

Pensioner Matters

March 2023



Local Government
Pension Scheme

In this issue:

- Pension payment information
- Check your details online
- Responsible investment
- Help with the rising cost of living
- National fraud initiative
- Avoiding scams
- Information for your next of kin
- Contact details

Pension payment information

Pensions increase 2023

Each year your pension from us is usually increased in line with the cost of living, based on the Consumer Price Index assessed over the previous year to 30 September. The next increase of **10.1%** is due on **10 April 2023** and will be applied on a pro rata basis if your pension hasn't been paid for the full year.

Payslips

You'll get a payslip every March, April, and May. Otherwise, you'll only get one when:

- your net pay has changed by £5 or more from the month before
- you've told us about a change of address
- your tax code has changed.

Income tax

After the yearly increase in state pensions, HMRC usually **change the tax code** in April or May for pensioners who get a state pension. This may lead to a change in the amount of tax you need to pay from your pension.

If you've any queries about your tax code, please call the tax authorities on **0300 200 3300** or write to Pay As You Earn and Self-Assessment, HM Revenue and Customs, BX91AS. You'll need to quote reference Cambridgeshire Pension Fund 475/ZB50342 and your National Insurance number. You'll get your **P60** by **31 May 2023**.



Pay dates



You can see the dates that your pension will be paid into your bank account up until March 2024 below:

Payment dates
28 April 2023
31 May 2023
30 June 2023
31 July 2023
31 August 2023
29 September 2023
31 October 2023
30 November 2023
29 December 2023
31 January 2024
29 February 2024
28 March 2024

For more information about pay dates, please call payroll and pension enquiries (option 1) on **0300 126 7333**

Check your details online

Did you know?

You can use your [online pension account](#) to update your personal information, like your address. By logging in to your account today, you can do just that and more.

To make sure the correct pension is paid to you and not somebody else, it's vital that we've your most up to date information on our records.

All of your pension information is stored securely online - saving trees and storage space. With your online pension account, you can also:

- Check and change your nominations for any [death grant](#) that might be paid.
- See your monthly payslips.

How do I register?

You can scan the QR code or follow the steps below:



1. Go to: pensions.cambridgeshire.gov.uk
2. Select 'members'
3. Click on 'login/register' at the top of the website
4. Click 'register' at the bottom of the page and then 'register here'
5. Fill in your details (you'll need your national insurance number)

If you need help, please email

MyPension@westnorthants.gov.uk

Responsible investment

Decarbonising our portfolio

We've developed a climate action plan to manage the climate risk within our portfolio of investments. The climate action plan sets out the science-based decarbonisation pathway we've chosen to achieve our ambitions to reach net zero by 2050 or earlier whilst ensuring a 'just transition' for individuals and communities.

The first major project is the decarbonisation of our passive index-tracking funds. You can find more information on our investments and our progress on our climate action plan on our [website](#).

Help with the rising cost of living

Pension credit

Pension credit gives extra income for people over [State Pension Age](#) on lower incomes. It can be worth over £3,500 a year and you may be eligible even if you have your own home or have savings.

Even if you find out you're only entitled to a small amount of pension credit, it's worth claiming.

This is because it may help you get other benefits, like help with heating bills, housing costs, NHS dental care, council tax, and if you're over 75, a free TV licence.



Check the [online calculator](#) to find out what you might get. Claims can be made online at [GOV.UK](#) or by calling 0800 99 1234.

Managing your money

The pandemic and the rising cost of living have left lots of people with new money worries.

[MoneyHelper](#) gives advice about living on a squeezed income and help if you're struggling with bills and payments.



Local help

[Cambridgeshire County Council](#) and [Peterborough City Council](#) have updated their websites to help residents who need support with the rise in the cost of living.

National Fraud Initiative

We're part of the National Fraud Initiative (NFI) which is run by the Cabinet Office. They match data like pensions and payroll details to find and stop fraud. By law we must share your information with the Cabinet Office, making sure we keep to the Data Protection regulations.



You can find out more about the National Fraud Initiative at:
www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-fraud-initiative

Avoiding scams

The government is offering help for households but beware of criminals pretending to offer these cost of living and energy schemes.

These scam emails and text messages come in many different forms and promise financial gain. They are often official looking and pretend to be from the government or HMRC. For more information please visit [cost of living scams](#).

Age UK suggests these five steps to reduce the risk of being scammed:

- Stop** Never do anything you don't want to or make decisions on the spot
- Check** Always check their credentials
- Ask** Always ask someone you trust for a second opinion
- Mine** Don't give away personal information
- Share** Share your experience to lower the risk of others being scammed

You can find help on how to avoid scams on ageuk.org.uk/scams or you can call for free on 0800 678 1602.



Information for your next of kin

The following information is for your next of kin or the executors of your estate. Please keep this newsletter with your will or other information to be used in the event of your death. You and your next of kin may find it useful to fill in [Age UK's LifeBook](#). It's a free booklet where you can write important and useful information about your life.

If you're dealing with the estate of a relative who had a pension from us, you should tell us as soon as possible. This makes sure any dependants' benefits are paid promptly, and also keeps pension overpayments to a minimum. We'll need the following details of the pensioner:

- Name, address, and date they died
- National Insurance number
- Name and address of next of kin
- Name and address of the person dealing with the estate, if not the next of kin
- Details of any dependent children

Our contact details are on the last page of this newsletter.

Contact details

Please remember to give us your full name, date of birth, National Insurance reference and email address with any enquiries.

Email

For general queries: pensions@westnorthants.gov.uk

For help logging in /registering: MyPension@westnorthants.gov.uk

Website

pensions.cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Phone

01604 366537

Address

Pensions Service
West Northamptonshire Council
The Guildhall
St Giles Square
Northampton
NN1 1DE

Pensioner representative

Whilst we're able to answer any questions about your LGPS pension, we also have a pensioner representative, John Walker who's able to help with queries. You can contact him at jwalker189@btinternet.com