



Your Pension

Pensioners Spring Newsletter
2008





Ray Watkin
Payroll Manager

Welcome to the Spring 2008 newsletter. One of the main purposes of this newsletter is to inform you of the pension increase for the coming year. Inside you will find more details of the percentage increase, who it will affect and a list of the payroll staff who are able to help you with any query you may have.

Also enclosed is a pay card showing payment dates from April 2008 to March 2009 and a brief explanation of the most common terms used on the payslip. In the next few months the payslip will be changing slightly to provide a better quality of seal.

In last years newsletter, I touched upon the subject of identity fraud. Following a favourable response from many of you, we now asterisk out some of your NI number as well as the first four digits of your account number.

The LPFA is constantly looking at ways to tighten security and I will be happy to discuss any suggestions you have

to improve this or any other aspect of the payroll service we provide.

Can I remind everyone, that if for any reason you have lost contact with a former colleague or friend who is in receipt of a pension, I am unable to reveal any personal details to you, but if you send a letter to us with a note attached giving as much detail as possible i.e. name, place worked, etc I will try and locate the pensioner from our records and forward the letter to the address held on our records.

We have a number of pensioners who, as time goes by, need a bit of help from relatives or friends with their financial affairs. This is not a problem, but to enable us to

take instructions regarding change of address or bank details from a person other than the pensioner, we do require either a power of attorney or court of protection order .

Please don't forget

If you move house, become re-employed or change bank account, please write to inform us as soon as possible. The LPFA does not accept any changes over the phone, via email or fax. All notification of changes need to be sent in writing and signed by yourself, quoting your pension number or national insurance number.

All changes will be acknowledged by the issue of a payslip.

Pensions Increase

The Government has approved the rate of increase for all public service pensions and state scheme benefits. The increase is effective from 5th April 2008 and is 3.9%.

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 7th April 2008 if you:

are aged 55 or over, or are receiving a spouse'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, 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 2008, less any Guaranteed Minimum Pension (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 7th to 30th 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 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. Please allow at least 6 weeks for the change to be made as normally you will receive your code a few weeks before we do.
- * 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.

Firefighters Pension Scheme pensioners please remember

- * To keep us informed of any changes in benefits you

receive from the State. Please supply us with a copy of any notification you may receive or call us if you are unsure.

- * To inform us if you are a widow who is remarrying.
- * If there is a change in circumstances for a child's pension.
- * To keep us informed of further fire fighting employment or employment with the Home Office Inspectorate as your pension may be subject to abatement.
- * Your May pension may be lower than April's as April's includes arrears of pensions increase.
- * Fire Fighters pensions queries 020 7369 6076

Amount of Pension Increase

If your pension began on or before 22nd April 2007 your pension increase is 3.9%. If your pension began after this date a smaller, pro-rata, increase will apply as shown:

Pensions beginning:	Increase
9th April to 22nd April 2007	3.90%
23rd April to 22nd May 2007	3.58%
23rd May to 22nd June 2007	3.25%
23rd June to 22nd July 2007	2.93%
23rd July to 22nd August 2007	2.60%
23rd August to 22nd September 2007	2.28%
23rd September to 22nd October 2007	1.95%
23rd October to 22nd November 2007	1.63%
23rd November to 22nd December 2007	1.30%
23rd December 2007 to 22nd January 2008	0.98%
23rd January to 22nd February 2008	0.65%
23rd February to 22nd March 2008	0.33%

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 the Bank of Scotland will convert the amount into the local currency, thus avoiding foreign exchange costs.

By purchasing the currency 'in bulk', the 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.

Fund Members Forum 2008

The Annual Fund Members Forum* will be held on Wednesday 3rd September at the Church House Conference Centre in Westminster, starting at 11am. Spaces are limited this year and reservations are being made on a first come first served basis.

To book your place, you need to complete a Registration Form and return it to Ewan Denny as soon as possible. A Registration Form is enclosed with this newsletter.

GLC Housing Department Reunion

Officers of the former GLC Housing Department, including many who also worked for the LCC, continue to have an annual reunion. This takes place in mid-October and is now held at a venue within a few minutes walk of Waterloo Station. Information about this event is available from Brian Lanning, 46 Francis Road, Harrow, Middlesex HA1 2QX. Telephone 020 8427 5940.

Architect's Department Reunion - 7th May 2008

The Reunion of former staff of the LCC/GLC Architect's Department will take place from 11.00am on Wednesday 7th May 2008 at the Royal Festival Hall.

Please come to the Central Bar area where there is ample seating and room between the Central Bar and the Ballroom floor. You will be greeted by a number of your ex-colleagues led by Peter Jones and there should be at least one person you recognise despite the passage of time.

It would be helpful if you could bring a slip of paper with your name, address, telephone number and email address, if you have one, so we can have a record of who attended and so that we can keep in touch about any further functions.

John Bailey-Smith, 51 Markville Gardens, Caterham, Surrey, CR3 6RG Tel: 01883 347489 Email: JBSatlarge@aol.com

GLC Public Health Engineering Rivers Branch Reunion Friday 3rd October 2008

For several years some retired members of the former PHE Non-Tidal Rivers Branch have been meeting annually at the Institution of Civil Engineers for lunch, a drink and a chat.

This year we are planning to meet on Friday 3rd October 2008 at 11.30am. Any former members of either the Tidal, Non-Tidal or associated admin support sections would be very welcome, as well as their partner or spouse.

If you would like further details please contact John deSouza on 020 8651 3489, e-mail johndesouza1@activemail.co.uk or Brian Willson on 01689 857237, e-mail BrianDWillson@aol.com , or just come along on the day.

We look forward to seeing you!

A New Look Local Government Pension Scheme

As part of a general review of public sector pension schemes, the Government has introduced changes to the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) for employees in England and Wales from 1st April 2008. The new look Scheme will apply only to continuous active members of the Scheme and new joiners from 1st April 2008. For members who retired from the Scheme before 1st April 2008, their rights at their point of departure from the Scheme will continue to apply.

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 or 0207 369 2661 (8.30am - 5pm)



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