

Pensioner

Members Newsletter 2019



For more information visit our website at: www.worcestershirepensionfund.org.uk | Issue: 01

🔗 Welcome to our first ever pensioner newsletter

As we aim to continually develop our communications, we are pleased to introduce an annual newsletter for our pensioner members.

This will be issued in November each year and include the pensions increase you can expect the following April.

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide you with important information and / or changes occurring at Worcestershire Pension Fund or the LGPS regulations.

As well as posting you the newsletters, we will make them available from our website at: www.worcestershirepensionfund.org.uk

If you have an email address and are happy for us to alert you to your annual newsletter by email instead of posting it to you, please let us know by emailing your email address to pensions@worcestershire.gov.uk

We are also keen to hear your experience of moving into retirement, so, if you have a story that you would be happy for us to include in a future issue, please contact us.

Our website is designed to provide you with a first port of call for all your pension information needs, so that you can make informed decisions whenever you want to.

Our website has a dedicated area for pensioners that includes information about:

- Changing the bank account into which your pension is paid
- Tax and your pension
- Pension payment advice slips

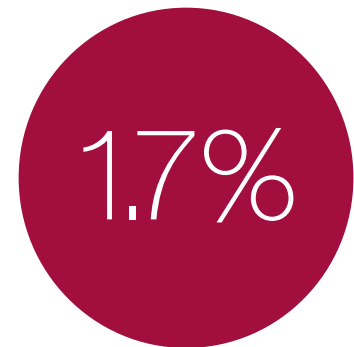
In the future we aim to develop our digital offering further, for example to deliver self-service for our members and employers, and we will be working on this over the next 12 months and we will keep you updated.



Linda Probin
Pensions Manager
Worcestershire Pension Fund

🔗 Your 2020 pension increase

The amount that your pension will increase by for 2020 will be based on 1.7%: if you became a pensioner between 1 April 2019 and 31 March 2020 you will receive a proportion.



This follows increases of:
2.4% for 2019, 3.0% for 2018
1.0% for 2017, 0.0% for 2016.

The increase is based solely on the Consumer Prices Index unlike increases to State pensions that can be based on earnings growth. It is payable once you are 55 or if you retired on ill health.

The increase takes effect from Monday 6 April 2020, not from 1 April 2020. This means that your April 2020 payment will reflect 66% of the increase.

Your May payment will reflect the increase in full.

2020 paydays

As we pay pensions on the last working day of the month, our 2020 paydays will be:

2020	
31 Jan	28 Feb
31 Mar	30 Apr
29 May	30 Jun
31 Jul	28 Aug
30 Sep	30 Oct
30 Nov	31 Dec

We currently only issue a payment advice slip:

- every April
- if you receive a change in your pension that is more than £1
- if your tax code changes
- if you change address
- if you change your bank account

We issue P60s in May.

GMP equalisation and your LGPS pension

Following the High Court's ruling in the Lloyds Banking Group case in October 2018, you may have seen reports in the press of pension 'windfalls' arising from the High Court's decision.

Most adjustments to LGPS benefits for Guaranteed Minimum Pension (GMP) equalisation are likely to be very small.

We have provided HMRC with our data queries on the information about our members that they hold about Guaranteed Minimum Pension (GMP) entitlements.

HMRC have indicated that we will be supplied with a final data extract by November 2019.

Once we have the extract we can commence the process of calculating what rectification is needed to the individual pensions that we are paying and whether it will be backdated.



Tax and your pension

Your pension is taxable. HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) sets or amends your tax code based on where you live and your total income, including the state pension and any other income you have.

We do not set your tax code. If you have a question regarding your tax code, you will need to contact HMRC directly. Their helpline number is 0300 200 3300.

HMRC uses real time information (RTI) to adjust individual tax codes throughout the year to enable them to collect the right amount of tax on an individual's income as they receive / earn it.

You can check your tax code online or notify HMRC of your correct address by setting up a Personal Tax Account.

To do this, go to:

<https://www.gov.uk/personal-tax-account>

National Fraud Initiative

As we have a statutory obligation to participate in the National Fraud Initiative, your pension data is shared with other public bodies.

This means that other public bodies will be able to check that your pension, including an ill health pension from us, has been taken into account in any

Social Security benefits you are receiving.

To find out more about:

- what information we hold about you
- what we do with it
- who we share it with
- how long we keep it for
- your rights in relation to the data
- why we are allowed to collect it

visit our website to view our privacy notice or our personal data retention policy.

If you require a hard copy, please contact us and we will post one to you.

➤ Power of attorney

Anyone who is worried about whether they will be able to continue to manage their affairs in the future might find the Power of Attorney (POA) information provided by the **Office of the Public Guardian** (OPG) of use.

Please note that OPG staff cannot:

- provide an LGPS Death Grant Nomination form (these are available from our website)
- assist in drafting a POA
- provide legal advice

Their primary function is to register POAs once they have been drafted.

Their contact details are:
PO Box 16185,
Birmingham B2 2WH
Telephone: 0300 456 0300

➤ Protection for your family



As the LGPS provides benefits when you die, it is important that you make family / friends aware of the need to tell us that you have died.

You should also make them aware that, if they are told by the Registry Office or by the DWP that they do not need to tell us about your death separately as this will be done automatically under the Tell Us Once (TUO) arrangements, they must tell us separately as local government pensions are not state benefits and are therefore not covered by TUO.

Promptly notifying us of your death will also mean that we will not need to ask for repayment of any pension paid in respect of the period after your death.

Pensions

There is no need for you to nominate your husband, wife, civil partner, or dependent children for a pension payable on your death, as they are automatically entitled to one.

However, if you marry after retiring, not all of your service may be used in calculating your spouse's / civil partner's pension.

A child's pension is only payable to a child who is eligible under the LGPS regulations.

If you were an active member after 31 March 2008 and if you are not married or are not in a civil partnership, but have:

- lived with someone for 2 years at the time of your death
- whilst both of you have been free to marry
- whilst you have been financially interdependent a cohabiting partner can receive a survivor's pension provided s/he meets the criteria under the LGPS regulations.

Lump Sums

There may be no lump sum payable on your death.

Our website's Guide to the LGPS provides more information on any death grant that may be paid.

The LGPS regulations do not spell out who a lump sum is paid to on death.

We have absolute discretion to determine who to pay any death grant to.

However, by making a nomination you can guide us.

A nomination will also help us to make quick and accurate payment of any lump sum paid on your death.

You can change your nomination using our Death Grant Nomination form that is available from the Pensioners area of our website.

➤ About the Fund

Our pensioner records reached an all-time high of 18,000 on 31 March 2019 and our total membership was 62,000.

In our scheme year 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019 we paid out £85m in pensions.

Investment growth and income of £127 million took the Fund to £2,795 million on 31 March 2019, making the Fund an estimated 92% funded.

You can find more information on all aspects of our investments from the Funding and Investments area of our website.

Given our scale and level of activity, we have a robust governance structure in place, and you can find out more about this in the About us area of our website.

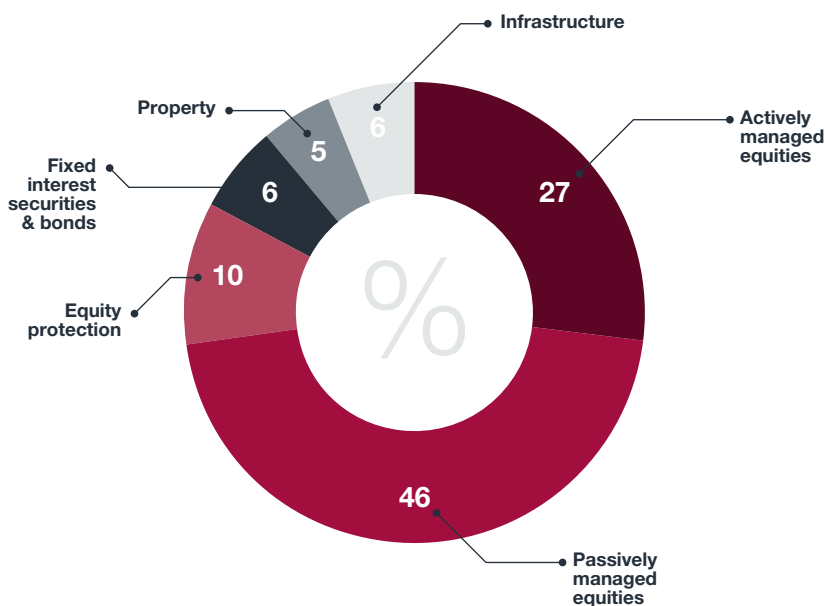
➤ Contacting us

Please tell us if you move address. It is important for you to let us know if you move, so that we can update your record and ensure that you continue to receive your pension.

For your protection we cannot take address changes over the phone. Please advise us in writing or scan and email us our Notify Change of Personal Circumstance Form.

We also cannot take changes of bank account over the phone.

Our investments were allocated as follows on 31 March 2019:



Our investment performance to 31 March 2019 was:

1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years
4.4%	11.7% p.a.	9.2% p.a.	11.4% p.a.

Our latest decisions are summarised in the Pensions Committee area of our website.

If you do want to change the bank account into which your pension is paid monthly, we recommend that you keep your old account open until the new one has received a payment, as we 'cut off' the accounts used for our monthly pension payments a couple of weeks before the payments are actually made.

When contacting us, please quote your National Insurance number or Pensioner Payroll number on all correspondence.

You can contact us by:

- email: pensions@worcestershire.gov.uk

- post: Worcestershire Pension Fund, County Hall, Spetchley Road, Worcester, WR5 2NP
- phone: find out **who to contact** from our website

Worcestershire Pension Fund is not regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) which means our staff are unable to give advice about investments or how you can manage your pension benefits. We can provide you with information about how your pension benefits have been calculated and also direct you to current Government information.