



your pension

Pensioners Spring Newsletter 2007



Information for LPFA, Fire and Un-Funded Pensioners



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Ray Watkin
Payroll Manager

Welcome to this edition of Your Pension newsletter. Inside you will find details regarding the forthcoming Pensions Increase award and a card showing the payment dates of your pension from April 2007 to March 2008.

The enclosed pay card also explains most of the terms that appear on payslips and lists the pensions payroll staff here at the LPFA who are able to help you with any queries that you may have regarding your pension.

Since the last Spring Newsletter there have been a few changes of staff in the Payroll Section, and, as most of you will know, Alison Alcock, my predecessor, retired in April.

Alison was the Payroll Manager here for many years, and it is now my task to continue all her good work at the LPFA. Sandra Harewood has also now left us to live in Barbados and we wish her well. In the past year, two new members of staff have joined the team, Deborah French and Bill Abnett, and I am proud to report that Sherein Fatima and Sheri Kosoko have completed and passed,

with Merit awards, their IPP Foundation in Payroll Administration qualification.

I would like to take this opportunity to raise the issue of Identity Fraud which seems to be in the news constantly these days.

Currently your payslip has account details partially asterisked out, but not your National Insurance number.

A few pensioners have voiced concerns about this appearing on the payslip and as a result we are looking into the possibility of having this detail hidden as per other confidential information on your current payslip. If you have any strong feelings on this issue I would value the opportunity to discuss this with you directly. Please be aware that your National Insurance number will always appear on your end of year P60 certificate, as this is a statutory requirement.

Can I also ask you to check your National Insurance Number as if it commences with the letters TN, it means we only have a temporary NI Number for you on our system. If this does affect you, can you please write into this office with your correct number (please also quote your pension number) and we will of course update our records.

Ray Watkin

National Fraud Initiative

The LPFA has a duty to protect the public funds it administers from possible fraud and one way it does this is to participate in the National Fraud Initiative.

The Audit Commission co-ordinates this project which is run every two years. The LPFA is currently investigating a small number of cases identified as a result of their work. No action is required by you. Please be assured the LPFA is complying fully with Data Protection and Human Rights legislation and respects the rights and privacy of individuals at all times.

Architect's Department Reunion

It is proposed to hold an Architect's Department reunion in 2007 to mark the 21 years of the GLC and the 21 years since the abolition. Anyone with suggestions as to venue or prepared to help to organize such event please contact me.

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Amount of Pension Increase

If your pension began on or before 24th April 2006 your pension increase is 3.6%. If your pension began after this date a smaller, pro-rata, increase will apply as shown:

Pensions beginning:	Increase
25th April to 24th May 2006	3.3%
25th May to 24th June 2006	3.00%
25th June to 24th July 2006	2.70%
25th July to 24th August 2006	2.40%
25th August to 24th September 2006	2.10%
25th September to 24th October 2006	1.80%
25th October to 24th November 2006	1.50%
25th November to 24th December 2006	1.20%
25th December to 24th January 2007	0.90%
25th January to 24th February 2007	0.60%
25th February to 24th March 2007	0.30%

Pension Increase

The Government has approved the rate of increase for all public service pensions and state scheme benefits. The increase is effective from 9th April 2007 and is 3.6%.

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 9th April 2007 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 55th birthday.

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

Please remember:

- Pensions increase is calculated on annual pension in payment at the end of March 2007, less any Guaranteed Minimum Pensions (GMP).

- The increase will be paid with your April pension payment.
- A payslip will be sent at the end of April showing the increase for the period 9th to 30th April.
- Another payslip will be sent to you at the end of May to show your increased pensions 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 50p.
- The increase on your GMP will be paid by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) as an addition to your State retirement pension.
- A leaflet explaining GMP in detail is available by telephoning 020 7369 6118.
- When you receive a new tax code from the Inland Revenue please check that the LPFA has applied the same code.
- Your P60 will be sent to you in the middle of April.
- Retain your P60, as you will need it should you be asked to complete a self assessment tax return.
- The figures provided on the P60 are the gross taxable pension and the tax deducted in the year.
- Subtract the amount of tax deducted from the gross taxable pension to arrive at the net amount paid in the year.
- If you are in receipt of a 'tax exempt' injury pension 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.

Fund Members Forum

The Annual Fund Members Forum will be held on Monday 3rd September starting at 12 noon.

This year's event will take place at a new venue – the Church House Conference Centre which is located across the road from the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre and next door to Westminster Abbey.

To book your place at the Forum, please inform the LPFA's Communications Team, as places can only be guaranteed to those who have reservations.

Telephone: 020 7369 6000

Fax: 020 7369 6111

Email: communications@lpfa.org.uk

Post: Dexter House address.

A new look lpfa

In recent years the lpfa has been using three brands to promote our services to specific groups.

We are now moving into a new era and have united our services into the one corporate image. We are the lpfa and our specialty is pensions, i.e. your pension is our world!

The new brand will be introduced from April 2007.





Pensions Payroll Team Staff Contacts

If you have any queries regarding your pension, please call a member of the Pensions Team on the local rate number:

0845 30 30 335

Lorraine Twiner (Talking payslip service)
Sherein Fatima (Talking payslip service)
Marvarie Thompson
Deborah French
Jasmine Gayle
Sheri Kosoko
Bill Abnett
Tom Sim



Instant Member News

In order to keep you up-to-date with what's happening at the LPFA, we are now offering an electronic, free of charge, news service called "Fund Member News." This service offers news as it happens from the LPFA.

If you would like to sign up for this service, please send an email confirming this to communications@lpfa.org.uk.

Please don't forget...

if you move house, change bank account or your personal circumstances change in a way that could affect your pension... please write to inform us so we can amend our records for you.

Pensioners living abroad

If you live abroad and are still paid by cheque, you may wish to consider using the safer method of payment offered by the Bank Of Scotland. Your payment will be processed in the normal way, and Bank of Scotland will convert the amount into the local currency, thus avoiding foreign exchange costs.

By purchasing the currency 'in bulk', Bank of Scotland can obtain an improved exchange rate not on offer to normal customers.

There is a charge for using TAPS (Trans-Continental Automated Payment Service) which is currently £3.30p for direct payments and £8.63p for indirect payments. If you are interested in using this service, please contact LPFA for a TAPS mandate form on 0845 3030335.



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This newsletter is also available in large print and on audio cassette.