

How much will I pay into the LGPS?



What has changed between 1 April 2017 and 1 April 2018?

The contribution bands have increased by 3% for the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) from 1 April 2018.

On 1 April each year, the pay bands increase by the same percentage as pensions increase, which is then rounded down to the nearest £100. Your contribution rate depends on how much pensionable pay you're actually paid and ranges between 5.5% and 12.5%.

Here are the pay bands and rates that apply from 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019:

Band	Main Section contribution rate 1/49 th accrual	50:50 Section contribution rate 1/98 th accrual	Pensionable pay range from 1 April 2018 based on the assessed pensionable pay you receive
Band 1	5.5%	2.75%	Up to £14,100
Band 2	5.8%	2.9%	£14,101 to £22,000
Band 3	6.5%	3.25%	£22,001 to £35,700
Band 4	6.8%	3.4%	£35,701 to £45,200
Band 5	8.5%	4.25%	£45,201 to £63,100
Band 6	9.9%	4.95%	£63,101 to £89,400
Band 7	10.5%	5.25%	£89,401 to £105,200
Band 8	11.4%	5.7%	£105,201 to £157,800
Band 9	12.5%	6.25%	£157,801 or more

Will my contribution rate change?

Most people's contribution rate will stay the same, but anyone close to a band threshold may be in a different band from 1 April 2018. This could be due to:

- A pay award
- A reduction or increase in your working hours
- Your employer reassessing your pensionable pay

On your April payslip, there will be a reminder if the bands have changed, your assessed pay and contribution rate will also be shown. For more information, check the pension contribution policy, which is available on your intranet.

I'm not currently a contributing member, but I'm thinking of joining – how does it work?

If you join or re-join the EAPF, you'll become a contributing member:

- **If you're a new employee (new joiners - Environment Agency employees only)** – from the date you start your new employment
- **If you're an existing employee (re-joining)** – from the start of your next pay period (though you're free to re-join from a later date, providing you state this in your re-joining notice)

In addition, you'll pay contributions based on your assessed pensionable pay applicable to your joining or re-joining date.

The 50:50 Section

The 50:50 Section of the LGPS allows you to pay half the contributions for half the benefits. If you choose to join the 50:50 Section, you can later rejoin the Main Section (and go back to paying the full contribution rate to receive full benefits), though you'll be automatically re-enrolled into the Main Section under the following circumstances:



- On reaching your employer's automatic re-enrolment date, you'll be re-enrolled into the Main Section from the start of your next pay period (though you're free to re-join the 50:50 Section immediately afterwards); or
- If your pay is nil as a result of being on sick leave or child related leave, you'll be re-enrolled into the Main Section from the start of your next pay period (providing you're still on nil pay at the start of that period).

What does your employer pay?

You currently pay less than one third of the cost of your pension and your employer contributes the remainder, currently equivalent to:

- 18.5% for the Environment Agency;
- 21.2% for Natural Resource Wales; and
- 22.7% for Shared Serviced Connected Limited (SSCL)

If you've chosen to enter the 50:50 Section, the contribution your employer makes does **not** drop.

Points to note

Your assessed pensionable pay includes basic salary plus any permanent pensionable allowances, paid non-contractual overtime and paid additional hours for part time members. For more information the updated pension contribution policy is available on your intranet.

If you work part time, your rate will be based on the pensionable pay you're paid.

Remember that your contributions attract tax relief at the time they're deducted from your pay. Please note that you can only receive tax relief on your pension contributions if you pay tax.

If you're not a member and want to know more or would like to join, check out the pension pages on your intranet and visit our website at www.eapf.org.uk/members/thinking-of-joining

What if I have questions?

If, after checking the contribution policy, you have questions about your assessed pay figure, please contact payroll. If you have questions about pensionable allowances, please contact your Fund employer.

Contact details

Capita look after the day to day administration of the EAPF and will be your main point of contact for any questions you have about your benefits. You can contact them by:

-  Using the '**contact us**' button on the website at www.eapf.org.uk
-  Emailing info@eapf.org.uk
-  Calling **0800 1216593**
-  Sending your query to: **Capita,
11b Lingfield Point, Darlington
DL1 1AX**