

i-Connect Online Return Guide

Uploading your employee data manually v5

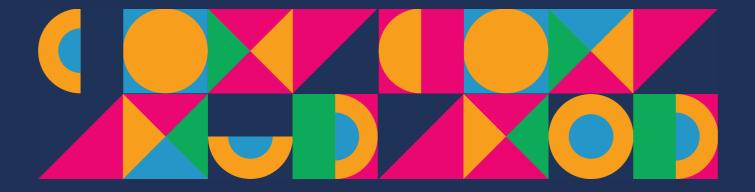




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Revision History

Vsn	Date	Updated By	Approved By	Details of Amendment
1.10	18/10/2016	P Stocks	C Lewis	First release
2.00	13/06/2018	K Pridgeon	J Dale/E Fisher	Rebrand
2.01	12/07/2018	J Dale	C Lewis	Updated with rebranded images
2.02	01/07/2019	J Dale	C Lewis	Address change
4.00	28/05/2020	J Dale	C Lewis	Hudson release update
5.00	09/02/2024	C Lewis	l Baker	Rebrand and Update to Wye Release



Introduction

This guide explains how to use i-Connect to send information about Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) members in your organisation to your pension fund.

i-Connect is a service that helps to manage the transfer of employee information from payroll administrators to pensions administrators.

You can enter information about your employees into i-Connect using a web browser. i-Connect then automatically identifies and sends information about new joiners, opt-outs, and leavers, together with pay and contributions, to the pension fund. In addition, this process fulfils your record-keeping obligations.

Explanation of Terms used in this Guide

Term	Description
AVCs	An employee's additional voluntary contributions paid to the in-house scheme provider
CARE Pay 50/50 Section	An employee's 50/50 section CARE pay
CARE Pay Main Section	An employee's main section CARE pay
Contribution Rate	The rate at which an employee contributes to the pension scheme
Date of Leaving	The date on which an employee left your organisation, or opted out of the pension scheme
EE Year to Date Values	An employee's pension scheme contributions for the year to date (YTD)
EE-APC	An employee's additional pension contributions
Effective Date	The date on which an employee starting to work their current hours or became whole-time
Employee Contributions - 50/50 Section	An employee's 50/50 section pension scheme contributions
Employee Contributions - Main Section	An employee's main section pension scheme contributions
Employer Contributions	The employer's pension scheme contributions, made on behalf of the employee
ER Year to Date Values	The employer's pension scheme contribution for the year to date (YTD)
Full-Time Equivalent Pay	The full time equivalent pensionable pay in respect of the employment for the scheme year, in respect of the 2008 scheme
Opt-Outs	An employee who has opted out of the pension scheme
Other	Employee added years or additional regular contributions for this pay period only
Part-Time Hours	The weekly part-time hours worked by an employee

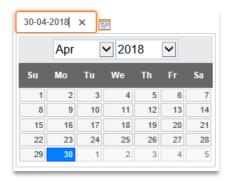




Pay Period	The recurring length of time over which an employee is paid (e.g., weekly, fortnightly, lunar, monthly)
Pensionable Pay	The total of an employee's salary, wages and any other benefit specified as being pensionable
Reason for Leaving	The reason an employee left
SC-APC	An employer's additional pension contributions under a shared cost arrangement for this pay period only
Status	The employee's membership status in the pension fund
Target System	Your pension fund's pension administration system
Whole-Time Hours	The weekly whole-time hours for the employee's post

Date Input

Dates can be entered using either the date picker button or in a 'dd-mm-yyyy' format, for example 30-04-2018. Forward slashes are not accepted.



Date picker

Saving Data

Select the **Continue** button and progress to the next page of the return to save the data. The data will not be saved until you do this.

If you start the return part way through the scheme year and have to amend the year-to-date values for contributions and pay, the values will revert to the original values if you exit the return before completion or navigate backwards to the **Employee Contributions & Pay – This Period values** page.

Who to Contact

If you have any questions about using the online return, please contact your pension fund.

Dashboard

Immediately after you sign in, the Payroll Dashboard will be displayed.





Payroll Dashboard

You start the member matching process, described in the next section, from the **Payroll Dashboard**.

Member Matching

You only need to perform the member matching process once. It creates a one-to-one link between each post on your payroll system and each active record on your fund's target system.

To start member matching, select the **Online Return** icon.



Online Return icon

The **Online Return – Member Matching** page will be displayed.

Online Return - Member Matching

You need to identify the target system members who are active on your payroll before submitting your online return.

Click the button below to generate a list of available members.

Request Members

Online Return - Member Matching page

From this page, select the **Request Members** button to display a list of employees to include in the online return submission.

The **Online Return member matching successfully started** message will be displayed.

✓ Online Return member matching successfully started.

A target system members request is being processed.

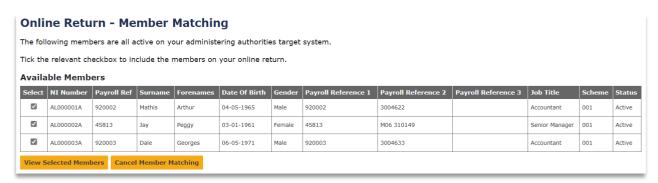
This page will be redisplayed when the member list is available.

Online Return - Member Matching success message





The page will refresh automatically after a few minutes and display the list of employees.



Online Return - Member Matching page

The table displays information for each of your employees who have records on your fund's target system. Tick the checkbox if you agree each member is active on your payroll.

You can cancel member matching at any time by selecting the **Cancel Member Matching** button.

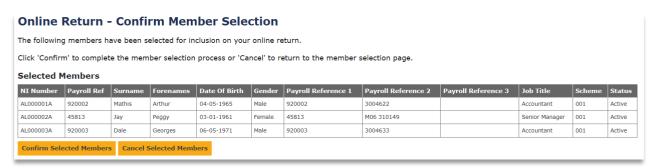
Missing Payroll References

Member details will be greyed out to prevent selection if there are any active members with a blank payroll reference. You must contact your fund to ask that they add the correct payroll reference, then select the **Cancel Member Matching** button to stop the member matching process. You should not resume member matching until your fund has confirmed they have added all missing payroll references.

Completing Member Matching

Select the **View Selected Members** button to confirm your selection.

If you miss any employees, you can select the **Cancel Selected Members** button to go back to the selection stage.



Online Return – Confirm Member Selection page



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When all members have been correctly selected, select the **Confirm Selected Members** button. The **Online Return member matching successfully confirmed**message will be displayed.

Online Return - Member Matching

✓ Online Return member matching successfully confirmed.

i-Connect is currently confirming the selected member data for the online return.

When this process is complete, this page will redirect to the online return submission page. Please try again later.

Online Return - Member Matching success message

The screen will refresh after a few moments and the **Online Return – Synchronisation** page will be displayed.

Online Return - Synchronisation

The member data stored in i-Connect requires synchronising with the target system before you can start an online return for the next payroll period.

Please press the 'Synchronise Member Data' button below to begin this process.

Synchronise Member Data

Online Return - Synchronisation page

Select the **Synchronise Member Data** button to complete the member matching process. A message stating that the synchronisation has been successfully started will be displayed.

Online Return - Synchronisation

 $\ensuremath{\checkmark}$ Online Return member synchronisation successfully started.

i-Connect is currently synchronising the member data with the target system.

The facility to submit an online return will be available again shortly.

Online Return - Synchronisation success message

The **Online Return – Start** page will be displayed when the synchronisation stage completes.





Completing Your First Online Return

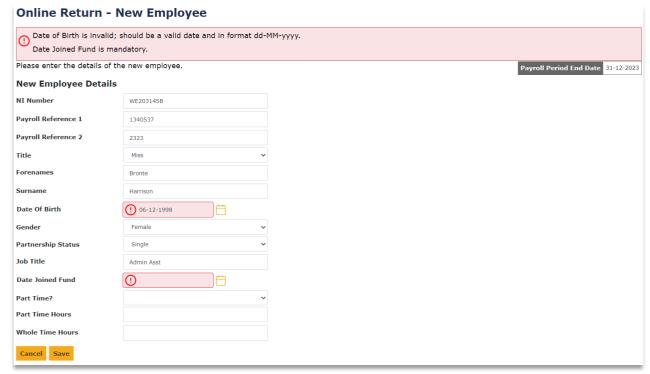
Select the **Start Online Return** button to complete your first return. Note that if the i-Connect dashboard is currently displayed, you will need to select the Online Return icon to display this page.



Online Return - Start page

Check the **Next expected payroll period end date** to ensure it corresponds with the information you are inputting from your payroll system. Contact your pension fund administrator if the date is incorrect.

- You can use the totals at the bottom of each financial column to check the values match your payroll system.
- If you select the **Continue** button and have not entered mandatory information, a message will be displayed at the top of the page. The message displays details of the row numbers with invalid or missing information and the relevant fields will be highlighted on the page.



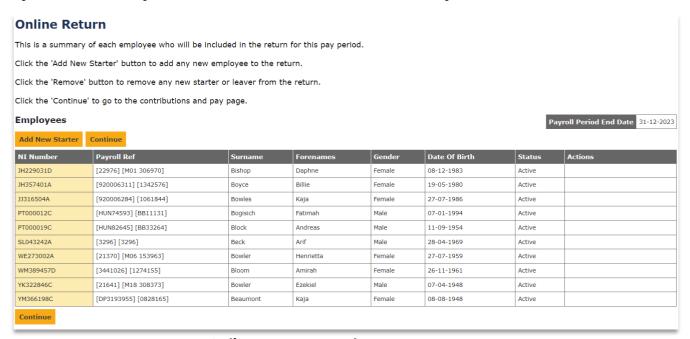
Online Return - New Employee page





Employees Page

The first page of the return is the **Employees** page. By default, the page is displayed in National Insurance (NI) number order, but the fund can set the page to be ordered by Surname or Payroll Reference if this would be better for you.



Online Return - Employees page

The **Employees** page lists all the employees you selected when completing the member matching stage. If any new employees have joined your organisation, you can select the **Add New Starter** button to set them up on i-Connect and your fund's target system.

Otherwise, select the **Continue** button to move to the next page of the return.

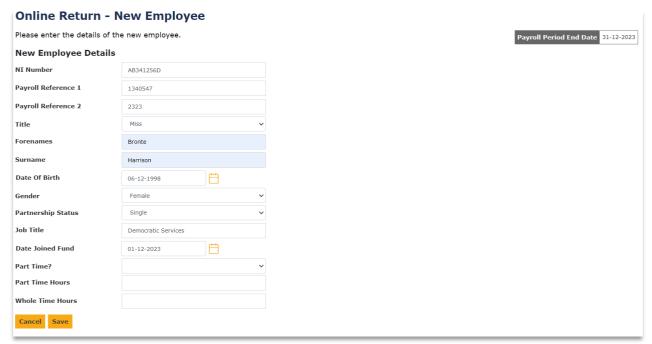
- Contact your fund if any of the NI numbers or payroll references are incorrect.
- Leavers and new starters created in error can be deleted by selecting the Remove button in the Action column.



New Employee Page

If a selected employee is working in one or more posts, each post must be treated separately. Any new or multiple posts should be created as new starters. Speak to your fund if you require further guidance.

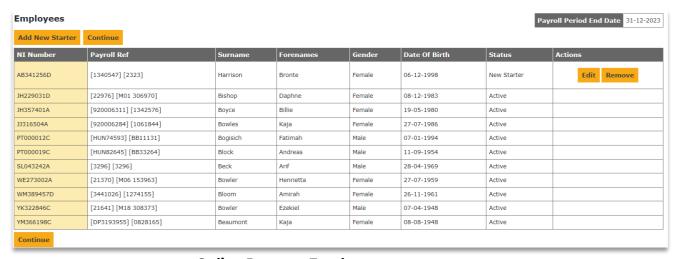
To add a new employee to the return, complete the **New Employee** form and select the **Save** button.



Online Return - New Employee page

You must ensure that the payroll reference is unique when creating a new starter for an employee who already exists on the return. The online return will fail if two or more records are present with the same NI number and payroll reference.

If the new starter was created by mistake, the record can be removed by selecting the **Remove** button in the **Action** column.



Online Return – Employees page





Select the **Continue** button to move to the next page.

Employee Contributions & Pay – This Period Page

This page is used to input the pay period values for contributions and pensionable pay and will be blank if you are completing the return for the first time.

Complete the fields for each employee and select the **Continue** button to save and navigate to the next page of the return.



Online Return - Employee Pay & Contributions - This Period page

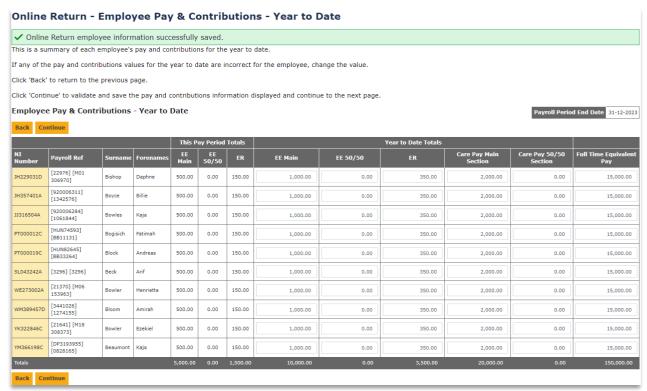
- Remember to enter zeros in the **50/50 Section** column if the member is in the main section of the scheme or vice versa.
- You can't enter positive values into both the **Main Section** and **50/50 Section** contribution columns in the same pay period.
- When you complete the next pay period's online return, the previous month's values are carried forward, meaning you only need to change the pay and contributions for any employee whose values have changed.
- Save the data by selecting the Continue button. It will not be saved until you
 do this.



Employee Contributions & Pay – Year to Date Page

This page is used to input the Year to Date (YTD) values for pensionable pay and contributions for the current scheme year. The scheme year runs from 1 April to 31 March.

The pay period values from the previous page are carried forward to prepopulate the page. You must overwrite these values with the correct YTD amounts if you start using i-Connect part-way through the scheme year.



Online Return - Employee Pay & Contributions - Year to Date page

Full-time equivalent pay is required for all employees who were in the LGPS before 1 April 2014 (1 April 2015 for Scottish employers).

Select the **Continue** button to save and navigate to the next page of the return.

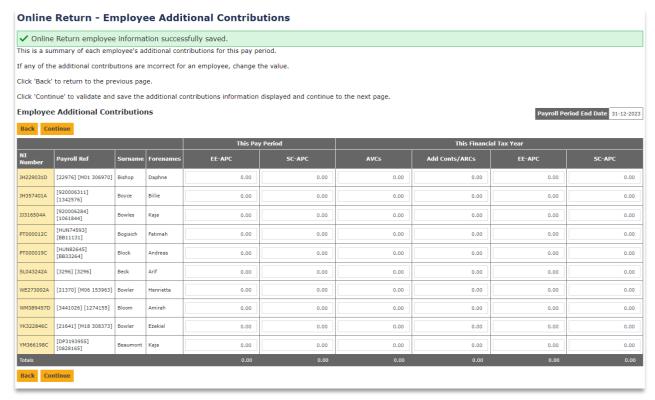
- On subsequent returns, i-Connect uses the YTD values and the This Pay
 Period figures to calculate the YTD values for the current month. Changing
 these values is necessary only if the YTD values calculated by i-Connect are
 different from your payroll values.
- If you amend the YTD values for contributions and pay, the values will revert to the original values if you exit the return before completion or navigate backwards to the **Employee Contributions & Pay This Period** page.



Employee Additional Contributions Page

This page is used to input any of the following additional contributions your employees are paying into the Local Government Pension Scheme:

- AVCs any additional voluntary contributions to the in-house scheme provider
- Add Conts/ARCs any Added Years or Additional Regular Contributions (ARCs)
- **EE-APC** any employee-only Additional Pension Contributions (APCs)
- **SC-APC** any shared-cost Additional Pension Contributions (APCs)



Online Return - Employee Additional Contributions page

Enter the YTD additional contributions the employee has paid during this pay period into the relevant field.

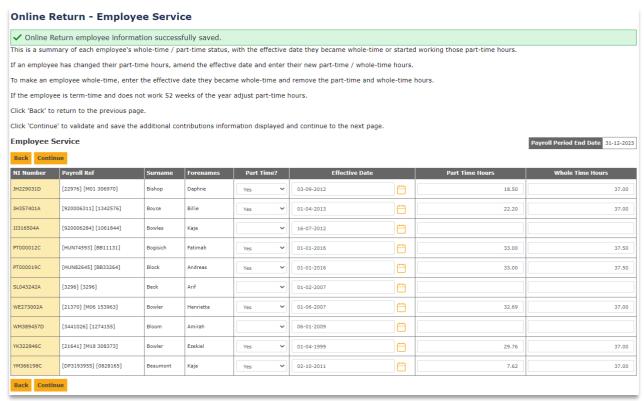
Select the **Continue** button to save and navigate to the next page of the return.

- This Pay Period values are only required for EE-APC and SC-APC contributions.
- This Financial Tax Year totals need to be updated each pay period.



Employee Service Page

We use this page to inform the fund of changes to employees' working hours, for example, a part-time employee who moves to whole-time working or vice versa; or a part-time employee who changes their contractual hours.



Online Return - Employee Service page

If an employee is part-time, select a value from the **Part Time?** drop-down list, enter the date of change in the **Effective Date** field and, finally, enter the new part-time and whole-time contractual hours in the **Part Time Hours** and **Whole Time Hours** fields

If the member is whole-time, simply enter an effective date and leave the **Part Time Hours** and **Whole Time Hours** fields blank.

Select the **Continue** button to save and navigate to the next page of the return.

Useful Information

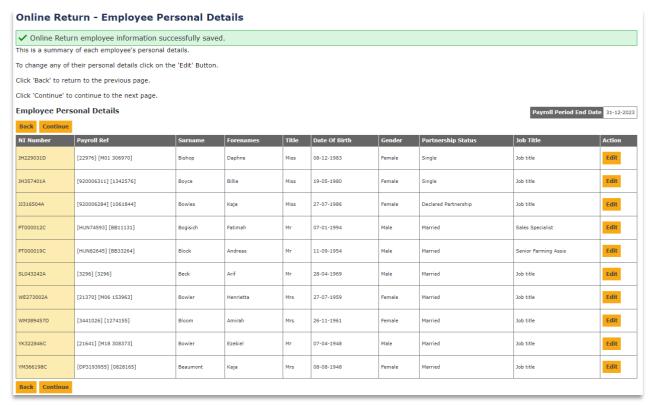
• If the employee works during term time only, and not 52 weeks of the year, an adjustment must be made to their **Part Time Hours** value. For example, an employee working 32 hours a week, for only 44 weeks a year, must have their part-time hours calculated as follows:

32/52 x 44 = 27.08/37.00



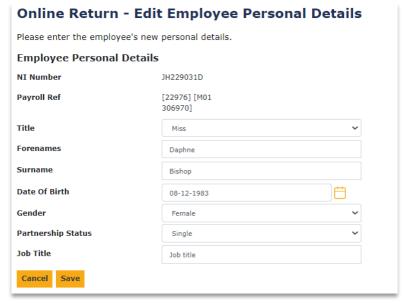
Employee Personal Details Page

This page shows a summary of all employees on the online return.



Online Return - Employee Personal Details page

Select the **Edit** button if you need to change the personal details of an employee. This will display the **Edit Employee Personal Details** page.



Online Return - Edit Employee Personal Details page





Change the relevant information and select the **Save** button to save the changes and return to the summary page.

Select the **Continue** button to save and navigate to the next page of the return.

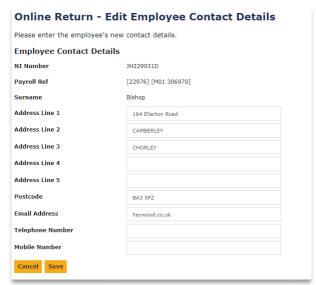
Employee Contact Details Page

This page shows a summary of the contact details of all employees on the online return.



Online Return - Employee Contact

Select the **Edit** button to change an employee's postal address, email address, and telephone number. The **Edit Employee Contact Details** page is displayed.



Online Return - Edit Employee Contact Details page



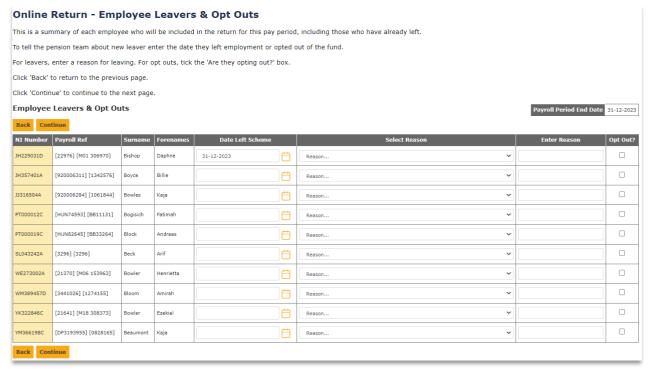


Amend or enter the relevant information and select the **Save** button to save the changes and return to the summary page.

Select the **Continue** button to save and navigate to the next page of the return.

Employee Leavers & Opt Outs Page

This page is used to inform the fund of any employees who have left your employment or have opted out of the LGPS.



Online Return - Employee Leavers & Opt Outs page

To process a leaver, enter the date they left your organisation in the **Date Left Scheme** field and a reason for leaving in the **Select Reason** and **Enter Reason** fields.

The **Enter Reason** field is mandatory and can be populated by selecting a reason from the **Select Reason** drop-down list. You can also edit the populated text and it has a limit of 100 characters.

To process an opt out, enter the date they opted out of the LGPS in the **Date Left Scheme** field and tick the **Opt Out?** checkbox.

Select the **Continue** button to save and navigate to the final page of the return.

Useful Information

 Do not complete the Enter Reason field for employees who opt out of the LGPS.

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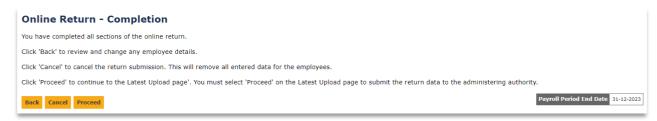


- You can remove leavers from the return when you process the next pay period, but your fund may ask you to keep them on the return until the end of the scheme year.
- If your fund has asked you to keep leavers on the return until the end of the scheme year, you must enter zeros on the Employee Contributions & Pay This Period page (the pay period after the member has left), to prevent the previous pay period values being added to the cumulative totals.



Completing the Return

The **Completion** page is the final page of the online return.



Online Return - Completion page

You have three options to choose from:

- Back step back through each page of the online return.
- **Cancel** remove all data entered for this payroll period and cancel the return. This option cannot be reversed.
- Complete complete the return and proceed to the Latest Upload page.

When you select **Complete**, you are confirming that you have submitted all the payroll information into i-Connect for the pay period. The **Latest Upload** page with an **Online Return successfully submitted** message will be displayed.



Latest Upload page with success message

Note that no data will be sent to your pension fund's target system until you select **Proceed** on the **Latest Upload** page.

Useful Information

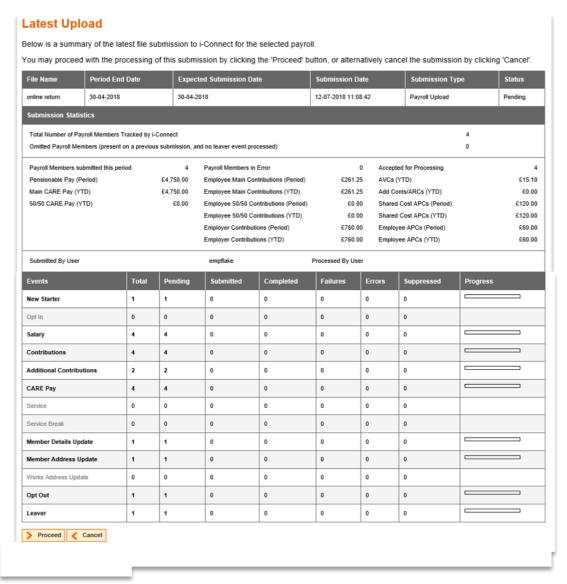
• If you have amended the year-to-date values for contributions and pay, the values will revert to the original values if you navigate backwards to the **Employee Contributions & Pay – This Period** page.





Latest Upload (Events Summary) Page

This page appears when the online return processing has completed and i-Connect has identified all the changes that need to be applied to your fund's target system. This may take several minutes.

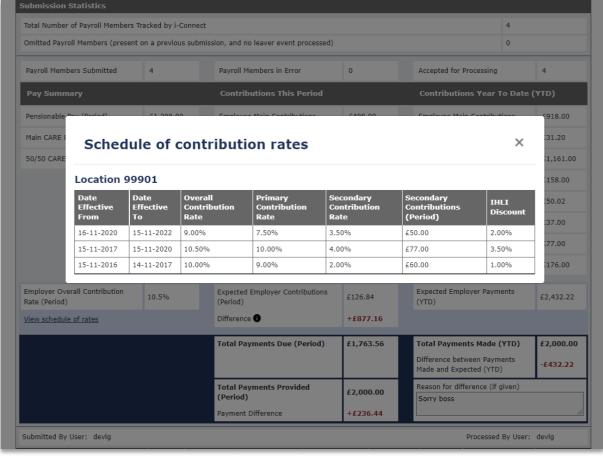


Latest Upload (Events Summary) page

View Schedule of Contribution Rates

We have added a link to the dashboard to help users understand the current and previous contribution rates. This will show the **Schedule of contribution rates** table, and this is accessible for editing via the **View Employer Details** page.





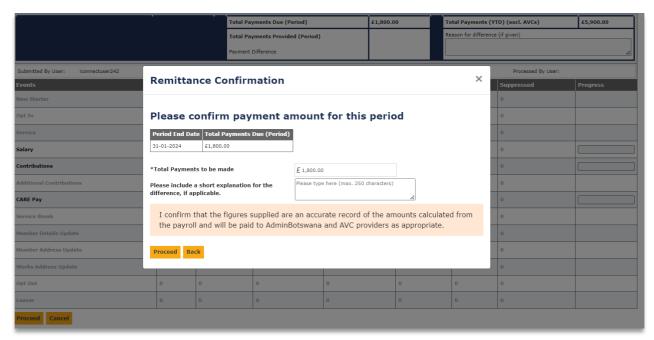
Schedule of contribution rates table

Remittance Confirmation

Once enabled, when the employer proceeds with a submission they will be presented with the **Remittance Confirmation** window. Here the employer enters the total payment they plan to make. Should the amount differ to the **Total Payments Due** amount, they will be prompted to add a reason for the difference.

Should the employer want to provide a reason even if the amounts are the same, this option is available to them.





Remittance Confirmation window

Sending Data to the Fund

To send the data to the fund, select the **Proceed** button or select the **Cancel** button to cancel the upload process.

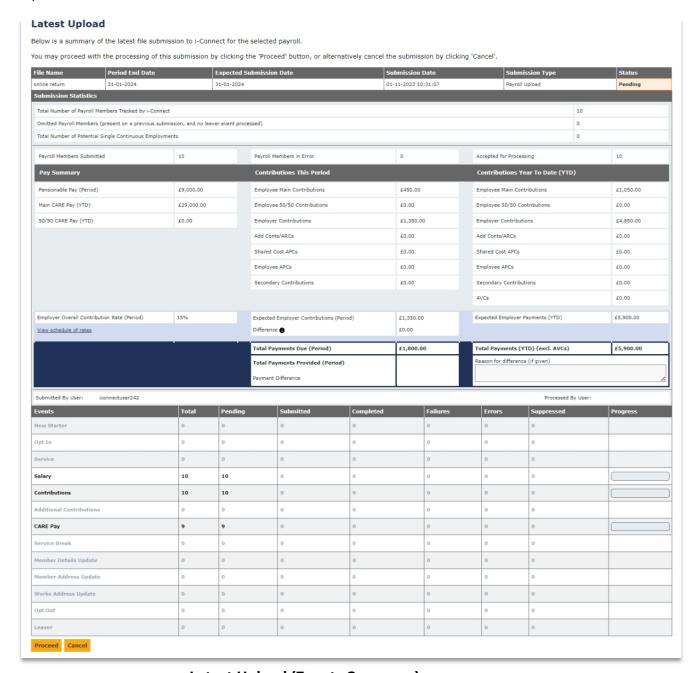
When you select **Proceed**, the upload status changes from *Pending* to *Submitted*, indicating that i Connect has commenced event processing. The progress bars fill to indicate the progress of the upload and the totals change to display the number of pending, submitted, and completed events. Any failures or error totals are also

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updated.



Latest Upload (Events Summary) page

The upload process can take several minutes to complete, depending on how busy the i-Connect service is.

If the submission of the data has not finished within five minutes, you can log out. Processing will continue in the background, and i-Connect will send you an email when all the data has been sent to the pension fund.

When you receive this email, you must log into i-Connect to ensure all events have been processed correctly and that the status of the online return submission has



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changed from *Submitted* to *Complete*. If the status is still displayed as *Submitted*, or is reported as *Internal Error*, contact your pension fund.

Want to Know More?

Look at these guides:

- i-Connect Login Guide
- i-Connect File Upload Guide
- i-Connect Onboarding Guide
- i-Connect Reporting and Communications Guide