

Employer Newsletter

Issue 214 November 2024

In this issue:

- Employer consultation reminder: 2024 Pension Administration Strategy
- Pay award arrears reminder
- McCloud remedy update
- LGPS bite-size training



Employer consultation reminder: 2024 Pension Administration Strategy

Our employer consultation on the Fund's revised Pension Administration Strategy is open.

If you represent an employer of our Fund, we welcome you to share your comments on the revised Strategy. Your feedback is valued, and will help us to ensure:

- we continue to work together effectively
- we provide the best possible service for our members
- our strategy clearly defines the essential processes and procedures required

To find out more about the consultation and submit your feedback, please visit our <u>2024 consultation</u>: <u>Pension Administration Strategy</u> news item on our website. The consultation will close on 13th December 2024.

Pay award arrears reminder

In employer newsletter 213 we provided guidance about how to treat pay award arrears on i-Connect.

We're aware that some of our employers may have included a pay award in their November 2024 payroll run, so please ensure that the relevant information is included on i-Connect returns by 19 December 2024.

If you have any queries relating to this, please contact pensions.tech@derbyshire.gov.uk



McCloud remedy update

The <u>McCloud remedy</u> came into force on 1 October 2023. In summary, the remedy gives all qualifying members of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) the same protections that were awarded to older members of the LGPS on the introduction of the CARE scheme in 2014.

Our team is currently working to check who is eligible, and we are applying protections automatically. Members do not need to contact the Fund. Most members' pensions are unlikely to be affected.

Queries will continue to be issued to employers as we continue with our checks.

If you have yet to respond to a request or query from us, it is critical that you get in contact as soon as possible. Failure to do so could result in your employees and ex-employees receiving a lower pension than they should be entitled to.

Thank you to all the employers that have been responding to our queries and providing the data we need to implement the McCloud remedy.



LGPS bite-size training

Did you know that on the <u>LGPS Regulations and Guidance website</u> there are 4 quick and simple bite-size training modules to help with several topics, including:

- Final Pay
- APP
- III health retirement process

Final Pay training - 'Final Pay and Fees'

The Final Pay bite-size training helps with calculating Final Pay which is required for employees who have LGPS membership before 2014, when the scheme changed to being based on Career Average Revalued Earnings (CARE).

The training will be very helpful to those involved with submitting data to us, although, the last section "Final Pay and Fees" does not apply for Derbyshire Pension Fund members.

This is because we apply a different calculation for any members who are classed as variable time members, such as school Clerks to Governors. If you have an enquiry about submitting data for variable time members, please contact us.

Assumed Pensionable Pay (APP)

This training helps you understand when you must apply <u>APP</u> and how to calculate it. APP is a notional pay figure to be reported when an employee's pay is reduced because they are absent from work. This ensures that an employee's pension builds up as if they were at work receiving their normal pay.

These modules could be useful to new and existing members of your team who submit data to us.

III health retirement for active members

This bite-size training helps explain the process for active employees who are being considered for ill health retirement. It covers the criteria, the decision-making process and the benefits payable.

III health retirement for deferred members

This training helps you understand the ill health retirement process for deferred members. Deferred members are those who previously paid into the LGPS, and since leaving the scheme have left their pension on hold with us. Where a deferred member applies for their pension on ill health grounds, we'll send their completed application to you as their former employer, to decide if it should be approved.

Both sets of ill health training will be very helpful to anyone involved with the ill health retirement process, such as HR and occupational health colleagues.

Employee details changes

It's important that you let us know as soon as possible when an employee's details change, for example, title, name, address. This helps us to minimise the risk of data breaches occurring.

If you're not using i-Connect yet, please remember to notify us using the C1 Form when any of your LGPS members change their personal and contact details. The C1 Form is available on the **Forms for employers** section of our website.

Email addresses

A quick reminder of our email addresses and what they should be used for:

<u>dpf.employers@derbyshire.gov.uk</u> - For submitting member notification forms such as the S1, L1, C1 and estimate requests. <u>All found here</u>.

pensions.tech@derbyshire.gov.uk - For submitting contribution returns (CR1), i-Connect data and payment queries.

<u>pensions.regs@derbyshire.gov.uk</u> - For queries relating to LGPS regulations, i-Connect onboarding, employer training, events and communications.

For queries and requests from members of the LGPS, please direct them to the **enquiry form** on our website.

If you have any queries about the information provided in this Newsletter, or about the LGPS in general, please contact us at:

Derbyshire Pension Fund, County Hall, Matlock, DE4 3AH
Tel: 01629 538900

Email: pensions.regs@derbyshire.gov.uk
Website: www.derbyshirepensionfund.org.uk

