The Local Government Pension Scheme

Dorset County Pension Fund
administered by Dorset Council

Dorset County Pension Fund Newsletter 2025

Included in this newsletter

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- ✓ Ill health Retirements
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Welcome to your 2025 LGPS newsletter

Welcome to the 2025 newsletter for members who are actively contributing into the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) with the Dorset County Pension Fund (DCPF).

This newsletter provides you with important information about your pension. If you have a query regarding any of the topics in this newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the DCPF team by email at **pensionshelpline@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk**

The McCloud remedy

On the first page of your Annual Benefit Illustration, you'll find a statement indicating whether the Dorset County Pension Fund (DCPF) believes you are eligible for the McCloud remedy.

If the statement says you are ***not eligible*** but you believe you should be, please provide evidence of your previous public sector pension membership.

In early August, a letter was sent to all members whom the Fund believes are not eligible. This letter outlines the steps you need to take and the specific evidence required to support your claim for eligibility.

The eligibility criteria for the McCloud remedy is

- 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 5 years or more when you were not paying into the LGPS or any other public service pension scheme.

Death Grant nominations

It is important that you update your death grant nomination (expression of wish) regularly. Your current nomination is shown on page 7 of your Annual Benefit Illustration booklet.

Change to the Minimum Pension Age

The UK government has announced a change to the minimum pension age, which will affect members of the LGPS. The minimum age at which you can access your pension benefits will increase from 55 to 57, effective from April 2028.

What This Means

- **People Aged 55 and Over:** If you are already 55 or older, you will not be affected by this change and can still access your pension benefits as planned.
- **People Aged 54 and Under:** If you are under 55, you will need to wait until you are 57 to access your pension benefits, unless you qualify for ill-health retirement or other specific exemptions.
- **Planning for the Future:** Consider speaking with a financial advisor to understand how this change may impact your retirement plans.

Impact on LGPS Members

The full impact of this change on LGPS members has not yet been finalised. We will communicate any further information as it becomes available.

Are you too ill to work?

If you have to leave work because of illness, your LGPS benefits may be paid straight away.

Ill health benefits can be paid at any age and your pension would not be reduced for early payment. In some cases your pension may be enhanced to make up for your early retirement . To qualify for an ill health pension you must have met the two year vesting period in the LGPS and you must be:

- permanently unable to do your job until your Normal Pension Age, and
- not immediately capable of undertaking gainful employment.

If you are too ill to work, you should ask your employer to consider you for an ill health retirement. Then your employer must get the opinion of an independent occupational health physician appointed by them before a decision is made.

If you are awarded an ill health pension there are three tiers of benefit available.

Tier 1

Eligibility—unlikely to be capable of gainful employment before Normal Pension Age (NPA).

- Pension built up to leaving date.
- **No reduction** for early payment.
- **Plus:** Full enhancement — the pension you would have built up from leaving to NPA.
- **Paid for life**.

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Tier 2

Eligibility: - **unlikely to be capable of gainful employment within 3 years, but likely before NPA**.

- Pension already built up to leaving date.
- **No reduction** for early payment.
- **Plus**: 25% of the pension you would have built up from leaving to NPA.
- **Paid for life**.

Tier 3

Eligibility: **likely to be capable of gainful employment within 3 years or before NPA.**

- Pension already built up to leaving date.
- **No reduction** for early payment.
- **Temporary payment**:
  - Stops after 3 years, or
  - When you start or become capable of gainful employment.
- May resume at NPA or earlier, depending on circumstances.

Gender Pensions Gap in the LGPS

The government issued a consultation called Local Government Pension Scheme in England and Wales: Access and Fairness. Part of this consultation was looking at the gender pensions gap and changes to the LGPS which may help close this gap.

74% of the 6.7 million LGPS members nationwide are women, yet their pensions are significantly lower than men's. The gender pensions gap is:

- 34.7% in the post-2014 career average scheme.
- 46% in the pre-2014 final salary scheme.

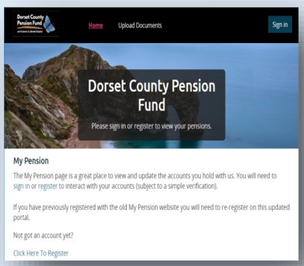
Key Reform Proposals

1. Make unpaid leave under 31 days pensionable
2. Reduce cost of buying back pension for longer unpaid leave
3. Make unpaid maternity, adoption & shared parental leave pensionable
4. Mandatory gender pension gap reporting

If any of the proposed changes from the consultation take effect, this will be communicated to you.

How do I find out more about my pension?

The Dorset County Pension Fund (DCPF) have an online member self serve portal where you can access details of your pension benefits.



You can see how much your pension is worth when you retire.

You can make or change your death grant lump sum nomination.

You can change your address and marital status

Plus much more...

Please visit **https://mypension.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/**

LGPS pension contributions bands from 1 April 2025

The amount of pension contributions a member pays into the LGPS is adjusted each year in line with cost of living.

The amount of contributions you pay is based on the pay band your employer decides is correct for you. If you have more than one job, your employer will set your contribution rate separately for each job.

If your pay changes in the year, your employer may decide to review your contribution rate.

This table shows the pay bands and contributions rates that apply from April 2025.

If you have decided to move into the 50/50 section of the scheme, you will pay 50% of the normal contribution rate.

If your actual pensionable pay is:	**You pay a contribution rate of:**
Up to £17,800	5.50%
£17,801 to £28,000	5.80%
£28,001 to £45,600	6.50%
£45,601 to £57,700	6.80%
£57,701 to £81,000	8.50%
£81,001 to £114,800	9.90%
£114,801 to £135,300	10.50%
£135,301 to £203,000	11.40%
£203,001 or more	12.50%

Annual Benefit Illustration presentations

Do you understand your Annual Benefit Illustration?

Dorset County Pension fund is holding presentations to help members understand their illustration. These 30 minute presentations will explain what your illustration contains and highlight the information you need to check.

Please use the Eventbrite links below to register to attend one of the two sessions being offered on Microsoft Teams online.

- Thursday 11 September at 17:00

Booking link: **www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/understanding-your-lgps-annual-benefit-illustration-tickets-1515595871049**

- Tuesday 16 September at 12:30

Booking link: **www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/understanding-your-lgps-annual-benefit-illustration-tickets-1515796461019**

LGPS member presentations

During the year, there are several general LGPS member presentations available for people who are active members of the Dorset County Pension Fund.

The presentation will cover the following points

lgps | Local Government Pension Scheme

- ☑ Understanding your LGPS pension and how it builds up
- ☑ Paying more or less into your pension
- ☑ Types of LGPS retirements
- ☑ Survivor benefits

The one hour LGPS member presentations are held on Microsoft Teams online and can be booked using the Eventbrite links below.

- Wednesday 19 November at 12:30

Booking link: **www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/dcpf-lgps-member-presentation-tickets-1544174771309**

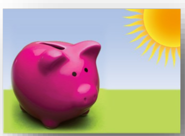
- Friday 30 January at 12:30

Booking link: **www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/dcpf-lgps-member-presentation-tickets-1544370586999**

- Tuesday 12 May at 17:00

Booking link: **www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/dcpf-lgps-member-presentation-tickets-1544434849209**

Please remember:



! Check the pay used in your Annual Benefit Illustration leaflet.

! Let us know about any change of address.

! Ensure your death grant nomination (expression of wish) is up to date.

Disclaimer

Information in this leaflet is correct at the time of printing and is provided for information purposes only. We cannot cover personal circumstances and any advice given does not affect your statutory rights or over-ride existing legislation.

July 2025