

An update for Employers in the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS)

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We are pleased to publish the latest edition of our Employers' Newsletter; keeping you informed of your responsibilities as a Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) employer. Inside you'll also find the latest developments in the LGPS and any changes in the services we offer.



New Look, Same Pension Fund

You may have noticed that our Pension Newsletter looks slightly different. This is because, going forward all Surrey Pension Fund communications will be issued under the 'Surrey Pension Team' name.

A reminder that our new address is listed on the back of this newsletter. All of our other contact details remain the same.

Please continue to support the scheme by sharing the Surrey Pension Fund website (www.surreypensionfund.org/) with your members. Members should be encouraged to check the website for information before contacting the Helpdesk.



The Surrey Pension Fund is saddened by and strongly condemns the invasion of Ukraine by Russia

Given the current circumstances we have immediately suspended making any further investments in Russia and Belarus and continue to review our existing investments with a view to exiting in due course as and when markets permit, as long as the current circumstances prevail.

This is above and beyond the UK sanctions currently in place.

[Read our full statement on the situation here.](#)



Investment Update

How the Surrey Pension Fund is invested & more

Surrey Pension Fund provide pensions for over 110,000 members from over 300 employers. The value of the Fund is currently more than £5bn.

What does Surrey Pension Fund invest in?

The Fund is invested in a diverse portfolio. Over half of the investments are in equities (stocks and shares of listed companies), while other asset classes include bonds, property and private market allocations to equity, infrastructure and debt.

Recent investments have included the LGIM Future World Global Fund, which tilts investment towards companies that score well on an Environment, Social & Governance (ESG) perspective, and a commitment to a Climate Opportunities Private Markets Fund, which will invest based on supporting the energy transition and move to a low carbon economy.

These investments demonstrate the commitment of the Fund to invest in a

responsible way and to further align to the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Why does the Fund favour engagement over divestment?

The Fund adopts a strategy of engagement with consequences to influence the behaviour of companies it invests in and enhance value, rather than adopting a strategy of divestment.

Engagement allows the Fund to use its influence as an active investor, with other like-minded investors, to improve ESG practices in investee companies - influence that would be lost through a divestment approach.

An up-dated, ambitious, Responsible Investment Policy will be released by the Committee this year.

Visit www.surreypensionfund.org/investment/ for more details about how the pension funds are invested.

New Contribution Rate

For the 22/23 financial year

Band	Actual pensionable pay for an employment	Main section contribution rate for that employment	50/50 section contribution rate for that employment
1	Up to £15,000	5.50%	2.75%
2	£15,001 to £23,600	5.80%	2.90%
3	£23,601 to £38,300	6.50%	3.25%
4	£38,301 to £48,500	6.80%	3.40%
5	£48,501 to £67,900	8.50%	4.25%
6	£67,901 to £96,200	9.90%	4.95%
7	£96,201 to £113,400	10.50%	5.25%
8	£113,401 to £170,100	11.40%	5.70%
9	£170,101 or more	12.50%	6.25%

The contribution rate that a member pays depends upon their annual pensionable salary. Every year, the contribution bands are increased by Consumer Price Index. This year, the increase is 3.1%. The above table shows the contribution bands for the 2022/23 financial year.

LTA Freeze

Last year the Chancellor announced a 5 year freeze on increases to Lifetime Allowance (LTA).

The current limit is £1,073,100.00 and will remain at this level until April 2026.

If a member has any questions about LTA, please refer them to the LGPS member site at: www.lgpsmember.org/ats/about-tax.php

Yearly Increase

On the 1 April each year, the CARE portion of an Active member's pension (pension built up since 1 April 2014) is revalued with a cost of living adjustment.

This year, CARE pension will increase by 3.1% on the 1 April 2022.

The increase for member's who have left the LGPS will also be 3.1%, which is effective from 11 April 2021.

Automatic Enrolment Bands

These are contained in [The Automatic Enrolment \(Earnings Trigger and Qualifying Earnings Band Order 2021 \[SI2021/314\]](#) and are shown in the tables [here](#).

The earnings trigger of £10,000 is unchanged since the 2015/16 year.

Please refer to the [LGA Bulletin 221](#) for further details of these and other new rates for 2022/23.



End of Year Data

To be submitted by 30 April

The Annual Return spreadsheet has been sent to all employers, and third party payroll providers, requesting member data up to the **31 March 2022**.

The spreadsheet is also available to download from the [Surrey Pension Fund Employer website](#).

Where applicable, please make sure your payroll provider has received the spreadsheet and understands their obligation to provide the members data on your behalf.

The Annual Return spreadsheet must be submitted by 30 April 2022.

It is especially important that we receive your return on time this year, as 2022 is a valuation year, which means the information you supply is crucial in calculating your future employer contribution rate over the next 3 years, by the scheme actuary.

The data gathered allows us to check and update our pension scheme records in respect of both current LGPS members and former members who left the scheme during the financial year.

Your Annual Return information is used to issue an accurate annual benefit statement to your scheme members.

This allows your members to understand what their pension is currently worth and what they are likely to receive when they retire.

If you have any questions on how to fill out the spreadsheet, please view our step-by-step video guide here:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=xT-ISJdVs9I

New Datafile Reminder

Available on the Surrey Pension Fund Website for Employers

A reminder that we are updating the Retirement Datafile. This datafile will eventually replace the existing LG4 Form.

We are currently accepting both the Retirement Datafile and the LG4 form, and will continue to do so until 30 June.

From 1 July, we will only accept the new Retirement Datafile which is available to download from the Employer website.

A reminder will be emailed out at this time.

We no longer accept the following forms:

- New Joiner Option form
- LG5 form

Many of our forms have recently been updated for the new 22/23 tax year, so please make sure you are using the latest version of our forms.

You can always find the latest forms, guides and news on our Employer website:

www.employers.surreypensionfund.org.uk/forms-and-publications

New LGA Website

www.lgpsmember.org



The Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) member website has recently been updated to improve the member experience.

This website is maintained by the Local Government Association and is designed for members of the LGPS and their dependants.

More information on the reasons behind the rebrand can be found at: www.lgpsmember.org/2022/03/07/welcome-to-our-website/

Pages that your members may find useful:

- [Pensions Glossary](#)
- [‘Pensions made simple’ videos](#)
- [Key features of the LGPS](#)
- [Information on Increasing your Pension](#)
- [Additional Pension Contribution \(APC\) Calculator](#)

Keep Us Updated

We would like to remind all employers of how vital it is to update us if your contact details have changed or if you switch your payroll provider.

If you have decided to move to a different provider, or to bring the payroll back in house, please let us know as a matter of urgency to make sure the details we hold on our contacts list remains correct.

You can contact us at:

pensions.communications@surreycc.gov.uk

Or using the details listed on the next page.

New Starter & Non-Retirement Leaver Information

Don't forget that all new starter and non-retirement leaver information has to be submitted by the 15th of the following month (with the exception of employers who use Surrey payroll).

Both the new Starter & Scheme Leaver Datafiles can be found on the Employer website at:

www.employers.surreypensionfund.org.uk/forms-and-publications

New Transfer Rules

New rules have been introduced for statutory transfers to other pension schemes, to help combat pension scams.

We covered these changes in our Winter newsletter, but a more in depth article on this can be found on our Surrey Pension Fund website:

www.surreypensionfund.org/news/new-rules-introduced-for-statutory-transfers-to-other-pension-schemes/

Further useful information about transferring pension benefits out of the LGPS can also be found on the main [member website](#) along with an [informative video](#).

Hymans Training

Thank you for everyone who attended our training courses during February/March.

We have passed your feedback on to Hymans and hope to offer more training courses going forwards.

In the meantime, we are constantly updating our Employer website (www.employers.surreypensionfund.org.uk) with information, so don't forget to check back regularly.



McCloud Reminder

You should have already been contacted to provide your members hours, service breaks and age 65 data that we require.

Once you have returned your data, you will need to complete any future member changes on the change of details form which can be found at:

www.employers.surreypensionfund.org.uk/forms-and-publications

LGA Training

New dates have been released for the LGA Employer Role training.

The training courses will be held between April and September and will be a mixture of both online and face-to-face events.

These events are now live on the [LGA website](#) and bookings are on a first come, first serve basis.



Our Contact Details

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 Weybridge
 KT13 0YP

View your pension online:
mypension.surreycc.gov.uk

Problem accessing our portal?

 0300 200 1034