



News from the Environment Agency Pension Fund

1. Welcome

Welcome to the summer edition of your contributing member pension newsletter.

This gives you important news and updates about your pension fund. Our 'Pension basics' section covers the highlights of being in the pension scheme.

If you'd like to download our newsletter, [you'll find a PDF version in our Newsletters section on our website](#).

If you have any feedback about the communications we send you, please email us at Engage@eapf.org.uk

2. Investments

Annual report and Spotlight

Our EAPF Annual Report and Financial Statements 2023-24 were laid in Parliament in July. This provides all the financial facts and figures about the Fund. It's a big read – but the key thing for you to know is that the fund is performing well and is financially secure.

Here are some highlights:

- The total value of the Fund's assets is £4.9bn
- The formal funding level ratio is 103%
- The fund's Investments have performed well at a time of financial volatility
- 12% of the fund's investments directly help address climate change

[We've provided a 'Spotlight' summary of the accounts which you can read here.](#)

For the full annual report, click the button below.



Read our latest Annual Report

3. Pension news

Annual pension statements

Look out for your Annual Pension Statement for the year ending 31 March 2024!

We'll send you an email to let you know when your statement is ready to view on your EAPF Online pensions account by 31 August.

If you've opted for a paper statement, these will be also sent out to members' home address by 31 August.



Read more about your statement

Fancy a new challenge?

We're looking for a new member representative for our Pensions Committee... Could this be you?

You don't need any relevant experience, but you do need to have an interest in making sure our pension scheme works well and be able to represent the views of members.

The role is open to anyone of any age who is currently paying into the pension fund every month. It's an exciting and unique opportunity to learn about pensions, investments and how a pension fund is run.

[Read our Recruitment leaflet to know more.](#)

We have regular meetings each year and a number of training events to help you develop your knowledge. You'll need to commit for approximately 10 days a year. This is a voluntary position, and all of your expenses would be met.



Find out how to apply

McCloud update

In case you missed our previous newsletters, on 1 October 2023, the McCloud remedy was written in to LGPS regulations. 'McCloud' refers to a 2018 court judgment, which ruled that when public sector pension schemes reformed to become a Career Average Revalued Earnings (CARE) pension scheme, the protection given to older members was discriminatory against younger members of these schemes.

For the LGPS, the discrimination related to the underpinning of the pension a member would receive for pensionable service during the period 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2022; as it only applied to members who, on 31 March 2012, were within 10 years of reaching their 65th birthday.

Members who benefited from this protection would, on their retirement, receive the higher of their CARE pension or the pension they would have received if the LGPS had continued to be a final salary scheme; this protection is referred to as 'the underpin'.

After a long wait, the government finally amended the LGPS regulations last year, to ensure that the underpin protection is also applied to younger members, and that this protection is backdated to April 2014. This change to the scheme rules is known as the 'McCloud remedy'.

Read more on McCloud



New contribution bands from 1 April 2024

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.

From 1 April 2024, the employee contribution bands have increased by 6.7% for the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS).

We update our website every year with the latest contribution rates. Click below to find out how much you'll pay into the Scheme.

[See how much it costs](#)



Normal Minimum Pension Age (NMPA) is increasing to 57

The normal minimum pension age (NMPA) for pension schemes is increasing from age 55 to 57 on 6 April 2028. The Finance Act 2022 received Royal Assent in February 2022.

The 'NMPA' is the earliest age* at which a pension scheme member can claim their pension benefits. However, despite the increase to the NMPA, the Finance Act 2022 allows for members to retain the old NMPA of 55 depending on certain criteria. You can read more by clicking below.

[Find out more](#)

Replacing the Lifetime Allowance with the Lump Sum Allowance

Since 6 April 2024, the old 'Lifetime Allowance' (which was a limit on the amount of pension benefits that can be paid from a person's pension schemes without triggering a tax charge), has been replaced with a 'Lump Sum Allowance' (LSA) of £268,275. The LSA limits the amount of tax free lump sums (and the tax free elements of lump sums) that you can take in your lifetime.

You'll also need to have available Lump Sum and Death Benefit Allowance (LSDBA), which, at £1,073,100, is higher than the LSA. If you have available LSA, you will usually have sufficient LSDBA, unless you've taken a Serious Ill Health Lump Sum (SIHLS) from another pension arrangement.

Annual allowance

The Annual Allowance (AA) limit is set by the Treasury and is currently £60,000 for the 2024/25 tax year. This is the amount by which the value of your pension savings may increase in any one year without you having to pay an excess tax charge.

[Read more about these changes](#)

4. Pension basics



Partial retirement process

Partial retirement is a popular option for members in the approach to full retirement, which allows members to take their pension benefits whilst they continue to work for their employer either on a reduced hours basis, or by reducing their grade.

The employer sets the policy on this. For both the Environment Agency (EA) and for Natural Resources Wales (NRW) employees, the end result would need to be a minimum salary reduction of 20%.

[Find out more](#)



Making a death grant nomination for your loved ones

Your loved ones being covered financially in the event of your death is one of the most important benefits of being a member of the EAPF.

You can count on the Scheme to provide valuable protection for your dependants, whether you die before or after you retire. You can decide who you wish your lump sum death grant (of 3 times your assumed pensionable pay) is paid to by completing an 'Expression of wish' nomination form.

[Find out more](#)

5. Online services

Our improved EAPF Online portal has arrived!

On 9 May, we upgraded our portal to improve accessibility, functionality, and overall user experience of EAPF Online at portal.eapf.org.uk

We've added an additional layer of security to our portal log in process called 'Multi Factor Authentication' (MFA).

If you were already registered to EAPF Online before 9 May this year - don't worry you won't need to register again. When you next log in after this date, you'll see a message banner on your dashboard prompting you to sign up for MFA. If you choose to do this, you'll be taken to the 'Change Account Details' screen.

As well as improving our login process, other changes to the portal are:

- Enhanced 2-way Mailbox with direct responses from our EAPF team
- Improved secure contact form allows upload of files (including sensitive documents)
- Accessibility improvements
- Refreshed look and feel

[Watch our new MFA registration video](#)

[Watch our Benefits of EAPF Online video](#)

[Visit our News section for more information on the recent changes.](#)

[Log in or Register to EAPF Online](#)

5. Communications

Cyber incident

Our website is the best place to look for the latest updates linked to the situation.

We most recently updated our Q&A documents in July which you'll find along other information by clicking the button below.

[Visit our cyber hub](#)

Contributing member webinars 2024

This year, we'll return back to hosting our popular live pension webinars between October and November.

Sessions will include our most popular topics - New starters, increasing your benefits, planning for retirement, how the EAPF invests, and pension basics.

Watch out for our Pension Awareness Week series campaign in September which gives you all the details you need about the session dates, times and how to book a place.

Pension Awareness Week

The national Pension Awareness Week campaign is scheduled between 9 and 15 September 2024.


Organisers are again hosting some live shows during the week between 10 and 12 September, which you will need to register for. There are all sorts of interesting topics being covered such as how to get ready for the retirement you want, how to shrink the gender pension gap and whether to transfer pension or not, as well as others.

It's never too early or too late to give your pension some attention, so sign up below for the live shows.


Watch out for our own 'EAPF Pension awareness' email campaign series next month where we'll cover important topics such as:


- The importance of making a death grant nomination and keeping it up to date
- Our webinar timetable and booking links
- Midlife MOT – assessing your financial future

[Sign up to the Pensions Awareness Week live shows](#)

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**Environment Agency
Pension Fund**

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