

Your Pension

Pensioners Spring Newsletter
2009



Information for LPFA and Un-Funded Pensioners

Welcome to the Spring 2009 Newsletter.



Ray Watkin
Payroll Manager

One of the principal 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 2009 to March 2010 and a brief explanation of the most common terms used on the payslip. In last year's newsletter I mentioned the change of payslip that has now been introduced and I hope you think it is an improvement on the previous style. I would draw your attention to a new facility whereby you can now view your payslips and P60 details online. There are more details concerning this on page 9.

As usual I would ask you all to check your P60s to ensure we are showing your correct National Insurance number and also that we have your correct post code.

Contacting Former Colleagues

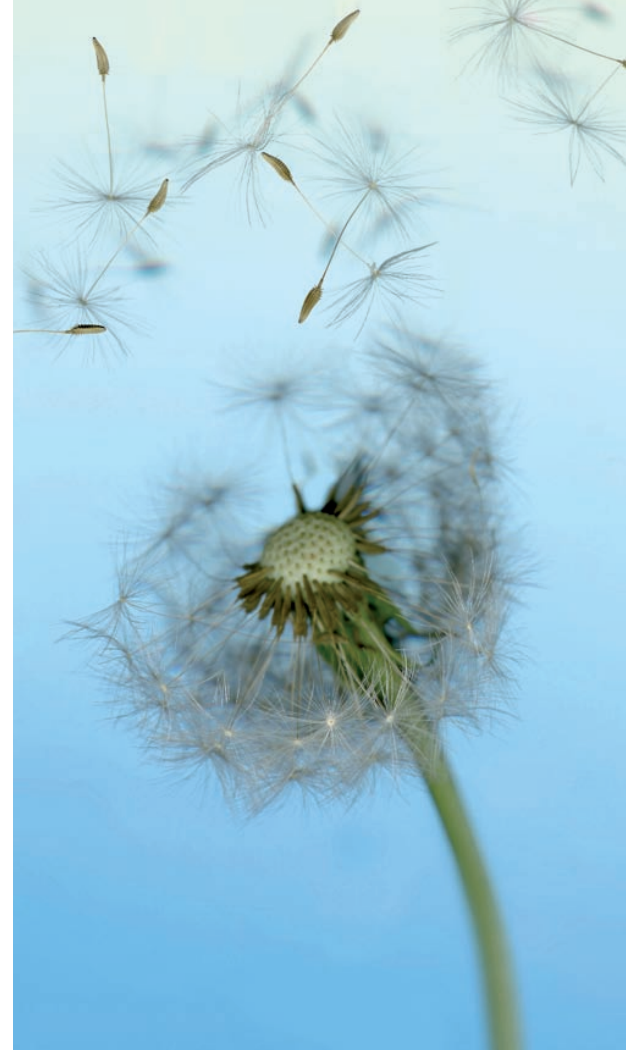
If for any reason you have lost contact with a former colleague or friend who is in receipt of a pension, I am unable to reveal any

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 by ourselves.

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.



Pensions Increase

The Government has approved the rate of increase for all public service pensions and state scheme benefits. The increase is effective from 6th April 2009 and is 5.0%.

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

Your pension will be increased with effect from 6th April 2009 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 2009, 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.

Amount of Pension Increase

If your pension began on or before 22nd April 2008 your pension increase is 5.0%. If your pension began after this date a smaller, pro-rata, increase will apply as shown:

Pensions beginning:	Increase
7th April to 21st April 2008	5.00%
22nd April to 21st May 2008	4.58%
22nd May to 21st June 2008	4.17%
22nd June to 21st July 2008	3.75%
22nd July to 21st August 2008	3.33%
22nd August to 21st September 2008	2.92%
22nd September to 21st October 2008	2.50%
22nd October to 21st November 2008	2.08%
22nd November to 21st December 2008	1.67%
22nd December 2008 to 21st January 2009	1.25%
22nd January to 21st February 2009	0.83%
22nd February to 21st March 2009	0.42%

- Unless you are receiving a spouse's, ill health, injury or beneficiaries pension, you will not receive a pension increase until age 55.

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.

LCC/GLC Architect's Department Reunion 2009

The next Reunion will take place on Wednesday, 6th May 2009 meeting at 11.00am in the Central Bar of the Royal Festival Hall.

If you missed last year's Reunion you missed a great get-together and a lot of laughter and nostalgia.

Don't miss out this year, you may regret it later.

John Bailey-Smith,
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Surrey,
CR3 6RG.

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JBSatlarge@aol.com

Message from Mike Taylor



Mike Taylor
Chief Executive

It has been a very difficult year for many of us and pension funds have not been spared. Just like many other financial institutions LPFA has suffered from the global downturn, however pension funds are long term investors and have ridden out such storms before.

I am conscious however that with the current stories of doom and gloom about the crisis in the financial markets many Fund members have been asking the question “are my Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) benefits safe?”

The short answer is “yes”.

Your LGPS pension is safe, whether you are a contributing member, a deferred member or are currently in receipt of your pension. This is because of the way your benefits are worked out - they are defined by statute and based on final pay and membership. The markets may rise, or fall, but this does not directly affect the value of your benefits and your pension (both current and future) is guaranteed. So, whatever type of member you are, be it contributing member, deferred member or existing pensioner, your LGPS pension is secure.

New LPFA Board Members

Anthony Mayer has been appointed by London's Mayor, Boris Johnson, as LPFA's new Chairman, succeeding Neil Newton. Neil's contract expired on 31st December 2008 and Anthony took over formally on the 1st January 2009. Anthony will Chair the Board and also the Performance and Administration Committee. The newly appointed Deputy Chairman, Michael Deakin (an existing Board member), will Chair the Investment Committee.

The appointments were made by London's Mayor following consultation with London Councils. The Mayor also made other new appointments to the Board - Sarah Smart and Angela Pober.

Anthony Mayer is an Oxford graduate who worked within the Civil Service from 1967 until 1985 when he joined the merchant bankers N.M. Rothschild & Sons, where he remained until 1991 when he became Chief Executive of the Housing Corporation. He became the Chief Executive of the Greater London Authority in October 2000 and is currently Chair of the Tenant Services Authority, the new Regulator for affordable housing.

Angela Pober was educated at Loughborough University, and achieved a MBA at Ashridge Business School; she is a member of the Chartered Institute of Marketing and has 20 years' experience in running projects and directing programmes. Angela's most recent clients include JP Morgan, Banque Paribas, Tesco and Zurich Financial Services. Angela is currently a Management Consultant at Barclays Bank and a Director of OmniUltra.

Sarah Smart is a Director and founder of SmartCats Consulting and Chair to the Trustees of the Macmillan Cancer Support Pension Scheme. Having studied Classics at Oxford University Sarah qualified as a Chartered Accountant in 1998.

Sarah worked for Standard Life Investments from 1999 until 2008, working in a number of different roles covering a wide variety of asset classes. Sarah's work as a pension trustee began in 2004 and she has acted as a trustee for six other pension schemes. She is currently a member of the Pensions Working Party for the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland.

Online Pensioner Records

LPFA are pleased to remind pensioners that you can view your pension details by logging on to our AXIS online service.

This service has recently been upgraded and allows pensioners to view various data displays, including pay advices and P60s.

For instructions on how to apply for a Personal Identification Number (PIN) for this service please visit our website at www.lpfa.org.uk/members/olrecords.aspx

The Rent Service

On 1 April 2009, the functions of The Rent Service (an Agency of DWP) will be transferred to the Valuation Office (an agency of HMRC).

Existing pensioners/former members of The Rent Service will be entirely unaffected by the transfer, as the LPFA will continue to administer their pensions.

The only noticeable difference will be that references to "The Rent Service", as the employer, will now change to "Valuation Office Agency".

Any queries should continue to be directed to LPFA in the normal way.



Eligible children

The rules concerning eligibility for a child's pension were redrafted under the 2008 Scheme regulations to conform to the requirements of the Finance Act 2004, which determines whom can be paid a dependant's pension.

After some debate over the phrasing of the 2008 Scheme regulations and clarification being sought from Communities and Local Government (CLG), it has been determined that eligible children under the 2008 scheme are your children, who at the date of your death are:

- under 18 and wholly or mainly dependant on you, or
- aged 18 or over and under 23, be dependent on you, and be in full-time education or undertaking vocational training (including a dependant child who commences full-time education or vocational training after the date of your death), or
- a dependent child of any age who is disabled within the meaning of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995

The key changes are that children's pensions are now payable to age 18 in all cases rather than 17, but eligibility now requires that the child was dependant on you. In all cases, the children must have been born before or within a year of your death.

This last rule provides cover for children that were conceived while you were a scheme member, but are born after your death.

Nominated Co-habiting Partners

Members are reminded that if they have nominated a co-habiting partner to receive a survivor's pension in the event of a member's death, their partner will be required to provide evidence of co-habitation and financial dependence or interdependence before a pension can be put into payment.

If you have nominated a co-habiting partner it is suggested that you ensure your partner has access to two pieces of evidence, one recent and one dated two years previously. Evidence could include:

- Loan or mortgage in joint names
- Shared bank account or investments
- Utility or council tax bill in joint names
- A will naming your partner as the main beneficiary
- Confirmation of shared household spending:
 - Joint tenancy
 - Joint credit arrangement
 - Partner nominated as main beneficiary of life insurance

Please note that a nomination of a co-habiting partner is only available to active scheme members or those who left or retired on or after 1 April 2008 and cannot be made by members who left active membership before that date

Reunion of Ex GLC Department of Mechanical & Electrical Engineering Staff

The reunion will be held at the Feathers Public House between 2 and 5pm on Tuesday 12 May 2009.

The "Feathers" is in the Broadway almost opposite to the Broadway exit from St James's Park underground station, and is very near to the revolving sign of New Scotland Yard.

There will be no tickets or advance booking, just arrive on the day.

Gordon Kelsey
Tel: 01634 826725

LPFA Customer Care Initiative

We at the LPFA take Customer Care very seriously and, as a result, Customer Care will be one of the 5 Programmes listed in the LPFA Strategy Statement for 2009-2010 in order to review this aspect of our operations. We will be looking at the way we meet your needs and how we can deal effectively with you in all circumstances.

Regular customer surveys are sent to our pension members and feedback from these surveys will be taken into account. If you have any comments on the customer care that you have received, or would like to receive from the LPFA please contact Clare Scriven on 020 7369 6081 or by emailing communications@lpfa.org.uk

By the time the Customer Care Project has been completed staff and customers will be aware of the behaviours and standards that we will be committed to delivering, and which you can expect to receive from us.

GLC Arts and Recreation Annual Reunion

Members of staff of the former Arts and Recreation Department (and indeed its predecessor the Parks Department!) still hold an annual reunion, usually in late spring or early summer somewhere in the London area.

If you worked in the department and would like information about this year's event, or to be included on the mailing list please contact:

Roger Thurgood
2 Brook House, Swan Street
Sible Hedingham
CO9 3PX

Tel: 01787469881

Email: elk1veg@hotmail.co.uk

LPFA Fund Members Forum 2009

This year's annual Fund Members Forum will be held on Tuesday, 8th September at the Southbank Centre, London, SE1.

Following feedback from last year's event a new venue has been selected. It has a larger capacity for Fund Members and space for approximately 20 exhibitors in the Information Centre. Speakers and exhibitors will be confirmed nearer to the event. The extra capacity means that all those who request tickets should be able to attend, and it will be possible to bring a guest.

In order to book your place at this year's Forum please contact LPFA:-

- ~ by telephoning Kulsum Kaneez on 020 7369 6070
- ~ by emailing corporate@lpfa.org.uk
- ~ by writing to Kulsum Kaneez at LPFA

We look forward to seeing you there.

Pensions Payroll Team

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

0845 30 30 335 (8.30am - 5pm)
Email: payroll@lpfa.org.uk



LPFA Administration Team

General Enquiries: 020 7369 6118
Fax: 020 7369 6242
Email: enquiries@lpfa.org.uk

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