

Opting out of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS)

Croydon Council Pensions Team

Please read the information overleaf before you decide to opt out of the LGPS.

Please complete this form in BLOCK CAPITAL LETTERS and return it to the Pensions Team.

Part One - Your Details

Title: <input type="checkbox"/> Mr <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs <input type="checkbox"/> Miss Other: <input type="text"/>	Payroll Number: <input type="text"/>
Surname: <input type="text"/>	Date of birth: <input type="text"/>
First name(s): <input type="text"/>	National insurance number: <input type="text"/>
Home address: <input type="text"/>	
<input type="text"/>	Email address: <input type="text"/>
Post code: <input type="text"/>	Telephone number: <input type="text"/>

Part Two - Employment Details - please give details of the employment(s) you wish to opt out of below.

Employer's name: <input type="text"/>	
Job title (post 1): <input type="text"/>	
Payroll number: <input type="text"/>	Date employment commenced: <input type="text"/>
Job title (post 2): <input type="text"/>	
Payroll number: <input type="text"/>	Date employment commenced: <input type="text"/>
Job title (post 3): <input type="text"/>	
Payroll number: <input type="text"/>	Date employment commenced: <input type="text"/>

Part Three - Declaration

I have read the accompanying information and understand that the choices I make now are important in planning for my retirement. I have considered that there is an alternative to opting out of the LGPS by means of the 50/50 option. I confirm that I wish to opt out of the LGPS for the post(s) as indicated in part two of this form. By doing so, I understand that I may have a lower income when I retire. I further understand that if I opt out of the LGPS, I will lose the right to pension contributions from my employer.

By opting out, I will lose:

- A secure pension on retirement
- Life cover including death benefits payable to my family in the event of my death
- Ill-health retirement cover
- Redundancy and voluntary early retirement cover
- The right to aggregate my deferred benefit should I subsequently re-join the scheme in the same employment.

You can only opt out of the Scheme once you have commenced employment for the post(s) you wish to opt out of. If you complete this form before your employment commences, it will be invalid.

Signed:

Date:

Opting out of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS)

If you are thinking of opting out of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS), it's worth taking some time to look at the benefits you could be giving up. A brief summary of these is included in the 'Declaration' section of the opting-out form overleaf.

Whatever your reasons, we ask that you give this matter careful consideration before making your final decision. The LGPS is one of the best occupational pension schemes in the UK and you are strongly recommended to seek advice before opting out.

Opting out of the Scheme will not save you as much money as you think. In most cases, by contributing into the LGPS, you also pay less tax.

Should you opt out within two years of joining the Scheme after 1 April 2014, you will be treated as not having been a member of the LGPS during that period. Your contributions will be refunded to you by the Pension Scheme, excluding an adjustment of national insurance contributions and tax, if applicable. If you opt out after two years of joining the Scheme, you will be awarded a deferred benefit payable when you reach normal retirement age.

If you change your job with your employer or indeed begin another employment your employer will enrol you into the Scheme from the date your new position starts. You will be required to complete a new opt-out form for your new position if you wish to opt-out.

A separate opt-out form must be filled out and given to any other employer you work for, if you wish to opt out of the pension scheme for that employment as well. You will need to obtain an opt-out form for employment with that employer from the pension administrator for the scheme provided by that employer.

Additional opt-out forms are available for download via our website at www.croydonpensionscheme.org

If you decide to opt out of membership of the LGPS and subsequently change your mind, you will be able to rejoin the Scheme provided you are under age 75 and you remain in an employment that qualifies you for membership of the Scheme. You will need to write to your employer if you want to opt back into the Scheme.

Amending regulations introduced on 11 April 2015 excludes employees who opt out on or after the 11 April 2015 and have an entitlement to a deferred benefit (and do not have a concurrent employment in which they are still a member of the scheme) from aggregating those benefits should they subsequently elect to re-join the scheme in that employment. (if you do not know if you are entitled to a deferred benefit you should contact the pensions team before making your election)

Instead of opting out, members from the 1 April 2014 in line with the Local Government Pension Scheme changes can elect to move from the main section of the scheme to the 50/50 section. This section allows members to pay half of the pension contributions that they would have paid into the Scheme and build up have of the pension benefits. If you would like to do this instead of opting out the forms can be found at our website at www.croydonpensionscheme.org

If you stay opted out, your employer will normally put you back into the LGPS approximately three years from the date they have to comply with the automatic enrolment provisions for the Pensions Act 2008.

If you change your employer, your new employer will normally put you back into their pension scheme straight away.

Your employer can't ask you to or force you to opt out of the LGPS. If you are asked or forced to opt out, you can tell The Pensions Regulator by visiting their website at www.thepensionsregulator.gov.uk

Equally, no one can force you to remain a member of the Scheme but, if you elect not to be a member, you should understand the implications for both you and your dependants.

If you still wish to opt out of the LGPS, please complete the form overleaf and return it to the Pensions Team.

If you have any questions or require further information about opting out of the LGPS, please contact the Pension Team on 02087266000 EXT 62892, visit our website www.croydonpensionscheme.org or email us at pensions@croydon.gov.uk