
Deferred News

News from the Environment Agency Pension Fund



Welcome

Welcome to your annual newsletter which provides you with useful facts and information about your pension. This is your newsletter so please do let us know if there's anything you'd like to see included at info@eapf.org.uk

News from the EAPF

How are financial services affected if there's a 'no deal' Brexit

There's some uncertainty at the moment regarding Brexit, so we've gathered some useful information to give you reassurance about your pension.

Most people will see very little or no difference to financial services after the UK leaves the European Union (EU) and will be able to use and rely on their bank accounts, personal pensions or annuities whether they're based in the UK, Europe or anywhere else.

The Government and the regulators have taken steps to ensure that, where practicable, the same rules will apply to financial services in the UK after the UK has left the EU for a minimum of three years after.

You'll find more information online at www.gov.uk/prepare-eu-exit

Changes to survivor benefits for same sex spouses and civil partners

Survivor benefits payable to a same sex spouse or a civil partner are now equal to those paid to the widow of a male member.

This comes as a result of a Supreme Court judgment (Walker v Innospec) which found that Mr Walker's male spouse was entitled to the same benefits that would've been paid if Mr Walker had left a widow in an opposite sex marriage.

The change has been backdated to the date when civil partnerships and same sex marriages were introduced which is 5 December 2005 for civil partnerships and 13 March 2014 for same sex marriages.

This means that where a member of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) has died since the dates above, leaving a surviving civil partner or a same sex spouse, the survivor's pension in payment will need to be reviewed and any additional amounts paid, where applicable.



We're currently reviewing the impact of this and will be contacting affected civil partners and same sex spouses that we can identify in due course.

Pension news

Nominating a beneficiary

As a deferred member of the EAPF, you may be eligible to have a lump sum paid to your beneficiaries on your death. You can nominate whoever you want by completing an 'Expression of wish' nomination form, but the Fund reserves the right to make a final decision – although we'll take your wishes into account.

The amount your beneficiaries receive depends on the date you stopped being a contributing member.

If you left before 1 April 2008

3 x value of your annual deferred pension

If you left after 31 March 2008

5 x value of your annual deferred pension

You can nominate someone quickly and securely by logging into your personal EAPF Online account. If you haven't already got an online account, simply visit portal.eapf.org.uk and click on 'Register'. You'll need your National Insurance number to hand.

You can also download a form from our website at www.eapf.org.uk/forms or contact Capita.

Annual pension revaluation 2019

Your pension is adjusted annually in line with Pension Increase Orders, which is linked to the Consumer Prices Index (CPI). The increase is calculated in line with the CPI rate based on the 12 months to September 2018.

This means that there's an increase of 2.4% applied to your deferred pension, from Monday 8 April 2019.

Early retirement changes

Last year, we told you that it became possible for deferred members to draw their retirement benefits from age 55 without needing to have their former employer's consent.

We're writing to you again to let you know that a further change to the Scheme rules has been made.

Previously, members who stopped contributing to the LGPS before 1 April 1998 and wanted to draw retirement benefits before their normal pension age (NPA) had to leave **all** local government employment to take payment of their deferred pension.

However, as a result of the new change, the need for these members to leave **all** local government employment **no longer applies**.

This means if you're working in **another** local government employment (i.e. a different employment to the one you were in when you built up your deferred benefit), you can choose to draw your deferred pension and continue in your

local government employment, irrespective of when you stopped contributing to the LGPS.

If you wish to draw your retirement benefits before your NPA, they'll be reduced for being paid earlier than they otherwise would've been. In addition, you may receive a greater reduction if you draw your retirement benefits before age 60, as full 85 year rule protection will not apply unless your former employer agrees that it should (for more details about the 85 year rule, please visit www.eapf.org.uk/85yr). If you'd like to take advantage of this new option, please contact Capita.

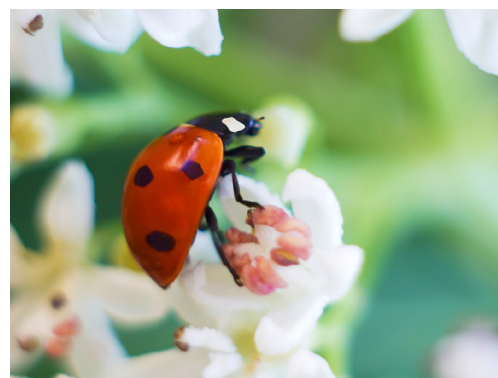
More information about taking your deferred pension is available on the LGPS website at www.lgpsmember.org/arl/already-left-when.php

Lifetime allowance

The lifetime allowance (LTA) for the 2019/20 tax year is £1,055,000.

The LTA is a limit on the amount of pension benefit that can be paid from pension schemes without triggering a tax charge.

Page 4 of your enclosed Annual Pension Statement shows the percentage of LTA you've used with your deferred EAPF pension.



Deferred member webinar

Keep up to date with your pension by attending our deferred member briefing webinar.

We'll cover a number of interesting topics and other issues related to your pension benefits. There will also be a chance for you to ask questions and raise any areas of concern.

When is the webinar taking place?

This year's webinar will be on Wednesday 5 June at 6pm.

If you're unable to make this date, you'll still be able to watch a video of our presentation on our website.

If you wish to take part and register your attendance, please contact Capita by either:

- emailing your confirmation to: eapfbriefing@capita.co.uk
- calling **0800 121 6593**

Please make sure that you include your telephone and National Insurance (NI) number for reference when registering.

How do I log into it?

We'll send you the log in details that you'll need by email closer to June. Don't forget to register your attendance first so we can contact you with the details.

We hope you can join us!

Some useful contacts

We've provided some helpful contact details below.

State Pension Age	www.gov.uk/state-pension-age
Pension Tracing Service	www.gov.uk/find-pension-contact-details
International Pension Centre	+44 (0) 191 218 7777
General State Pension Enquiries	0345 606 0265
The Pensions Regulator	0345 600 7060

Communications - EAPF Online

We've recently made some exciting changes to EAPF Online to help improve your online experience and the way you manage your pension.

Not only do you get secure access to your personal details and annual pension statements; you can now update your personal details and make an Expression of Wish nomination online.

If you've already signed up, you won't need to re-register as your current login details haven't changed.

Keeping us up to date

It's really important to keep us up to date whenever you change your personal details.

We've now made it even easier for you to update your contact details; all you need to do is log into **EAPF Online** at portal.eapf.org.uk

Make sure your personal email address is up to date so we can let you know when important Government changes happen that may affect your deferred EAPF pension.

Our communications give you important information about your pension and the options available to you helping you plan for retirement.

Sign up online in 4 simple steps!

Visit our website at www.eapf.org.uk then:

- Click '**Log in to your pension**'
- Click '**Register**'
- Enter the '**security code**' shown
- Enter your personal details



Contact details

If you have any questions regarding your pension entitlement you can contact our pension administrator, Capita, by:



Using the '**Contact the EAPF**' button on the website at www.eapf.org.uk



Emailing info@eapf.org.uk



Following on twitter [@EAPensionFund](https://twitter.com/EAPensionFund)



Calling **0800 121 6593**



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