

# yourpension

LPFA pensioners newsletter - Spring 2005

## Pensions increase 2005

**The Government has approved the rate of increase for all public service pensions and state scheme benefits. The increase is effective from 11<sup>th</sup> April 2005 and is 3.1%.**

The increase is set by reference to the Retail Price Index in September. It does not reflect the performance of the LPFA Pension Fund and we do not have the power to pay any additional increase.

Your pension will be increased with effect from 11<sup>th</sup> April 2005 if you:

- are aged 55 or over, or
- are receiving a spouse's, widower's, beneficiary's or child's pension, or
- retired on ill health grounds.

If you do not fall into one of these groups, your pension will still attract the increase, but it will not be paid until your 55<sup>th</sup> birthday.

If your pension is currently suspended due to re-employment, any increase will not be paid until it is reinstated.

During 2005 the LPFA proposes to introduce a new style of payslip.

The printing on the new payslip will be clearer as we will be using a laser printer, rather than the current impact printer, and the paper used will be better quality.

Late last year the Bolton Tax Office changed its address and phone number. The new details are Inland Revenue East Lancashire Area, (Ref: 106/G2000), 9-11 Minden Parade, Bury, BL9 0QN  
Phone: 0845 302 1441

Pensioners who live abroad and wish to telephone the tax office should use the following number **0044 0151 210 2222**



If you have any suggestions about other topics or human interest stories to include in future editions, please write to the LPFA or telephone the local rate number **0845 30 30 335**.

LPFA's opening hours are from 8.30am 5.00pm (although the office is manned between 8am and 6pm), Monday to Friday, and you may visit without appointment. Wheelchair access is available.

Local rate number **0845 30 30 335** is available during normal opening hours.

**Textphone: 020 7369 6119**

**Fax: 020 7369 6111**

**enquiries@lpfa.org.uk**

### **LPFA website**

Access to your pension records is available via the LPFA's secure member website **www.lpfa.org.uk/your\_fund**

**Don't forget ... if you move house, or your personal circumstances change in any way that could affect your pension ... please tell us straightaway so that we can amend our records. We do, however, need this information in writing to satisfy our internal auditors.**

### Calculating pensions increase

Pensions increase is calculated on the annual pension in payment at the end of March 2005, less any Guaranteed Minimum Pension (GMP) notified to you by the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP).

It is not calculated on the figure on your P60 as this amount represents the actual pension paid to you during the financial year April 2004 to March 2005.

### GMP and pensions increase

The increase on your GMP \* will be paid by the DWP as an addition to your State retirement pension and usually applies to those pensions which arose as a result of employment between 6<sup>th</sup> April 1978 and 5<sup>th</sup> April 1997.

If the LPFA has not been notified by the DWP of the amount of your GMP, the increase will be calculated using an estimated value, with any under or overpayment adjusted later. A leaflet explaining GMP in detail is available by calling the local rate number **0845 30 30 335**.

**\* The DWP refers to GMP as 'Contracted Out Deduction' (COD).**

### Payment and dispatch of payslips

The increase will be paid with your April pension payment and a payslip will be sent to you at the end of April showing the increase for the period 11<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> April.

Another payslip will be sent to you at the end of May to show your increased pension for a full month and **should be retained as a record of your normal monthly pension payment.**

You will not be sent a payslip in any of the months which follow, unless your net pension has changed by more than 50 pence from the previous month or you have had a change in your address, banking or tax details.

If you pay tax, you may notice a 10 pence or 22 pence difference in the net pension you receive because tax calculations are based on the pension paid over the tax year to date rather than on individual monthly payments.

**Tax Codes - When you receive a new tax code from the Inland Revenue please check that the LPFA apply the same code.**

**If your pension began on or before 26<sup>th</sup> April 2004 your pension increase is 3.1%. If your pension began after this date a smaller, pro-rata, increase will apply as shown in the table below.**

<b>Pensions beginning:</b>	<b>increase</b>	<b>Pensions beginning:</b>	<b>increase</b>
		27 <sup>th</sup> September to 26 <sup>th</sup> October 2004	1.55%
27 <sup>th</sup> April to 26 <sup>th</sup> May 2004	2.84%	27 <sup>th</sup> October to 26 <sup>th</sup> November 2004	1.29%
27 <sup>th</sup> May to 26 <sup>th</sup> June 2004	2.58%	27 <sup>th</sup> November to 26 <sup>th</sup> December 2004	1.03%
27 <sup>th</sup> June to 26 <sup>th</sup> July 2004	2.33%	27 <sup>th</sup> December to 26 <sup>th</sup> January 2005	0.78%
27 <sup>th</sup> July to 26 <sup>th</sup> August 2004	2.07%	27 <sup>th</sup> January to 26 <sup>th</sup> February 2005	0.52%
27 <sup>th</sup> August to 26 <sup>th</sup> September 2004	1.81%	27 <sup>th</sup> February to 26 <sup>th</sup> March 2005	0.26%

## P60s and self assessment tax returns

Your P60 will be sent to you in the middle of April. The P60 is a certificate of pension paid and tax deducted for the tax year April 2004 to March 2005. It is important that you retain your P60, as you will need it should you be asked to complete a self assessment tax return.

When completing self assessment tax returns, please note that the figures provided on the P60 are the gross taxable pension paid in the year (i.e. the amount of your pension before tax is deducted) and the tax deducted in the year. You will need to subtract the amount of tax deducted from the gross taxable pension to arrive at the net amount paid in the year. These three amounts all need to be entered on the self assessment tax return.

If you are in receipt of a 'tax exempt' injury pension awarded because of an injury that occurred while you were working or as a result of contracting a work related illness, the amount of the injury pension paid is not shown on your P60. It is not necessary for you to enter the amount of the injury pension on the self assessment tax return.

## Pensioners living abroad

Please note that with effect from April 2005 the charges made by the Bank of Scotland for those pensioners receiving their pension payment via the Trans-continental Automated Payment Service (TAPS) will increase from £3.14 to £3.23 for direct payments and from £8.19 to £8.44 for indirect payments.

If you live abroad and are paid by cheque, you may wish to consider this safer method of payment. The LPFA can also pay your pension quarterly, in arrears, so that the TAPS charges are reduced. For more information please contact us on **0845 30 30 335**.

## State benefits

In April 2005, the basic state pension will increase by 2.8% to £82.05 per week for a single person and to £49.15 per week for a dependent wife.

### Data to help beat fraud

The Audit Commission has used its legal right to request personal and payroll information from the LPFA to help investigate potential fraudulent use of public funds.

### Frequently asked questions

#### What is the NFI?

The National Fraud Initiative (NFI) is the Audit Commission's data matching exercise. Its role is to detect fraudulent and incorrect payments from the public purse.

#### Why does the information have to be provided?

The LPFA is required under Section 6 of the Audit Commission Act 1998 to participate in the NFI data matching exercise.

#### What information will be given?

Where relevant, the following data will be collected:

- Employee number
- Title or gender
- Surname and forename
- Address
- Date of birth
- Date pension commenced
- National Insurance number
- Gross pension to date so far this year

#### What happens with our information?

Payroll data will be used for cross-reference and cross-authority comparison for the prevention and detection of fraud.

#### What if I do not want my details released?

It's a legal requirement and is allowed by the Data Protection Act.

# LPFA Office 0845 30 30 335

## Arabic

إذا أردت نسخة من هذه الوثيقة بلغتك، يرجى الاتصال برقم الهاتف أو مراسلة العنوان أدناه

## Bengali

আপনি যদি আপনার ভাষায় এই দলিলের প্রতিলিপি (কপি) চান, তা হলে নিচের ফোন নম্বরে বা ঠিকানায় অনুগ্রহ করে যোগাযোগ করুন।

## Chinese

如果需要您母語版本的此文件，請致電以下號碼或與下列地址聯絡

## Greek

Αν θέλετε να αποκτήσετε αντίγραφο του παρόντος εγγράφου στη δική σας γλώσσα, παρακαλείστε να επικοινωνήσετε τηλεφωνικά στον αριθμό αυτό ή ταχυδρομικά στην παρακάτω διεύθυνση.

## Gujarati

જો તમને આ દસ્તાવેજની નકલ તમારી ભાષામાં જોઈતી હોય તો, કૃપા કરી આપેલ નંબર ઉપર ફોન કરો અથવા નીચેના સરનામે સંપર્ક સાધો.

## Hindi

यदि आप इस दस्तावेज की प्रति अपनी भाषा में चाहते हैं, तो कृपया निम्नलिखित नंबर पर फोन करें अथवा नीचे दिये गये पते पर संपर्क करें

## Punjabi

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਸ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਦੀ ਕਾਪੀ ਤੁਹਾਡੀ ਆਪਣੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਚਾਹੀਦੀ ਹੈ, ਤਾਂ ਹੇਠ ਲਿਖੇ ਨੰਬਰ 'ਤੇ ਫ਼ੋਨ ਕਰੋ ਜਾਂ ਹੇਠ ਲਿਖੇ ਪਤੇ 'ਤੇ ਸੰਬੰਧਤ ਕਰੋ:

## Turkish

Bu belgenin kendi dilinizde hazırlanmış bir nüshasını edinmek için, lütfen aşağıdaki telefon numarasını arayınız veya adrese başvurunuz.

## Urdu

اگر آپ اس دستاویز کی نقل اپنی زبان میں چاہتے ہیں، تو براہ کرم نیچے دئے گئے نمبر پر فون کریں یا دیئے گئے پتے پر رابطہ کریں

## Vietnamese

Nếu bạn muốn có văn bản tài liệu này bằng ngôn ngữ của mình, hãy liên hệ theo số điện thoại hoặc địa chỉ dưới đây.

**This newsletter is also available in large print and on audio cassette. It may be possible to reproduce it in other ways or in another language. Please call 0845 30 30 335.**

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