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**For more information visit www.lgpslambeth.org Spring 2024**

**Welcome to the 2024 newsletter for pensioner members of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) administered by the Lambeth Pension Fund.** We have changed the look and feel of your newsletter this year, however, it still contains all the valuable information you need to be aware of as a pensioner of the LGPS.

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**Contacting the Pensions Team**

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Please get in touch if you would like printed versions of any of the information available online or need this newsletter in an alternative format such as braille or large print.

**1. Pension Pay Dates**

Your pension is paid on the last working day of each month. The table below shows dates on which the monthly payments will be made in the 2024/25 financial year:-

|  |
| --- |
| **2024** |
| **Tuesday 30th April** |
| **Friday 31st May** |
| **Friday 28th June** |
| **Wednesday 31st July** |
| **Friday 30th August** |
| **Monday 30th September** |
| **Thursday 31st October** |
| **Friday 29th November** |
| **Tuesday 31st December** |
| **2025** |
| **Friday 31st January** |
| **Friday 28th February** |
| **Monday 31st March** |

**2. Member Self Service**

Member Self Service (MSS) is available to all our pensioner members. This allows you to view your payslips, P60s and other pensions information, as well as allowing you to update your address and nomination details on-line.

To sign up to Member Self Service, please visit our website pensions.lambeth.gov.uk and click on ‘Not yet registered’.

If you have already registered, click on ‘Login’ to access your account.

**3. Payslips**

Monthly payslips are available to view online on Member Self Service (see item above).

Unless you make a specific request, we will normally only issue a paper payslip to you in April & May each year, to show you the annual increase to your pension as a result of the pensions increase award. We will also issue a paper payslip where your net pay varies by £10 or more in any month or if you are a new pensioner.

**4. Pensions Increase 2024**

Public Service pensions in payment for a whole year will be increased by 6.7% on the 8th of April 2024, in line with the CPI for September 2023. Pensions in payment for less than a year will be increased proportionately depending on the number of months it has been in payment. If you were a member of the scheme before 6th April 1997 you may receive a portion of the increase via your State Pension. As the increase to your pension is fairly high again this year, you may find that this takes you over your Personal Tax Allowance causing tax to be deducted on the excess amount.

**5. P60s**

A P60 detailing your total pension for 2023/24 will be sent out by the end of May 2024 at the latest. If you have not received one by the end of June, please write to us requesting a certified copy. This will allow us to check whether your address matches our records. **Please ensure you keep your P60 in a safe place as there will be a charge of £5 for any copy P60s we are asked to provide.**

**6. Change of Address or Bank Details**

It is important to keep us informed of any changes to your address or bank details, because if any written correspondence is returned to us, or if monies are returned to us by the bank, your pension payments will be suspended.

We would encourage you to update your address via Member Self Service where possible (see item 2).

Alternatively, please complete and return the enclosed form, by post or email, to notify us of any changes. We cannot accept any change of details by telephone. Please ensure you quote either your National Insurance Number or Pension Payroll Number on all correspondence.

Please note, if you are changing your bank details, your pension can only be paid into a bank account held in your name. The payroll closes on the 13th of each month. Any amendments received after that date may not be input until the following month.

**7. Tax Codes & HMRC Contact Details**

His Majesty’s Revenue and Customs (HMRC) will notify both you and us of any changes to your tax code. You can check the tax code on your payslip using Member Self Service (see item 2).

Any adjustments for deduction of tax will be automatically actioned, unless HMRC instruct otherwise. Any queries regarding the calculation of your tax code must be raised with HMRC directly using the following details:

Pay As You Earn and Self-Assessment

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC), BX9 1AS

Tax Reference: 846/LLB9AP

Telephone: 0300 200 3300

Textphone: 0300 200 3319

Outside UK: +44 135 535 9022

**8. Claiming Pension Credit**

If you are over State Pension Age (SPA) and on a low income, you may be entitled to extra money to help with your living costs. This is known as pension credit and is separate from your State Pension. You can apply for pension credit up to four months before you reach your SPA. You can apply after you reach SPA, but your application can only be backdated three months. Find out about pension credit and how to apply on the GOV.UK website or call the pension credit claim line on 0800 99 1234. If you need help completing benefit claim forms, make an appointment at your local Citizen’s Advice Bureau who have advisors that will help you.

**9. Death Benefits**

It is important that the person dealing with your Estate is aware they will need to contact us promptly in the event of your death. This will enable us to pay any resulting benefits quickly and ensure that an overpayment of pension does not arise.

Under the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations there are provisions for the payment of a pension to the legally married Spouse or Civil Partner of the deceased and in some circumstances pensions to co-habiting partners and eligible children. A lump sum death grant may also be payable. You can make an “expression of wish” to name who you would like to receive any death grant that might become payable, however, as this is an expression of wish it is not legally binding, the Fund has absolute discretion. **We would encourage you to** **update your expression via Member Self Service where possible (see item 2).** Alternatively, a form can be obtained on our website. https://www.lgpslambeth.org/. The benefits that may become payable to your dependants upon your death vary according to your individual circumstances. Calculation of the benefits is based on the regulations in force at your date of leaving, your pension scheme membership, and the date of your marriage or partnership.

**10. Re-employment**

A revised policy on re-employment was implemented by Lambeth Pension Fund with effect from 1st June 2023. From that date, there is no reduction to your pension if you are re-employed, regardless of how much you earn and whether or not this is in Local Government employment. We have contacted all members who were identified as being affected by this revision and restored their pensions with effect from 1st June 2023. You should contact us immediately if you believe your pension has continued to be reduced after this date because of re-employment so that we can restore your pension to the correct amount.

**11. Overseas Payments**

The payment provision for our pensioner members abroad is via Convera (previously known as Western Union) who offer a reliable overseas payment service. We credit the pension monies to a holding account on the last working day of each month. Convera then convert the monies into your preferred currency and credit your designated overseas account approximately 3 to 5 working days later. Due to exchange rate fluctuations, the amount of pension you receive may vary slightly each month. There is currently no charge for this service. To commence payments to an overseas account, please contact us and we will send you a Mandate Form to complete.

If you live in Jamaica, or are about to move there, Victoria Mutual Building Society and JN Bank offer transfers via Citibank. Please contact your local branch for further information.

**12. Fraud Prevention**

Ensuring that the public sector is free of fraud and corruption is an important element in ensuring confidence in the sector and the effective delivery of important services. Lambeth Council’s Counter Fraud Team provides that function for this local authority. As part of their work to ensure this organisation is fraud and corruption free the team collect data which can be used to support any investigations into any potential criminal, civil and disciplinary offences. As part of that process data may be shared with fraud prevention agencies. The safeguards around that information sharing have been published on the council’s website.

To read them visit https://www.lambeth.gov.uk/ about-council/privacy-data-protection/counter-fraud-team-privacy-notice.

If you have any concerns about potential fraud offences please email the team at [investigations @lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:investigations@lambeth.gov.uk), call 0207 926 1111 or go online to https://www.lambeth.gov.uk/ benefits-and-financial-support/benefit-fraud/report-potential-fraud.

**13. Lifetime Unison Membership**

If you have been a member of Unison whilst being employed with Lambeth, then upon retirement you can continue to enjoy lifetime retired membership for a one-off fee of £15. Further information can be obtained on the Unison website www.unison.org.uk or by calling free from a landline on 0800 0 857 857.

**14. Fund Investment Performance**

You will find our Annual Report, which contains the latest investment performance update, and our Stewardship Report, which contains more information on the work undertaken by the Fund to secure members’ pensions, on our website www.lgpslambeth.org/ resources.

**15. The McCloud Judgement**

The rules of all public service pension schemes, including the LGPS, changed from 1 October 2023 because of a court ruling known as the McCloud Judgement. This ruling found the protections put in place for older members of Public Service Pension Schemes, when the schemes changed from final salary to career average schemes in 2014 and 2015, to be discriminatory against younger members who had no protections.

**You do not need to take any action.** If you are protected and your LGPS pension is already being paid to you, we will work out if your pension will increase. We will do this as soon as we can, but reviewing all pensions in payment will take some time.

**You do not need to contact us.** Please be assured that we will contact anyone whose pension in payment will increase because of the McCloud remedy. You can find out more about the judgment by reading the McCloud pages of the national LGPS member website www.lgpsmember. org/mccloud-remedy/.

**16. Privacy Notice**

Lambeth Pension Fund is a Data Controller under the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), as we hold certain information about you (“personal data”) which we use to administer the Fund and to pay benefits from it.

For more information about how we hold your data, who we share it with and what rights you have, you can view our General Data Protection Regulation Privacy Notice by visiting www.lgpslambeth.org /resources.

**17. Other Useful Contacts**

**The Pensions Service** regarding your State Pension.

Telephone 0800 731 0469.

Pensioners living abroad, should contact the International Pension Centre on +44 (0)191 218 7777.

**GOV.UK** offers all public services in one place https://www.gov.uk/.

**Age UK** offers information and services for those in later life and can be contacted on 0800 678 1602 or visit their website www.ageuk.org.uk.