

LGSS Pensions Employer Newsletter

Issue 2

Summer 2017

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Welcome to the second edition of our quarterly employer newsletter which should arrive just in time to be added to your holiday reading list, you can even read it on your tablet - *I'm sure you will find it just as entertaining as any best seller at the airport.* We hope you like this new format and encourage you to send us some feedback.

Talking of feedback, we will be sending you a satisfaction survey during July, asking for your opinion on various aspects of the service we provide. I strongly encourage you to respond to the survey; we really do value your comments and made a number of changes following the last survey; this newsletter being one them.

Also coming in July will be a consultation on our revised administration strategy. This is an important document which sets out how we administer the scheme and what is expected of both us and yourselves to ensure we provide the best service to your members. There are a number of changes so please make sure you read the draft strategy and take the opportunity to respond to the consultation.

Finally, at the end of August we will be issuing electronic benefit statements to active members of the LGPS, via our Member Self Service facility. We need your help to promote this and will be providing you with some materials to do so. We would be extremely grateful if you could encourage your staff to register for access to the self service portal.

As always, thank you for reading and we hope you enjoy this latest edition. If you are taking a break over the summer, I hope you have a great time and come back feeling refreshed.

C. Blose

Employer Services and Systems Team Manager

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New Data Protection Regulations

On 25 May 2018, the UK's existing data protection legislation will be replaced by the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

This wide ranging legislation will put more onerous requirements on any organisation that collects, uses or processes data about an individual, so will affect most employers.

GDPR will grant new and extended rights to individuals whose data is collected, including, amongst other provisions, greater rights of access to their data and a new 'right to be forgotten'.

The legislation also introduces stiffer penalties than the current Data Protection Act. The maximum fine will be the greater of 20m Euros or 4% of annual turnover; the maximum penalty under current rules is just £0.5m.

There are a number of actions to be taken, to ensure you will be compliant and we recommend that you start preparing immediately.

Please visit the Information Commissioners Office website for further guidance:

<https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/data-protection-reform/>

2017 Annual Benefit Statements

We need your help

We are currently busy producing Annual Benefit Statements for members of all the Schemes we administer. This is an important document which allows members to see how their pension is growing each year.

The 2017 statements will, once again, be issued online on **31 August 2017**, via Member Self Service. We will not issue members of the LGPS with a paper copy of their benefit statement, unless they have opted out of electronic communications. Instead, they will need to log on to Member Self Service to view their statement.

We wrote to all members informing them of this last year and will not be writing to them again this year. Members who already have a Member Self Service account will receive an email notification to say their statement is available. However, we need your help to ensure anyone without an account is aware that their statement will be available, on Member Self Service from 31 August.

We will shortly send you a poster to display in your workplace and instructions of how members can access their statement, for you to pass on to any staff currently in the LGPS. We would be very grateful if you could distribute these materials during July and August.

2 Minutes with...

Jo Walton - Governance and Regulations Manager

Jo has been with the service since September 2004 and manages our Governance and Regulations Team.

Hi Jo; what are you drinking?

Tea, strong, no sugar.

What is your favourite book?

'Then We Came To The End' by Joshua Ferris.
A must read for anyone who works in an office.

Who is your favourite Musician/Band?

Currently Coldplay (sorry...)!

What is your favourite film?

Anything with Matt Damon.

What is your greatest achievement?

I'm still working on it!

If you could go anywhere in the world, with money being no object, where would you go?

I'd take my three children and husband to Dubai.
I would like to live there one day.

Administration Strategy

Consultation coming soon...

We have recently reviewed our Administration Strategy and will be launching a consultation on the revised strategy during July.

The aim of the Administration Strategy is to set out clearly what is expected from both the Administering Authorities and employers, in order to deliver a high quality, value for money service to Scheme members.

The revised strategy has already been reviewed by both the Local Pension Board and Pension Fund Committee and approved for consultation. The strategy has had a number of changes which include:

- Clearer processes for dealing with poor performance by employers;
- Streamlining the approach to recovering costs incurred as a result of poor performance by an employer;
- Minor Regulation updates;
- Making the Strategy more concise and user friendly.

The consultation will be launched in July and will be open for 30 days. We will notify you when the consultation goes live.

Did you know?

- The first occupational pensions were provided for a limited number of Government employees in the seventeenth century.
- Companies associated with the Government, such as the Bank of England, soon followed suit.
- The Bank of England granted its first pension in 1739 and further grants were made on a discretionary basis.
- The Bank's Superannuation Fund wasn't established until 1933: prior to that date pensions had been paid out of the Bank's profits.
- The Local Government Pension Scheme was established in 1922

Dates for your Diary

We will be launching the Employer Satisfaction Survey on 20th July, to gain your views on the service we provide, so grab a tea and let us know what you think. Your views will help us improve our service to you, so we appreciate your feedback.

Annual Benefits Statement will be posted onto Member Self Service by 31st August 2017.

We will be offering training to new Employers on 10th August and 14th September, details to follow shortly. If you wish to learn more about your responsibilities or would like training on a specific area of pensions, please do not hesitate to contact the Employers Team.

Local Government Association Updates for the LGPS

Following the general election of 8th June and the subsequent formation of a Conservative minority government, Guy Opperman, MP for Hexham, has been appointed the new Minister for Pensions and Financial Inclusion in DWP.

Marcus Jones, MP for Nuneaton, remains the Minister for Local Government in DCLG with responsibility for the LGPS in England and Wales.

In the Queen's Speech on 21st June, the Government confirmed they would bring forward legislation in the next two years which will merge the Money Advice Service, the Pensions Advisory Service and Pension Wise into one body providing financial guidance. This follows a consultation on the proposal, which was undertaken last year.

The Government have also confirmed that the state pension triple lock will remain in place for the duration of this Parliament.

And now for something completely different!

It's summer and we are all thinking about our holidays so here are some summer themed facts:

- According to Forbes, the top 5 most hazardous summer injuries are caused by:
 1. playground equipment
 2. skateboards
 3. trampolines
 4. lawn mowers
 5. amusement attractions
- The Eiffel Tower grows by about 6 inches every summer due to the iron expanding in the heat.
- The Frisbee - a summer staple - actually started out as a pie dish until American college students started throwing them around in the 1940's. - There is a reference to this in the film Back to the Future 3.
- You scream, I scream, we all scream for Ice Cream...July is national ice cream month so go on, treat yourself to a giant Sundae.

Contact details

Need to get in touch?

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