

Guide to your LGPS Annual Benefit Statement for 1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025

Your Annual Benefit Statement (ABS) is based on your pay as at the **31 March 2025** provided to us by your employer. It is based on your pensionable pay for the period **1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025** only and will not include any pay award from 01 April 2024. “**Pensionable pay**” is the pay on which you paid pension contributions. Please contact your employer if you believe your pensionable pay figure is incorrect.

Section 1: Personal Details

Partnership status

C (Civil Partnership), D (Divorced), M (Married), P (Declared Partnership), S (Single), W (Widow/er)

If we have not been notified of your relationship status, your partnership status on this statement will default to unknown and standard survivor's benefits will be included in the statement. If these details are incorrect, or if your partnership status has changed, please contact the Pensions Team. It is important that we are kept informed of any changes to your relationship status as it may affect your partner's entitlement (if any) to a survivor's pension in the event of your death.

Employer as at the 31 March 2025

This is your employer as at the 31 March 2025. If you were paying into the scheme for more than one job at this date, you will receive an annual benefit statement for each post. If you left employment after the 31 March 2025, you will receive a separate notification of your benefits, built up to your date of leaving.

Section of the scheme as at the 31 March 2025

This will be either “Main” if you were in the main section of the LGPS, or “50/50” if you were in the 50/50 section of the LGPS as at the 31 March 2025.

CARE Pensionable Pay in year to 31 March 2025

CARE pensionable pay is the amount of pensionable pay you received between 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025. If you were on reduced contractual pay or no pay due to sickness or injury, or on ordinary or paid additional maternity, paternity or adoption leave or paid shared parental leave, or on reserve forces service leave, the pay figure should include Assumed Pensionable Pay (APP) for those periods. This means that you will continue to build up a similar pension to that which you would have had if you had been working normally and receiving pay. The CARE pensionable pay has been provided by your employer.

If you think the pay is incorrect you must contact your employer as soon as possible. It is easier to resolve issues now as payroll records are only kept for a limited time.

Final Salary Pensionable Pay

Final salary pensionable pay is used for calculating any pre-1 April 2014 pension benefits. It is your full-time equivalent pay in the year ended 31 March 2025 (ignoring any reduction due to sickness or injury, or ordinary or paid additional maternity, paternity or adoption leave or paid shared parental leave, or reserve forces service leave). If you work part time or term time, the pay used will be the full-time equivalent pay for your post, not your actual pay. It should not include non-contractual overtime or any payments on which you do not pay pension contributions. This pay has been provided to us by your employer.

If you think the pay is incorrect or appears significantly higher than your full-time equivalent salary you must contact your employer as soon as possible. The pension benefits paid when you retire may be less than those quoted on this statement if incorrect pay has been used in annual benefit statements.

Section 2: Summary of Total Benefits at 31 March 2025

This section is a summary of the figures shown in sections 3 and 4 below. Further details about how the pension benefits are calculated can be found in Sections 3 and 4.

Annual pension – This is the value of all your pension benefits as at the 31 March 2025.

Automatic lump sum – This is the value of any automatic tax-free lump sum payable if you have membership of the LGPS prior to the 01 April 2008.

Death in service lump sum – If you die in service, your nominee(s) would receive a sum of 3 times your CARE pensionable pay.

Annual survivor's pension - The survivor's pension is a statutory benefit, paid on your death to your legally married spouse, registered civil partner or qualifying co-habiting partner, and does not affect your own benefits, regardless of whether it is paid or not. If you have not notified us of your relationship status, your record will default to 'Unknown'. Please notify us of changes to your circumstances, to ensure that your dependant is paid the correct benefits, in the event of your death, where applicable.

Your nomination details: The nomination details section of your ABS shows the person or people that you have nominated to receive a death grant in the event of your death. If this box is blank we do not hold any nomination details for you. Please visit <https://www.croydonpensionscheme.org/resources/> and complete the *Nomination Form - Beneficiary* to nominate who you would like the death in service lump sum death grant paid to. You may nominate as many people as you like. You can change your nomination at any time by submitting a new form.

Section 3: Career Average Revalued Earnings

For all membership from the 1 April 2014, the LGPS is a Career Average Revalued Earning Scheme or CARE scheme.

Pensionable Pay for the year to 31 March 2025 in Main (and/or 50/50) Section - If you were in the main section throughout the scheme year the 50/50 pensionable pay field will be blank. Conversely, if you were in the 50/50 section throughout the whole year, the main section field will be blank. If you joined the 50/50 scheme, or elected to re-join the main scheme, throughout the scheme year then you will have figures in both fields.

Main Section Pay / 49 - If you are a member of the Main section, the pensionable pay you receive for that year will be divided by 49 and added to your pension account for that year.

50/50 Section Pay / 98 - If you are a member of the 50/50 section, the pensionable pay you receive for that year will be divided by 98 and is added to your pension account for that year.

Additional Pension Bought - If a figure is shown in this field it relates to Additional Pension bought in the scheme year under an APC / SCAPC contract you have taken out to purchase additional pension which has been added into the pension account. Any additional pension purchased on or after the 01 April 2025 will not be included in this statement.

Transfers in - If a figure is shown in this field it relates to additional pension bought by a transfer received from another pension scheme during the scheme year that was added to that pension account. If you have previously requested a transfer it may not show if the transfer has not yet been completed.

Previous year closing balance – This is the CARE pension accrued to 31 March 2025.

Increase for the cost of living – This is 1.70% which was applied to your pension on the 7 April 2025.

Each year your CARE pension is revalued in line with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) from the previous September. The 2024 increase of 1.7% was applied from the 07 April 2025 and is not included in this statement. Please use the online projection calculator on the Member Self-Service if you wish to see a projection of your pension benefits including the 2025 increase.

In year build up - This is the value of any CARE pension built up during the year from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.

Section 4 – Final Salary Benefits

Final Salary Benefits as at the 31 March 2025

Your Final Salary benefits are those benefits accrued in the LGPS before 1 April 2014 when the LGPS was a Final Salary Scheme. Final Salary pay is your full-time equivalent pay in the year ended 31 March 2025 (ignoring any reduction due to sickness or injury, or ordinary or paid additional maternity, paternity or adoption leave or paid shared parental leave, or reserve forces service leave). If you work part time, the pay used will be the full-time equivalent pay for your post, not your actual pay. It does not include non-contractual overtime or any payments on which you do not pay pension contributions. If this figure looks incorrect you must contact your employer immediately.

If you joined the LGPS after 31 March 2014 this field will show as zero, as all your benefits will have been built up under the CARE scheme.

The calculation for working out your Final Salary benefits is as follows:

For membership up to 31/03/2008 (i.e. **80ths**)

Annual Pension = $1/80 \times \text{period of membership} \times \text{Final Salary pensionable pay}$

Automatic Lump sum = $3/80 \times \text{period of membership} \times \text{Final Salary pensionable pay}$

For membership between 01/04/2008 and 31/03/2014 (i.e. **60ths**)

Annual Pension = $1/60 \times \text{period of membership} \times \text{Final Salary pensionable pay}$

Your period of membership will be pro-rata if you worked part time or term time for any period up to the 31 March 2008. For example, if you worked 18 hours per week for 10 years you would be awarded 5 years final salary membership whereas someone who worked 36 hours per week would be awarded 10 years final salary membership.

It is important your working hours are recorded correctly (please refer to Section 6). If you think something is incorrect you should contact your employer immediately.

The date shown is your current Normal Pension Age, but this date may change if your State Pension Age changes.

The values in this section do not include late retirement enhancements if you are over age 65.

Section 5: Projections if you remain contributing to the scheme until your normal pension age

Your projection of benefits is based on the Pensionable Pay in the year up to 31 March 2025 upon which the current year's CARE benefits have been calculated. The projection assumes that your pay will remain at the same rate until your Normal Pension Age (NPA), and does not assume any pay inflation, or CPI increase for future benefit accrual under the CARE scheme (i.e. the projection to your NPA is shown in today's money terms).

The **projected CARE benefits** include the full amount of any APC / SCAPC being purchased but exclude any deductions due to Scheme Pays debits or any Pension Sharing Order debits (if applicable). The projection of benefits is also based on the section you were in on the 31 March 2025 (main or 50/50 section).

The projection of benefits of the **final salary pension**, is based on the final salary figure on the 31 March 2025. It does not assume any pay increases (i.e. the projection to your NPA is shown in today's money terms).

If you are over the age of 65 at the statement date, the final salary pension in this section includes an actuarial increase for the period between your 2008 Scheme normal pension age (age 65) and your 2014 Scheme normal pension age. The actuarial increase is based on current actuarial factors, which might change in the future.

If you have an ongoing added years or ARC contract, this will be included in the projection to normal pension age.

The Fund uses your partnership status as held on our records to determine any eligible **survivor's benefits** associated with your pension, calculated in the event of your death. If you have not notified us of your relationship status any projected benefits will default to show the potential survivors' pension available if you were married.

1. If your status is single – no benefit should be shown.
2. If your status is shown as cohabiting – the survivor's benefits will be based on your post 5 April 1988 membership (and any pre 6 April 1988 membership purchased by ASBCs) should be shown
3. If you are married or in a civil partnership – the survivor's benefit shown will be based on all your LGPS membership (subject to certain conditions of membership)
4. There are also survivors' pensions payable to any eligible children.

The survivor's benefits are calculated based on your final salary membership accrued to 31 March 2014 (if any), and from any added years being purchased by you and from any ARCs being purchased that include a survivor's benefit. To this is added survivor benefits due under the CARE scheme including the CARE enhancement based on $APP \times 1/160th \times$ service from date of death to the member's Normal Pension Age under the 2014 Scheme (but exclude any deductions due to a Pension Sharing Order). If you have not kept the Fund updated with your relationship status, any eligible survivors' pensions will still be paid, although it will take longer to process.

Section 6: Your membership details for final salary benefits

Your membership history shows your membership up to 31 March 2014, including any periods of part time service. Only scheme membership up to 31 March 2014 will be used to calculate any final salary benefits you may be entitled to at retirement. Pension benefits built up from 1 April 2014 are calculated on the CARE scheme basis and membership is not recorded.

Your period of membership will be pro-rata if you worked part time or term time only for any period up to the 31 March 2014. For example, over a 10 year period if you worked 18 hours per week and your colleague worked 36 hours per week (full-time) you would be awarded 5 years final salary membership while your full-time colleague would be awarded 10 years membership.

It is important your working hours are recorded correctly. If you think something is incorrect you should contact your employer immediately.

Section 7: McCloud remedy

Some members are protected by the McCloud remedy.

If you are protected, we will check the protected part of your pension when you retire. If you would have built up a bigger pension in the final salary scheme, your pension will be increased. The increase is known as your final guarantee amount. If you are protected, we have shown an estimate of this figure in your statement and included it in the yearly pension figures.

The estimated final guarantee amount is based on the pay information used for this statement. We will work out the actual figure when you take your pension. It could be higher or lower than the amount included in this year's statement. The amount shown may be zero if your career average pension exceeds the pension you would have built up in the final salary scheme, but it cannot be less than zero.

In some complicated cases we were not able to include an estimated final guarantee amount in this year's statement, if this affects you, we will have written to you separately to explain this.

You can find out more about this protection by reading the McCloud pages of the national LGPS member website www.lgpsmember.org/mccloud-remedy/.

If our records show that you are not protected, your statement will confirm this. However, you may be protected if you were a member of the LGPS or another public service pension scheme before your current membership started. Please see the McCloud public service pensions form <https://www.croydonpensionscheme.org> website under Resources:

- to find out if you might be affected click here – [McCloud-factsheet](#)
- to complete a previous Public Service pension scheme form telling us about your other pensions click here: [McCloud-previous-service-form](#)

To calculate whether you have an estimated final guarantee amount, we must hold accurate hours for your service before 31 March 2022. Please check the service shown on your Annual Benefit Statement and inform your employer if you believe we hold incorrect hours. Please see section 6 of your statement for more details about membership.

Contact Us

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. Some of my membership is missing from the ABS.

A. Only membership up to 31 March 2014 is shown. From 1 April 2014 your benefits are calculated on a CARE scheme basis. Also, you may have several pension records, one for each different employment. If you left one employment and did not merge your pension records together, you may have separate deferred records with us. We issue statements for deferred benefits in respect of previous employment(s) separately.

Q. My transfer in is not shown on the ABS.

A. Your pension transfer may not have been fully completed at the time the ABS was produced. It should be included on the ABS we provide next year.

Q. I have previous membership with another Local Authority that is not showing on my ABS, I thought this was automatically transferred over?

A. Any LGPS membership that is notified to us within one year of you joining the scheme will be automatically transferred between funds. However, this may not have been completed at the time the ABS was produced. It should be included on the ABS we provide next year. You must notify us within one year of joining the Scheme that you have previous LGPS membership. If you have been a scheme member for over a year you may still have the opportunity to transfer with the consent of your employer. Even if you do not wish to transfer your previous LGPS membership, we should still hold details of that membership on our records.

Q. I have more than one employment within the Local Government Pension Scheme, why haven't I received a statement for each?

A. You will only have received an ABS for employments you were paying pension contributions on at 31 March 2025. There may be an outstanding query on your record and if we are waiting for a reply to the query from your employer we will not send you an ABS, in case it is incorrect. If you were not in the Scheme on 31 March 2025 you will not be provided with an ABS for that employment until next year.

If more than one statement has been produced for multiple employments, you can view all the statements on Member Self-Service. There is a drop-down menu below the "Active" Status on the right hand side of the menu bar. A unique pay ref and/or job title will help you identify each employment.

Q. Can I retire before my Normal Pension Age (NPA)?

A. Your Normal Pension Age (NPA) for benefits built up under the Scheme from the 01 April 2014 is your State Pension Age (minimum age 65), however you can voluntarily retire and take your pension benefits from age 55. By taking benefits before the NPA, reductions may be applied as the benefits are being paid for longer.

If you are suffering from ill health and your employer's occupational health physician certifies that you are permanently incapable of carrying out the duties of your post **and** there is no reasonable prospect of you being capable of undertaking 'gainful employment' immediately, your pension benefits can be paid immediately (regardless of your age) as long as you have at least 2 years membership in the Scheme. For further details please contact your employer.

Q. What if I continue to work past my Normal Pension Age (NPA)?

A. The NPA for benefits built up under the Scheme from the 01 April 2014 is your State Pension Age, however you can continue to contribute to the Scheme up until two days before your 75th birthday whilst in the same employment. For each day of active membership after your NPA, you will receive an actuarial increase, based on current actuarial factors at the date you retire to your pension and retirement grant.

Q. Does this ABS include my Additional Voluntary Contributions?

A. Your ABS does not include information regarding your AVC fund. You will get a separate annual statement from your AVC provider.

Q Does this ABS include my Added Years?

A. The ABS does include any added years you are purchasing. Please note that the benefits shown at 31 March 2025 include the proportion of the added years which you had purchased by that date.

Q. Does this ABS include pension debits as a result of a Pension Sharing Order?

A. Yes, if you have a pension debit as a result of a Pension Sharing Order that was in effect before 31 March 2025, this will be included in the statement. The current amount to be deducted from your pension benefits will be displayed. Any Pension Sharing Orders which are dated after 31 March 2025 will not be included but should be included in your Annual Benefit Statement next year.

Q. Does this ABS include scheme pays debits for annual allowance purposes?

A. Yes, if you have a scheme pays debit for annual allowance purposes that was in effect for any tax years previous to the tax year ending 5 April 2024, this will be included in the statement. The current amount to be deducted from your pension benefits will be displayed. Any scheme pays debits for annual allowance which are effective for tax year ending 5 April 2025 will not be shown.

Disclaimer

These notes cannot cover every personal circumstance and do not cover rights that apply to a limited number of employees e.g. those whose total pension benefits exceed the current lifetime allowance, those whose pension benefits increase in any tax year by more than the annual allowance or those who are subject to a special annual allowance tax charge, those to whom protected rights apply, or those whose rights are subject to a pension sharing order following divorce or dissolution of a civil partnership. In the event of any dispute over your pension benefits the appropriate legislation will prevail. This statement does not confer any contractual or statutory rights and is provided for information purposes only.