pension.

Further information and disclaimer

These calculations are based on the information available at the time and every care has been taken to ensure their accuracy. If you have any reason to believe that the calculations made or the information we have used is wrong (either to your benefit or detriment) you must notify us immediately. The Dorset County Pension Fund reserves the right to adjust the calculations if they are found to be incorrect or if circumstances change, and to change payments accordingly. This notice of your benefits does not confer any legal or contractual obligation on either you or the Dorset County Pension Fund, and is provided on that basis. The Dorset County Pension Fund will only be liable to pay those benefits to which you are lawfully entitled.

Contact us

If, after reading this booklet carefully, you have any queries concerning your annual deferred benefit illustration please contact us either by email preferably, or through your My Pension account, or at the address below, using a subject heading of "Deferred Annual Benefit Illustration 2025".



pensionshelpline@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk



Dorset County Pension Fund
County Hall
Dorchester
Dorset
DT1 1XJ

My Pension online: **<http://mypension.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk>**

Along with some useful information we have made a variety of forms available on our website at **www.dorsetpensionfund.org**

Alternatively you can contact the Dorset County Pension Fund and we will be happy to post you a hard copy.

More information can be found on the LGPS members website at:
www.lgpsmember.org

