

Pensioner Matters

April 2017



Newsletter from LGSS Pensions, Firefighters' Pension Scheme (1992), New Firefighters' Pension Scheme (2006) and Firefighters' Pension Scheme 2015

In this issue

- Pensions Increase
- Pension Payment Information
- Re-employment Following Retirement
- Northamptonshire Fire Local Pension Board
- Information for your next of kin
- Contact Details

Northamptonshire Firefighters' have a dedicated page on our website
<http://pensions.northamptonshire.gov.uk>

Pensions Increase 2017

Each year, the Firefighters Pension that you receive is increased in line with the cost of living. This is based on the Consumer Price Index as assessed over the preceding year, to 30 September.

If your pension has been in payment for a year or more, your pension will be increased by 1% from 10 April 2017. Pensions which came into payment after 25 April 2016 and before 26 March 2017 will be increased based on the number of months they have been in payment.

The increase is due from 10 April 2017 and will be applied to the payment due in April.



Pension Payment Information

Payment Dates

The dates that your pension will be paid into your bank account until December 2017 are detailed below:

Payment Date
25 April 2017
25 May 2017
23 June 2017
25 July 2017
25 August 2017
25 September 2017
25 October 2017
24 November 2017
19 December 2017

***Please note that members of the 2015 Scheme will be paid on the 25th of each month**

Pensioner Payroll

In August 2016, LGSS Pensions transferred pensioner payroll to our current pensions administration system Altair, therefore allowing for both administration and payment of pensioners to be operated using the same system to facilitate a more efficient service.

Payslips

Payslips will continue to be issued every March, April and May.

After that, you will only receive a payslip when:

- there is a change in the net payment of £5.00 or more from the previous month
- your tax code has changed

Income Tax

If you are receiving your State Pension, it is usual for HMRC to adjust your personal tax code, following the annual increase to those benefits. Usually, any new code issued for this will be applied in April or May and may result in a change in the amount of tax payable by you from your increased pension.

Enquiries concerning the validity of any new tax code should be referred to the address shown below. When corresponding with the tax authorities please quote reference NCC FIRE Pensioners 475/VB50348 and your National Insurance number.

HMRC
Sefton Area Office
Taxpayer Service Office
The Triad
Stanley Road
Bootle
Merseyside, L75 2YY
Telephone: **0300 200 3300**

P60s for the tax year 2016/17 will be dispatched by the 31 May 2017 which is the statutory deadline set by HMRC.

Re-employment following Retirement

If, after payment of your pension has commenced, you take up further employment with a Fire Authority, as a Firefighter or in any other capacity, you are required to let us know as your pension may be affected. Please contact us by phone or e-mail, in the first instance.

Telephone: 01604 366537

Email: **FirePensions@northamptonshire.gov.uk**

If you are receiving a widow's, widower's, Civil Partner's, nominated partner's or child's pension, or Pension credit as a result of divorce, this does not apply.

Northamptonshire Fire Local Pension Board

The Local Pension Board was launched in April 2015, with the specific purpose of assisting the Scheme Manager in securing compliance with:

- the Firefighters’ Pension Scheme (1992), New Firefighters’ Pension Scheme (2006) and Firefighters’ Pension Scheme 2015 regulations (The Regulations);
- any other legislation relating to the governance and administration of the Scheme;
- the requirements imposed by the Pensions Regulator in relation to Scheme; and
- to ensure the effective and efficient governance and administration of the Scheme.

The Local Pension Board consists of two employer representatives and two scheme member representatives that meet at least twice a year to discuss matters relating to the appropriate management and application of The Regulations and the effective and efficient governance of the Scheme.

The meetings are held in public and the agenda and minutes can be found on the new dedicated Northamptonshire Local Fire Pension Board website: <http://pensions.northamptonshire.gov.uk/index.php/governance2/firefighters-local-pension-board/>

Members of the Local Pension Board are as follows and can be contacted via Paul Hanson (Democratic Services Manager) on phanson@northamptonshire.gov.uk.

The current board members are:

Scheme Member Representatives	James Dorrill	Terry Smith
Employer Representatives	Councillor Graham Lawman	David Harding (Chairman)

National Fraud Initiative

Northamptonshire County Council and its respective Fire Authority are required by law to protect the public funds they are responsible for. We may share information with other bodies responsible for auditing or administering public funds for the purpose of preventing and detecting fraud. Along with other authorities we work with the Cabinet Office to clamp down on pension fund fraud nationally. We have a statutory duty to submit data to the Cabinet Office for the 'National Fraud Initiative'. We make sure that the information provided complies fully with the Data Protection Act.

More information regarding the National Fraud Initiative can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-fraud-initiative>

We have received notification from a number of our members whom have been contacted by text message regarding frozen or private pensions. Please note that LGSS Pensions will never contact you by this method and will never ask for confidential information

such as bank details. If you are in doubt over any communications you receive, please email **FirePensions@northamptonshire.gov.uk** and a member of our team will be happy to help.

Information for next of kin – notifying us of a death

If you are dealing with the Estate of a relative who receives a pension from us you should notify us as soon as possible of their death. This ensures any dependents' benefits are paid promptly and also keeps overpayments to a minimum.

We will need the following details of the pensioner:

- name, address and date of death
- National Insurance number
- Name and address of next of kin
- The name and address of the person dealing with the Estate, if not the next of kin
- Details of any dependent children

Contact Details

LGSS Pensions have a bespoke email address for Fire Pension Scheme members to ensure that your enquiry is dealt with by our dedicated Fire Scheme experts.

Please email your pension enquiries to:
FirePensions@northamptonshire.gov.uk

To contact us by phone please call 01604 366537.

Northamptonshire Firefighters also have a dedicated page on our website, which provides you with the latest news, frequently asked questions and documentation relevant to the Firefighters' Pension Schemes.

Please visit: <http://pensions.northamptonshire.gov.uk/index.php/firefighters-pension-scheme/>



