



Technical Updates

Wiltshire Pension Fund
for safe, secure, cost effective provision of your pension

Welcome to the sixth edition of our newsletter.

We use this newsletter to inform you of important changes, keep you updated with news and remind you of what information we need and in what format.

Key changes and important points

1. Employee contribution bands

Officers

We have now received confirmation that the pension increase for this year will be 0%. Therefore employee contribution bands for officers will remain unchanged from those set in April 2009.

However, if an employee's pay has changed since last April and you have not yet reviewed the contribution band they fall into, you must do this before deducting their April contributions.

Manual workers (pre 1998)

From April 2010 all members classed as 'manual workers' will move to the position of paying the lower of 6.5% or the band they would be in if they were an 'officer'.

As of April 2011, the contribution bands for manual workers and officers will be the same.

Full information regarding the bands can be found in the employers guide section of our website.

2. Final pay: regulatory change

A recent change in Scheme regulations gives better pensions protection to members who have had a reduction in pay within 10 years of retiring or leaving the Scheme. These members now have the option to have their final pay calculated as the average of any 3 consecutive years in the last 13 years (ending on a 31 March).

3. Casuals/Variables update

Casuals

Employers are reminded that 'no mutual obligation' casuals should no longer be in the Scheme as of April 2008.

We recently sent an email to employers who have members marked as 'casual' on our system. If you still have members who meet this definition, they must be given notice of their removal from the Scheme by **31st March 2010**. Please provide an update on the status of these members by the **26th February**.

Variables

We need regular updates to the number of hours worked by variable hours staff and to help you provide this information, we have a variable hours submission spreadsheet on the forms page of our website.

We will contact all employers in early April to request an update to the hours worked in the year up to 31st March 2010 for any members who meet this definition.

Reminder and other information

1. Administration Strategy

Our Administration Strategy was implemented on 1st January 2010 and applies to all employers. This document sets out the quality and performance standards expected of employers and admitted bodies within Wiltshire Pension Fund. It also provides

details of the performance targets that all parties must adhere to. A copy of the strategy and targets can be found in the employers guide section of our website.

2. Minimum retirement age changing from 50 to 55

A quick reminder that the minimum age from which we can pay out pensions (except ill health) is increasing from 50 to 55 on 1st April 2010. This covers early retirement, flexible retirement, redundancies and efficiency retirements.

3. Employer training events

The LGE has recently sent out a circular of detailed courses aimed at employers. This includes a workshop on employer discretions, particularly aimed at employing authority staff who have responsibility for exercising the many discretions open to employers under the LGPS. More details can be found on the LGE website <http://www.lge.gov.uk/lge/aio/4299184>

4. PLOG

The slides from the 16th December 2009 PLOG meeting are now on our website.

Upcoming PLOG meetings are as follows:

- Wednesday 24th March 2010 (Devizes Town Hall)
- Wednesday 30th September 2010 (location to be confirmed) - to include details of the fund valuation results

5. New Head of Wiltshire Pension Fund

David Anthony, our current Investment and Accounting Manager has been appointed as the new Head of Wiltshire Pension Fund with effect from 1 March and replaces the departing David Broome.

6. Benefit statements

Annual benefit statement for all active LGPS members have now been issued for the period up to 31 March 2009.

Queries, comments or suggestions:

For any queries, comments regarding any aspect of this newsletter, or if you have any further suggestions on how we can improve our communications and service, please contact:

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