



Derbyshire Pension Fund

Local Government Pension Scheme

Employer Newsletter

Issue 234

July 2026

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Annual benefit statements

We are currently preparing annual benefit statements for your LGPS members. The statements provide these employees with an estimate of the pension benefits they have built up in the LGPS as at 31st March 2026.

We also send statements to deferred members (i.e. those who have left LGPS eligible employment and who are not yet in receipt of pension benefits) to tell them the current value of their pension including any cost of living adjustments.

We upload annual benefit statements to our members' My Pension Online accounts (unless employees have requested to receive paper copies).

If an employee with LGPS membership asks how they can access their statement(s), please refer them to our My Pension Online webpage:

www.derbyshirepensionfund.org.uk/mpo

Employees who are members of the LGPS may contact you to query information shown on their statement(s) such as:

- Personal details
- Pensionable pay
- Start date

They may also want to discuss any outstanding queries they have previously raised.

If your LGPS members are struggling to understand their statement, we have provided guidance and useful information on our website. You can direct employees to this information using the following link:

www.derbyshirepensionfund.org.uk/abs

Please be aware that we must provide a statement by 31 August each year as set out in legislation. To support us to fulfil our statutory duty it is important that you respond to us promptly regarding any queries we may have about your employees' data, so please ensure that if you have outstanding queries, or receive a query from us, you respond without delay.



My Pension Online Registrations

We would like to thank all employers who have been actively promoting My Pension Online to their LGPS eligible employees.

Your support plays an important role in helping members engage with and manage their LGPS benefits, as well as helping us to communicate faster and more efficiently.

We have a range of useful [resources](#) that can be shared in your communications with new and existing LGPS eligible employees, including images suitable for use in:

- Newsletters
- Emails
- Intranet pages
- Printed materials

Sharing these resources will help ensure your employees are aware of the tools available to manage and understand their pension benefits.

Upgraded version of My Pension Online

In January 2026, we introduced an upgraded version of My Pension Online. Members who had previously registered but have not logged in since the upgrade in January will be required to complete a shortened registration process to regain access to their account.

Our [My Pension Online homepage](#) includes guidance for both new and returning users.

LGA employer role training

The LGA is offering online, one-day workshops across several dates in the next few months. The training is aimed at employers with LGPS-eligible staff in England and Wales.



The cost for attending is £270 + VAT per attendee. Attendees will also receive a PDF training manual.

The training covers:

- Overview of the LGPS
- Joining the LGPS
- CARE vs Final Pay (including Assumed Pensionable Pay)
- Absences
- Additional contributions
- Leavers
- Other areas, such as employer discretions and appeals

The training will also cover the [Access and Fairness regulatory changes](#), effective from 1 April 2026.

If you would like to find out more, or book onto a session, please select one the following dates:

- [19 August 2026](#)
- [24 September 2026](#)
- [27 October 2026](#)
- [26 November 2026](#)



LGPS promotional toolkit

The LGA has developed a set of resources designed to help employers promote the value and benefits of the LGPS to current and prospective members.

The LGPS is a valuable workplace contractual benefit. These resources aim to support employers in communicating that value clearly and consistently.

The toolkit includes:

- A promotional leaflet
- Promotional posters
- A promotional video 'Your future, your tomorrow, your pension'

Employers can use these resources when communicating with employees:

- that have recently joined the LGPS
- that have recently opted out of the LGPS
- as part of the automatic enrolment cycle
- to educate existing members about the benefits of the LGPS and their options.

These resources can also be used by administering authorities and other stakeholders who wish to help members and potential members understand the benefits offered by the LGPS.

The resources can be found on the [LGPS promotional toolkit page](#) of our website.

HMRC lower earner's pension payment

LGPS members are eligible for tax relief on their pension contributions. The promotional video references a top-up payment from HMRC to LGPS members who have not paid tax and, therefore, not obtained income tax relief on their pension contributions. This was covered in the [June 2026 HMRC bulletin for employers](#), and is a payment made directly by HMRC to the individual, where the individual earned close to the personal allowance in a tax year, typically £12,570, and the individual also contributed to a workplace pension through a 'net pay arrangement pension scheme' (such as the LGPS).



HMRC have identified approximately 1 million individuals eligible for payment relating to the 2024/25 tax year onwards. HMRC will contact those individuals from August 2026 directly by either post or through their personal tax account.

No action is required from Derbyshire Pension Fund or the individual's employer/ payroll team. The whole process is between the individual and HMRC.

HMRC recognises concerns about fraudulent and scam messages. Individuals can be reassured that communications can be checked on GOV.UK by searching '[check if an](#)

[email you've received from HMRC is genuine](#)'. HMRC will never ask for money transfers, PIN codes, or passwords.



Access and Fairness reminder

We issued guidance to our main employer contacts on 13 and 20 March 2026 covering the regulatory changes that came into effect from 1 April 2026. We also issued an Employer's Guide on 23 April 2026 and hosted a webinar on 9 June 2026.

A recording of the webinar and our Employer's Guide are available on our [access and fairness webpage](#).

Some of the changes that affect your LGPS responsibilities and those of your payroll provider include:

- automatically treating authorised unpaid absences of less than 15 days as pensionable
- introducing a new way for LGPS members to buy back 'lost' pension for authorised unpaid absences of 15 days or longer, called a Qualifying Additional Pension Arrangement (QAPA)
- ensuring that certain periods of unpaid child related leave are treated as pensionable. For example, Assumed Pensionable Pay now applies to maternity leave up to 52 weeks.

It is important that you ensure your processes and policies have been updated to cover the new regulatory requirements. If you use a third-party payroll provider, please ensure they have also updated their processes and are submitting accurate data to us.

Employee details changes

It's important that you let us know as soon as possible when an employee's details change, for example, their title, name, address. This helps us to minimise the risk of data breaches occurring.

If you're not yet using i-Connect, please notify us using the C1 form when any of your LGPS members change their personal and contact details. Member notification forms

(including the C1 form) are available on the [forms for employers](#) section of our website.

Email addresses

Our email addresses and what they are used for:

dpf.employers@derbyshire.gov.uk - For submitting [member notification forms](#)

pensions.tech@derbyshire.gov.uk - For submitting [contribution returns](#) (CR1s) and payment queries

pensions.regs@derbyshire.gov.uk - For queries relating to [i-Connect](#) onboarding, regulations, training and events

For queries and requests from members of the LGPS, please direct them to the [enquiry form](#) on our website.

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 538900

Email: pensions.regs@derbyshire.gov.uk

Website: www.derbyshirepensionfund.org.uk

