

Derbyshire Employer Newsletter

Issue 218 March 2025

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Reminder to use latest version of forms

When completing any of our manual notification forms, it is important that you use those published on our <u>'forms for employers' webpage</u>. This will ensure you are using the most up to date version.

The latest form templates contain all the appropriate areas for completion, in line with the Fund's current requirements. If you use an old version of a form, this may be returned to you with a request to complete a new version of the form as important information may have been omitted.

If your browser is loading old versions of forms from our website, you may need to clear your browser's cache data. To find out how to do this, please speak with your internal IT support team.



Prudential Update

Paying contributions over to Prudential

Our members can choose to pay <u>Additional Voluntary Contributions (AVCs)</u> with our in-house AVC provider Prudential.

It is important that AVC payments are paid to Prudential by 19th of the following month to which they relate. For example, April contributions must be paid by 19th May. This is to ensure that the contributions are invested as soon as possible after application in line with the member's chosen investment strategy.

Prudential member newsletter

The Prudential issued a member newsletter in January 2025. In this issue, Prudential provides information on tax relief and an introduction to its Customer Care and Support Hub.

If any of your Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) members pay AVC contributions and did not receive this newsletter by email or through their Prudential online account, a copy can be found on our website.

Neonatal Care Leave

Neonatal care leave (NCL) is a new statutory entitlement for employed parents whose child receives neonatal care starting within 28 days of birth and goes on to spend 7 or more continuous days in care. Eligible parents will be entitled to up to 12 weeks of NCL in addition to existing entitlement such as maternity, adoption and paternity leave. The leave must be taken within 68 weeks of the baby's birth. The entitlement applies to children born after 5 April 2025.

Your employees in the LGPS receiving paid NCL should be treated as receiving <u>assumed</u> <u>pensionable pay</u>. We'll be updating the guidance on our website to reflect this change.

For any unpaid neonatal care leave, LGPS employees can choose to buy back the lost pension through a shared-cost additional pension contract (APC). Our <u>unpaid absences webpage</u> has more information on shared-cost APCs.



My Pension Online

We'd like to thank employers that have shared information with their employees about My Pension Online, our service for LGPS members.

My Pension Online is the Fund's preferred method for receiving queries from your employees. This is because queries which are made from the online dashboard are loaded directly to pension records for our Team to action.

If your employees enquire about the service, you can direct them to our website where the My Pension Online homepage offers guidance on the registration process. They may also find the answer to their question on the Derbyshire Pension Fund website.

Annual benefit statements

Over the coming months we will be writing to our members to let them know that their latest annual benefit statement is available on their My Pension Online account.

Any unresolved queries regarding your employee data for the 2024/2025 scheme year, will result in the delay of your employees' annual benefit statements being processed. Other reasons for a delay in an employee's statement being received can be found on the active member annual benefit statement page of our website.



Employee contributions banding changes 2025/2026 reminder

This is a reminder to apply the revised LGPS employee contribution bandings for 2025/2026. The bandings table which applies from 1 April 2025 was included in our <u>February newsletter</u> and will be reflected on the <u>paying in page</u> on our website from 1 April 2025.

Annual Report

In <u>December's newsletter</u> we highlighted the publication of draft version of the Fund's Annual Report for the year to 31 March 2024. Following completion of the audit procedure, the final version of the <u>Annual Report</u> is now available on our website.

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 <u>Forms for employers</u> 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. **All found here**.

<u>pensions.tech@derbyshire.gov.uk</u> - 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

