

# Reporting Pensions



Autumn 2020

This newsletter contains statutory information.



## Get to know your pension!

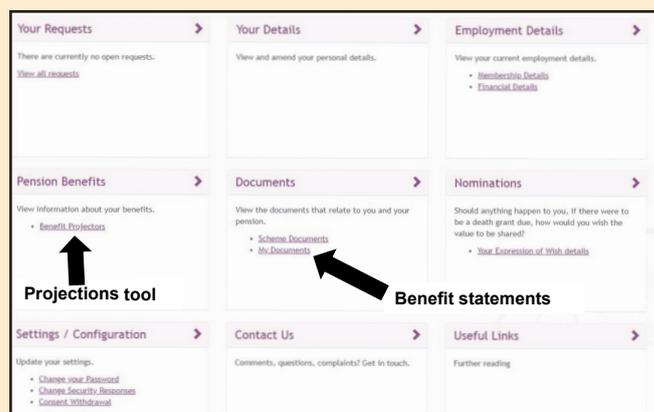
We have published Annual Benefit Statements online or posted them out to known home addresses (depending on your preferences) for all active members. The statement will remind you about the value of your LGPS membership, prompt you to review your 'expression of wish form' and check the fund holds your up to date personal details.

Log in or register at <https://oxfordshire.pensiondetails.co.uk/> to see your statement and get to know your pension.

You may also like to try our brand new personalised calculation tool – click on Benefit Projectors and try out your various retirement options!

While you are online, please check that your

- personal details
- partnership status *and*
- address are all current, *and*
- please also check that your expression of wish nomination is up to date.



## Coronavirus Update

Things seem to change week on week but at the moment, most of the Pension Services team are still working from home, so please don't post important documents to us without phoning or emailing us first. Contact details are on the back of this newsletter.

We continue to ensure that pensions are paid to our pensioners and that the highest priority work items are completed. However, if we are a little slower than usual, we ask that you bear with us.

As a reminder, there are answers to some frequently asked questions here on the central member site [https://www.lgpsmember.org/news/story/covid\\_19\\_member\\_qanda.php](https://www.lgpsmember.org/news/story/covid_19_member_qanda.php)

## Pension Fund beneficiary observer

The Fund has a new beneficiary observer – Steve Moran will take on this role with immediate effect.

The role of the beneficiary observer is to attend all Pension Fund Committee meetings representing the membership. The observer has no voting rights but is allowed to speak with the permission of the Chairman. Watch this space for Steve's first report from the Committee.

If you would like to contact Steve, please email him at [steve.moran@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:steve.moran@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

## Taking a reduction in salary?

If your salary is reduced or increases are restricted by your employer, and you were in the LGPS before 1 April 2014, make sure you talk to your employer to find out how you can protect your pension.

(This only applies if you have a reduction in your whole-time salary, not if your working hours are reduced.)

### Contact us:

Pension Services, 4640 Kingsgate, Cascade Way, Oxford Business Park South, Oxford, OX4 2SU  
T: 03300 241 359 E: [pension.services@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:pension.services@oxfordshire.gov.uk) W: [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/pensions](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/pensions)  
My Oxfordshire Pension: <https://oxfordshire.pensiondetails.co.uk/>



OXFORDSHIRE  
COUNTY COUNCIL

# Consultations

There are currently two public consultations running which could affect you.

1. The first relates to an age discrimination case commonly called the McCloud Judgement. The courts have found that some protections given to older members directly discriminated against younger members in public sector schemes which moved from Final Salary to Career Average in 2014/15.

The consultation was looking for views on proposals to extend the protections to younger members.

The proposals affect anyone who was in the scheme at 31 March 2012 and was still in the scheme after 1 April 2014 but the government has stressed that if you are affected individual members need not make a claim, the fund will review and adjust benefits once the regulations are in place.

This consultation closed on 8th October 2020, so you are no longer able to respond but you can keep an eye on progress here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/local-government-pension-scheme-amendments-to-the-statutory-underpin>

2. The second consultation sets out the government's proposals for exit payments. They want to modernise the terms and conditions of public sector workers, by reforming areas where the public sector has more generous rights than most of the private sector.

The government are consulting on reducing the costs to the taxpayer of redundancy payments to ensure greater consistency between workforces, and to make public sector exit terms fairer, more modern and more consistent.

This consultation affects active members who are likely to be made redundant over the age of 55, at any point in the future.

You can read more detail and respond by heading to: <http://www.lgpsboard.org/index.php/structure-reform/public-sector-exit-payments>

This consultation closes on 9th November 2020.



## Activation Codes

Have you registered for *My Oxfordshire Pension* yet?

If not, you will soon be receiving an activation code from us. Please follow the instructions in the letter and make sure you go register at

<https://oxfordshire.pensiondetails.co.uk/>

## GDPR - Privacy Policy and data retention

The Oxfordshire Fund's revised Privacy Policy is now on the website, and alongside that our data Retention Policy. We have made changes to our data retention periods.

You can view the full documents on this page: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/business/pensions/pension-fund/admin-and-performance>

Please contact us if you would like to exercise any of your data protection rights – these are described at <https://ico.org.uk/your-data-matters/>

## Useful links

National LGPS members website  
[www.lgpsmember.org](http://www.lgpsmember.org)

Detailed scheme member guide Oxfordshire Pension Fund [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/pensions](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/pensions)

Prudential - top up your pension  
[www.pru.co.uk/rz/localgov/](http://www.pru.co.uk/rz/localgov/)

### Advisory services

The Pensions Advisory Service  
[www.pensionsadvisoryservice.org.uk](http://www.pensionsadvisoryservice.org.uk)

The Pensions Regulator  
[www.thepensionsregulator.gov.uk/](http://www.thepensionsregulator.gov.uk/)

Money Advice Service  
[www.moneyadvice.service.org.uk/en/categories/pensions-and-retirement](http://www.moneyadvice.service.org.uk/en/categories/pensions-and-retirement)

State pension planning and forecasts  
<https://www.yourpension.gov.uk/>

Help with finding an independent financial adviser is available at [www.moneyadvice.service.org.uk](http://www.moneyadvice.service.org.uk)

**Be 'scamsmart'** - find out more on how scammers work and get advice on the FCA's website <https://www.fca.org.uk/scamsmart/how-avoid-pension-scams>