



Pensions Increase is 1.7% this year from 6 April 2020

How is the increase calculated?

The Pensions Increase (Review) Order, which is issued each year by central government, tells all public sector pension schemes (of which the Local Government Pension Scheme is one) of the increase that should be applied to pension benefits. The annual increase reflects the rise in the cost of living and is in line with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) measure of price inflation recorded in the previous September.

Who is eligible for the increase?

- Anyone in receipt of a pension who is over 55 or left employment to retire on the grounds of ill health.
- Anyone who has received the payment of their preserved benefits on ill health grounds and who was incapable of carrying out any type of work.
- Anyone in receipt of a spouse's, partner's or child's pension.

When will we notify you about the increase?

Your payslip for April will include the increase in your pension (where applicable) from 6 April 2020. For those eligible to an increase of more than £5 a month a further payslip will be sent in May to show the increased pension for a full month.

Am I entitled to the full increase?

If your pension began on or before 23 March 2019 you are entitled to receive the full increase. If your pension began after this date a smaller, prorated increase applies as shown in the table below:

| Pension Begins | Increase |
|--------------------------------------|----------|
| 23 March 2019 to 21 April 2019 | 1.70% |
| 22 April 2019 to 21 May 2019 | 1.56% |
| 22 May 2019 to 21 June 2019 | 1.42% |
| 22 June 2019 to 21 July 2019 | 1.28% |
| 22 July 2019 to 21 August 2019 | 1.13% |
| 22 August 2019 to 21 September 2019 | 0.99% |
| 22 September 2019 to 21 October 2019 | 0.85% |
| 22 October 2019 to 21 November 2019 | 0.71% |
| 22 November 2019 to 21 December 2019 | 0.57% |
| 22 December 2019 to 21 January 2020 | 0.43% |
| 22 January 2020 to 21 February 2020 | 0.28% |
| 22 February 2020 to 20 March 2020 | 0.14% |

How to avoid overpayments

It's not easy talking about what will happen after you've gone, especially with your loved ones, but it's something we all should do. Please take the time to have that difficult conversation, and make sure that someone will take care of your affairs when that day comes.

It's important that whoever is looking after your affairs knows how to contact us to tell us you have died. The North Yorkshire Pension Fund (NYPF) contact details to share are, email:

pensions@northyorks.gov.uk

or phone: **01609 536335**.

As soon as we are informed we can stop your pension payments to avoid any overpayment, and also put into place any new pensions, such as pensions for a husband, wife or partner who is entitled to one.

Sharing Information

As we don't always get told when one of our pensioners has died we use a third party company to provide a monthly report to check for potential deaths against the General Register Office's records.

We also take part in the Tell us Once initiative. This means when someone registers a death, they can ask to have the details passed on to the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and most government organisations including the NYPF.

In addition to the above the Cabinet Office require the NYPF to take part in the National Fraud Initiative (NFI). The NFI is an exercise that cross checks records from other pension schemes and the DWP. This exercise increases the chances of all the parties finding out when someone has died.

It is extremely important if you claim any sort of benefit that you tell the benefit provider you are in receipt of a pension from the NYPF in case its value has to be taken into account. If you don't do this, the NFI exercise may pick it up as a fraudulent claim.

Dependants Benefits

An ongoing pension is provided for your spouse, registered civil partner and children as long as certain criteria are met. Also if you left after 31 March 2008, in addition to the above, a pension is also payable to a cohabiting partner subject to certain qualifying conditions.

Although not mandatory it is advisable to complete a cohabiting partner's form which you can download from the NYPF website at www.nypf.org.uk under Forms/Guides > Useful Forms.

Further information can be found on the NYPF website at www.nypf.org.uk under Forms and Guides > Scheme Guides > Long Guide to the LGPS.

Scheme Funding

NYPF held total investment assets of £3.8 billion as at 31 December 2019. This represents a growth in assets of £517.6 million over the previous 12 month period. These assets, in combination with total current and future liabilities, resulted in the Scheme being 115% funded as at 31 December 2019.

You may be aware that financial markets have been adversely affected by the Covid-19 pandemic and as a result the funding level has dropped however, this will not impact the benefits being paid now or in the future. The investment strategy of the Fund is established to select a suitable mix of assets designed to address the nature of the Fund's liabilities, and deliver returns over the long term including through periods of volatility in financial markets.

You can keep up to date by viewing the quarterly investment reports on the NYPF website at www.nypf.org.uk, Pension Fund/Investments > Quarterly Investment Reports.

Pensioners' Representative

Your views and issues continue to be represented by Gordon Gresty, a fellow NYPF pensioner, who worked for North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) for 24 years. As the Pensioners' Representative, Gordon has a place on the Pension Board which gives him the opportunity to contribute to the way that the NYPF is run and to ensure that your views are considered.

If you have any comments, queries or complaints about pension matters that you would like Gordon to respond to, please email him at pensions@northyorks.gov.uk and put his name in the subject box. You can also visit Gordon's website page at www.nypf.org.uk under Member Info > Retired Members > Pensioners' Representative which is updated with issues which may be of interest and relevance to you.

Further information about the Pension Board can be found on the NYPF website at www.nypf.org.uk under Pension Fund / Investments > Pension Board.

P60s

Your P60 for the year up to 5 April 2020 is only issued once a year. The law requires us to issue your P60 certificate by 31 May each year but we aim to send it well before then. You may need your P60 at a future date, for example if you want to claim benefits, so please make sure you keep it safe.

View your pensioner payroll record online

Did you know that you can access your pensioner payroll record online via the MyView facility? Once registered you can access your personal details and view your payslips and P60s. You can also change your bank account details.

If you haven't already registered for MyView then simply email

employmentsupportservice@northyorks.gov.uk

quoting your name, date of birth and/or payroll reference number and contact telephone number. Your email should say that you wish to set up access for MyView for pensioners.

A personal email address is required to ensure your account is kept secure. You will receive an email response from the Employment Support Service (ESS) confirming your access to MyView along with a 'How to guide', usually within one to two working days. If you do not have access to email please telephone ESS on **01609 532190**.

Changing Bank Details?

If you change your bank accounts, your own bank will not tell us so please make sure that you do.

The easiest way to change your bank details is via MyView; this allows you to change your details up to the 12th of the month in order to be processed for that month's payroll. Please see the section called 'View your pensioner payroll record online' for further details on this. Where this falls on a non-working day the deadline will be the last working day before the 12th.

Alternatively, you can write to ESS at the address shown in 'Contact us' or email employmentsupportservice@northyorks.gov.uk.

Please include your name, date of birth, National Insurance number, new sort code and account number, pensioner payroll number and the date your account will be changing.

Requests in writing must be received by the 12th of the month in order to be processed for that month's payroll. Where this falls on a non-working day the deadline will be the last working day before the 12th.

Moving House?

If you move house you also need to notify us so that we can continue to issue payslips, P60s and any other relevant correspondence. If we receive mail returned undelivered we will suspend payment of your pension until we can establish contact with you again. This is our standard practice to ensure we are not making payment to someone who may not be entitled to receive it.

To prevent payment of your pension being suspended it is important that you let us know promptly whenever your home address changes.



Contact us...

Here are the ways you can find out more or get in touch with the NYPF:

Website: www.nypf.org.uk

Telephone: 01609 536335 – lines are open between 10am and 4pm every weekday excluding Wednesdays all day

Email: pensions@northyorks.gov.uk remembering to quote your National Insurance number

Post: North Yorkshire Pension Fund, County Hall, Northallerton, North Yorkshire DL7 8AL

Pension payments are made by Employment Support Services (ESS). Here are the ways you can find out more or get in touch with ESS:

Telephone: 01609 532190 – lines are open between 8.30am and 5pm every weekday excluding Wednesdays 8.30am to 1pm

Email: employmentsupportservice@northyorks.gov.uk remembering to quote your National Insurance number

Post: Employment Support Service, North Yorkshire County Council, County Hall, Northallerton, North Yorkshire DL7 8AD

All of our newsletters can be accessed on the NYPF website at www.nypf.org.uk.

If you would like this information in another language or format such as Braille, large print or audio, please contact the NYPF on 01609 536335.