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Restriction of Public Sector Exit Payments

Further to the special bulletins issued in October 2020, more details are now available in respect of the implementation of The Restriction of Public Sector Exit Payment Regulations 2020 (the exit cap regulations) from 4 November 2020.

The government has now issued updated guidance on the regulations.

We've added an [exit payments cap procedure for employers](#) page to our website, which includes an interim policy for applying the exit cap regulations.

The High Court has given approval for 4 requests for judicial review of the exit cap regulations. The requests, which we understand will be heard together in March, contest the regulations on a number of grounds including their effect on the existing LGPS regulations

The further reforms required to bring the LGPS regulations in line with the exit cap regulations are currently expected to be implemented in early 2021, and may bring more changes to the payment of pension benefits when LGPS members leave on the grounds of redundancy.

We'll provide more information when details about the amending regulations become available.

Employers who are undertaking or planning reviews of their workforce arrangements which may result in staff redundancies and early retirements are advised to add a caveat to any communications with employees. This caveat needs to cover the proposed amendments and possible changes to pension benefits if they are introduced before the agreed termination of employment date.

An example caveat note is included on the [exit payments cap procedure](#) page.

Prudential Additional Voluntary Contributions

Applying online

Prudential have announced changes to their online member service, which has made it easier for LGPS members to apply for [Additional Voluntary Contributions \(AVCs\)](#).

As a result, Prudential have confirmed they are phasing out their AVC phone application service, which will close at the end of January 2021.

LGPS members will still be able to apply for an AVC via the standard paper application form.

Existing Prudential members

LGPS members with existing AVC membership can [register for access](#) to the Prudential's online service to:

- keep track of their AVC value
- make changes to their contribution levels and investment choices
- access their documents online
- update their personal information
- contact Prudential using their secure messaging system
- apply for their AVC online

LGPS members with an existing AVC are still able to make telephone enquiries to the Prudential on 0345 6000 343.

If you provide information about Prudential AVC's on your own staff website or intranet site, please arrange to amend the details and remove information about applying for an AVC via phone.

Casual and relief staff

New joiners

Casual and relief staff should not be routinely entered into the LGPS upon starting work, but must be offered the opportunity to [join the scheme](#).

You should only notify us about a casual or relief staff member when they elect to join the LGPS or are entered via auto-enrolment. You should submit the '[S1 - Starter form](#)' or ensure that the new scheme member is included on your electronic submission of new starters.

Leavers

When a casual or relief LGPS member leaves, you should submit an '[L1 – Leaver form](#)' at the date you closed their payroll record, and not the date they last worked.

You should review your records of casual or relief staff on a regular basis to avoid staff remaining on your payroll who will no longer be working for you.

Opting out of the LGPS

Employers must notify us when employees decide to opt out of the LGPS.

When an employee opts out and leaves the LGPS, you must submit an '[L1 - Leaver form](#)' to dpf.employers@derbyshire.gov.uk.

It's important that we're always notified even if the member opts out of the LGPS immediately on starting, or also upon being auto-enrolled.

If an employee opts out within 3 months of their start date, or date of auto-enrolment, the opt out is applied from the date of their entry into the LGPS. In such cases you can notify us via the '[S1](#)

- [Starter form](#)' instead of an L1 - Leaver Form that the employee has opted out immediately upon entry to the LGPS.

i-Connect

We now have 84 employers live on the i-Connect system. We're aiming for all employers to be experiencing the benefits of completing monthly data submissions on i-Connect by autumn 2021.

If you haven't heard from us yet to confirm your implementation phase, please contact us at pensions.iconnect@derbyshire.gov.uk

You can find more information about i-Connect on our [website](#).

My Pension Online

As noted in our September 2020 newsletter, we wrote to all scheme members last September to notify them that Annual Benefit Statements in 2021 will be issued online.

We'll be writing again in the next few months to provide details on how scheme members can set up their online registration. The system will be called "My Pension Online".

We'll provide more details nearer to the "My Pension Online" launch date and will be asking for your help to encourage scheme members to register for the online service.

Email addresses

A quick reminder of our email addresses and what they should be used for:

dpf.employers@derbyshire.gov.uk - For submitting member notification forms such as the S1, L1, C1 and estimate requests. All found [here](#).

pensions.tech@derbyshire.gov.uk - For submitting [contribution returns \(CR1\)](#), data and payment queries.

pensions.regs@derbyshire.gov.uk - For queries relating to LGPS regulations, employer training, events and communications.

pensions@derbyshire.gov.uk - For queries and requests from members of the LGPS.

pensions.iconnect@derbyshire.gov.uk – For employer's queries about [i-Connect](#)

**If you have any queries about the information provided in this Newsletter,
or about the LGPS in general, please contact us at:**

Derbyshire Pension Fund, County Hall, Matlock, DE4 3AH

Tel: 01629 538862

Email: pensions.regs@derbyshire.gov.uk

Website: www.derbyshirepensionfund.org.uk

