



Welcome to your pensioner newsletter for 2026 which contains important information about your **Hampshire LGPS pension.**

Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) - Advance payroll  
 Teachers' Compensation Pension - Advance payroll  
 Pay As You Earn (PAYE) reference: 663/ZH310

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Please telephone us on 01962 845588 if you would like this newsletter in large print.

# MESSAGE FROM THE FUND

Hampshire County Council is the local authority responsible for administering the Hampshire Pension Fund (HPF), known as the Administering Authority. In this capacity, the County Council has delegated responsibility for the governance and management of the Pension Fund to the Pension Fund Panel and Board (PFPB).

The PFPB meets quarterly and has 15 members; made up of nine County Councillors, three scheme member representatives and three employer representatives. These membership arrangements have been designed to allow all key stakeholders to have the opportunity to be represented on the committee. During 2024/25 there were some changes to the membership of the Panel and Board. Amelia Nirmal joined the PFPB as an employer representative following the departure of Fiona Hnatow in 2023/24. In addition, at the end of the financial year Councillor Dominic Hiscock stepped down from his role, as did Councillor Paul Taylor as the district council representative, they have been replaced by Councillor Stuart Bailey and Councillor Richie Latham respectively.

The unitary employer representative position alternates on an annual basis between representatives from Southampton City Council and Portsmouth City Council. As a result, Councillor Judith Smyth from Portsmouth City Council took over as the unitary council representative, with Councillor Simon Letts from Southampton City Council fulfilling the role of substitute employer representative.

Following the direction of the Government Hampshire will be moving from its current investment pool (ACCESS) to join LGPS Central from 1 April 2026. Hampshire will now be part of a larger investment pool, with 14 other partners. In line with the Government's 'Fit for the Future' policy, the pool will be responsible for managing the Fund's investments, but the PFPB retain responsibility for setting the Fund's Investment Strategy, including its Responsible Investment Strategy. In 2024/25 the value of the Fund's investments grew by £247million (2.47%) bringing it to a total of £10.216 billion at 31 March 2025.

Should you have any queries or feedback regarding the governance of the Fund or the work of the PFPB, please contact the pensioner representative Phillip Reynolds who can be emailed via: [phillipreynolds77@gmail.com](mailto:phillipreynolds77@gmail.com)

Phillip Reynolds has also provided an update on the work of the PFPB which is enclosed with this newsletter.



# Pension pay dates

Month	Payment date	Month	Payment date
May	1 May 2026	November	30 Oct 2026
June	1 Jun 2026	December	30 Nov 2026
July	1 Jul 2026	January	31 Dec 2026
August	31 Jul 2026	February	1 Feb 2027
September	1 Sept 2026	March	1 Mar 2027
October	1 Oct 2026	April	1 Apr 2027

## Tax Codes

Your pension is taxable income.

If you receive a new tax code for 2026/27, it will apply from the first payment after 6 April (01 May 2026).

We can only use tax codes provided by HMRC. Please check your payslip to confirm the correct code is being used.

For tax code queries, contact HMRC (not Hampshire Pension Services) and quote your National Insurance number:

Pay As You Earn  
HMRC, BX9 1AS  
Tel: 0300 200 3300

You can also manage your tax online at:  
[www.gov.uk/personal-tax-account](http://www.gov.uk/personal-tax-account)

## Payslips and P60s

Your payslips can be viewed or downloaded for printing from the [Member Portal](#).

If you have opted out of electronic communications, we will post you:

- A payslip twice a year, before the April and May payments are made,
- your P60 after the end of the tax year (usually May), and
- a pensioner newsletter.

If you would like other payslips throughout the year, you will need to contact us to request this.

Any queries regarding tax should be directed to HMRC.



# Keeping your information updated

Your pension is very important so it is essential that you can access your pension information and keep us up to date with any changes in your personal circumstances. The easiest way to do this is using our online Member Portal.

This will allow you to:

- securely view payslips and your P60,
- change your address, name or marital status,
- update your bank details,
- view any changes in your tax code,
- add or amend 'expression of wish' nominations, and
- send us a secure message.

To register or sign in, visit: [mypensionportal.hants.gov.uk](http://mypensionportal.hants.gov.uk). Once you have registered, we will then contact you electronically when we need to share information with you about your pension.

## Name or address

You can change your home or email address through our [Member Portal](#). You can also write to or email us.

Please include the following information:

- Full name
- Date of birth
- National Insurance number
- Previous address

We cannot accept change of addresses by telephone.

To change your name, provide a copy of the relevant certificate (e.g. marriage or deed poll).

You can upload this via the Member Portal, or send a copy by post or as a clear scanned image by email.

## Bank details

The most secure way to update your bank details is through the [Member Portal](#).

Alternatively, you can send us a signed letter by post or email (as a clear scanned image).

Changes received after the 17th of each month may not apply to your next pension payment, and will take effect from the following payment.

If a payment is returned by your bank or building society, we will suspend your pension until we receive updated details.

Once processed, any arrears will be included in the next payroll run.



# Acting on someone's behalf

Some pensioners ask relatives or friends for help with their financial affairs.

To allow someone to discuss your pension details with us, please complete a Letter of Authority form: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/hampshire-services/pensions/local-government/resources/forms/hampshire-forms>

To enable someone to make changes to your pension record (e.g. address or bank details), we need evidence of:

- Power of Attorney, or
- Court of Protection Order.

For guidance on setting up a Power of Attorney, visit: [www.gov.uk/power-of-attorney](http://www.gov.uk/power-of-attorney).

## Fraud prevention

To prevent fraud, we regularly review members' entitlement to receive pension benefits. Occasionally, we may contact you - especially if you live overseas - for confirmation of details.

If contacted, please respond promptly using the online or paper forms provided. Paper forms can be returned by post or email.

Our auditors may also request pension payment details to compare records with other public bodies as part of fraud prevention.

## Transfers and divorce

Please note that it is not possible to transfer a pension in payment to another pension scheme.

You may be asked for a Cash Equivalent Value (CEV) as part of any divorce proceedings. If so, please send us your written request for a CEV. In all cases there will be a charge for providing this information.

Don't forget to keep us updated with any change of address resulting from your divorce.



# Pension increases

Your pension is reviewed each year, in line with inflation. Any increase is applied from April. This year the increase is effective from 6 May 2026. The rate of the increase is set by HM Treasury based on the rate of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) in the previous September. Once the rate of increase has been approved by Parliament, we are formally notified and can apply the change to your pension.

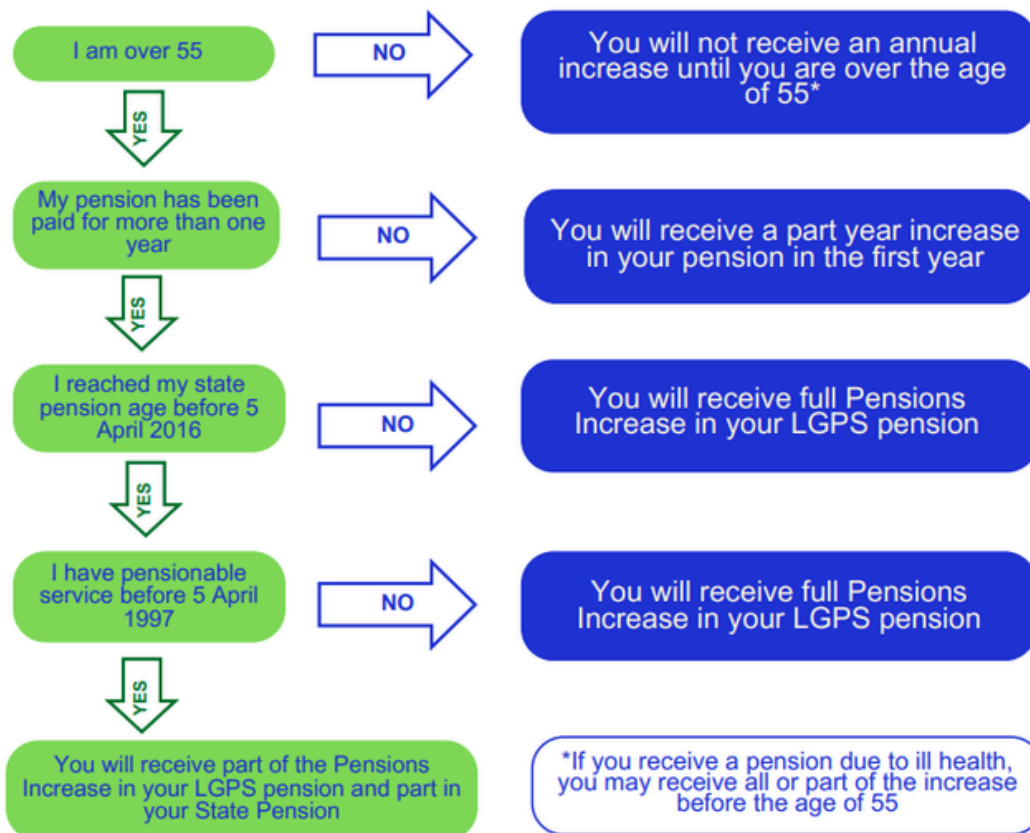
The full increase for April 2026 is 3.8%.

However, you may not receive the full pension increase with your LGPS pension. There are three main reasons for this: your age, how long your pension has been in payment and the State Pension.

There are more details of how the pension increase is applied to your pension on our website. The flowchart below shows how your pension will be increased each year.

## PENSIONS INCREASE

This flowchart will give an indication of whether you will receive an increase in your LGPS pension - it will not cover all circumstances.



# Overseas payments

We use a system called Convera to pay pensions to overseas bank accounts. We need two weeks' notice to set up the arrangement with Convera before we can make payment to overseas accounts.

Convera do not charge an administration fee. Instead, they make their margin through a reduction to the exchange rate payable.

# Re-employment (LGPS members)

We do not currently reduce LGPS pensions following reemployment within the LGPS (also known as abatement) but there are certain circumstances where re-employment may affect your benefits.

If you were awarded added years as part of a redundancy package, you must let us know if you are re-employed. These added years are governed by separate regulations which do operate abatement for the added years portion of your pension only.

If you do not have added years and your pension is currently reduced because of your re-employment, please contact us as soon as possible so that we can re-assess your benefits.

# Dependants' benefits

If you die before your partner, they may be eligible for a pension. The amount depends on factors such as:

- When you left the scheme
- Your pensionable service
- Marital status
- Eligible children

If you marry after leaving the scheme, this may affect your partner's entitlement.

For full details on dependants' benefits, visit our website. For information specific to your circumstances, please use the 'request for a partner pension estimate' form on our website.

For Teachers' Compensation Scheme, a dependant's pension is initially payable for three months at the same rate as your pension at the date of death. This is followed by a long-term pension (payable for life) at roughly half the rate of your pension in payment. This is in addition to any pension your dependant may receive from Teachers' Pensions.



# Death grant (LGPS members)

A death grant may be payable if you die while receiving your pension, and you:

- are under 75,
- left the scheme after 31 March 2008 and have been receiving your pension for less than 10 years, or
- left the scheme between 1 April 1997 and 31 March 2008 and have been receiving your pension for less than five years, or
- left the scheme before 1 April 1997, did not receive maximum commutation of your lump sum, and have been receiving your pension for less than five years.

You can complete a death grant 'Expression of Wish' form to indicate where you wish any death grant to be paid. This can be to a person, persons, or organisation (such as a charity).

The form can be completed through our Member Portal; alternative formats of the form can be found on our website.

The main advantage of completing this form is that the payment can be made directly to your chosen beneficiary, without forming part of your Estate, so it does not count for inheritance tax purposes.

Note: The Government is currently consulting on proposed changes to inheritance tax which could remove this benefit from April 2027.

Hampshire County Council, as administering authority, has absolute discretion as to the distribution of the death grant. For this reason, although the County Council will have the greatest regard to your wishes, it is not legally bound by them.

The 'Expression of Wish' form only applies to the death grant lump sum; it does not affect the payment of any pension for a spouse, partner, or dependant on your death.

## Tell us Once

We participate in the 'Tell Us Once' service that is offered when a bereavement is registered. You can find out more about the service at:

[www.gov.uk/after-a-death/organisations-you-need-to-contact-and-tell-us-once](http://www.gov.uk/after-a-death/organisations-you-need-to-contact-and-tell-us-once)



# Contacting us

<b>Send us a secure message through the Member Portal</b>	To register or sign into Hampshire Pension Services Member Portal, visit: <a href="https://mypensionportal.hants.gov.uk">mypensionportal.hants.gov.uk</a>
<b>Website</b>	<a href="https://www.hants.gov.uk/pensions">www.hants.gov.uk/pensions</a>
<b>Write to</b>	Hampshire Pension Services The Castle Winchester Hampshire SO23 8UB
<b>Telephone</b>	01962 845588
<b>Opening Hours</b>	Monday to Friday: 09:00 to 16:30 Weekends and public holidays: Closed

## Our service aims

We aim to:

- Treat all members fairly and politely.
- Answer all your calls promptly, within office hours.
- Reply to all letters or emails within five working days or contact you to explain why we need to take longer to resolve your query.

Hampshire Pension Services have maintained the Customer Service Excellence certification following an annual review in February 2026. We have held this since being first awarded it in 2009.

We are continuously looking for ways to improve our service and welcome any feedback that you give us. If appropriate, we will change our processes to ensure we provide you with a service that best meets your needs. You can write to us with any feedback or complete our online survey.

If you are unhappy with the service we have provided, please let us know. Most problems can be put right informally, however if you wish to make a formal complaint please write to us at the above address or email [pensions@hants.gov.uk](mailto:pensions@hants.gov.uk).



# Useful contacts

## **GOV.UK - General information about government services**

Website: [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

## **Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) - Queries about your State Pension**

Telephone: 0800 731 0469

## **Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) - Claim your State Pension**

Telephone: 0800 731 7898

## **Money Helper - Free and impartial advice on money and pensions, set up by government**

Website: [www.moneyhelper.org.uk](http://www.moneyhelper.org.uk)

Telephone: 0800 011 3797

## **TaxAid - Help with a tax problem if HMRC can't sort it out**

Website: [www.taxaid.org.uk](http://www.taxaid.org.uk)

## **Tax Help for Older People – Tax advice for older people on low income**

Website: [www.taxvol.org.uk](http://www.taxvol.org.uk)

Telephone: 01308 488066

## **Pensions Ombudsman**

Address: 10 South Colonnade, Canary Wharf, E14 4PU

Website: [www.pensions-ombudsman.org.uk](http://www.pensions-ombudsman.org.uk)

Telephone: 0800 917 4487

## **HMRC**

Pay As You Earn Address: HM Revenue and Customs, BX9 1AS

Telephone: 0300 200 3300

