



Pensions Increase is 1% this year

What is the increase this year?

The Pensions Increase (Review) Order, which is issued each year by central government, tells public sector pension schemes of the increase that should be applied to pension benefits. The increase is based on the rise in the cost of living in the year up to last September. This year the increase is 1% from 10 April 2017.

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.
- A person 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 or children's pension.

Who is not eligible for the increase?

- Anyone who is below the age of 55, except those in receipt of ill health benefits.
- A person who is below the age of 55 and has received the payment of their preserved benefits on ill health grounds but who was not incapable of carrying out any type of work.

How is the increase to pensions worked out?

Pensions increase is calculated on the annual pension in payment at the end of March 2017 less any Guaranteed Minimum Pension (GMP) for anyone who has reached State Pension Age. You will only have a GMP if you have scheme service between 6 April 1978 and 5 April 1997. The GMP is a figure supplied by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) which ensures that you receive at least the value of benefits which the State would have provided had you not been contracted-out of the upper, earnings-related, tier of the State Scheme (known as the State Second Pension) between 6 April 1978 and 5 April 1997. The State Second Pension Scheme was previously referred to as the State Earnings Related Pension Scheme (SERPS). For information the DWP refer to the GMP as a 'contracted out deduction' on their correspondence.

Any GMP earned before 6 April 1988 will be increased by the State each April with the increase being paid with your State basic pension. However, if your State Pension Age is between 6.4.2016 and 5.12.2018, the 1% increase will be paid by the North Yorkshire Pension Fund (NYPF).

Any GMP earned after 6 April 1988 will be increased by NYPF by 1% regardless of when your State Pension age is.

When will we notify pensioners about the increase?

Payslips which are sent in April will show the increase for the period from 10 April to 30 April, where applicable. For those eligible to an increase of more than £1 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 25 April 2016 your pension will have increased by the full 1% (but see previous comments regarding increases to the GMP if you have reached State Pension Age). If your pension began after this date a smaller, prorated increase applies as shown in the table overleaf:

Pension Begins

	Increase
11 April 2016 to 25 April 2016	1.00%
26 April 2016 to 25 May 2016	0.92%
26 May 2016 to 25 June 2016	0.83%
26 June 2016 to 25 July 2016	0.75%
26 July 2016 to 25 August 2016	0.67%
26 August 2016 to 25 September 2016	0.58%
26 September 2016 to 25 October 2016	0.50%
26 October 2016 to 25 November 2016	0.42%
26 November 2016 to 25 December 2016	0.33%
26 December 2016 to 25 January 2017	0.25%
26 January 2017 to 25 February 2017	0.17%
26 February 2017 to 25 March 2017	0.08%

Dependants Benefits

If you left the Scheme on or before 31 March 2008, a survivor's pension is automatically payable to a spouse, registered civil partner and any eligible children.

However, if you left the Scheme on or after 31 March 2008, a pension is also payable to a cohabiting partner (of either opposite or the same sex) provided that certain criteria are met. 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 'Member Info' > 'Retired Members' > 'Death Benefits'.

How to avoid overpayments

It is a very difficult and sad time when a loved one dies; however, after a pensioner dies it is important that the Pensions Section is advised as soon as possible so that pension payments can be stopped to avoid overpayments. We understand that this is a sensitive issue but it will help to discuss it with the person who will deal with your affairs when you die. As soon as we are informed we can stop your pension payments and make arrangements to pay any survivor's benefits which may be due, for example a widow's pension. The telephone number to share is 01609 536335.

Sharing Information

As we don't always get told when one of our pensioners dies, to help avoid overpayments we

use a third party company to check for potential deaths each month against the General Register Office's records. Since March 2016 we have also been using the 'Tell us Once' service which allows a person who is registering a death to elect to have the details passed on to the DWP as well as NYPF.

The North Yorkshire Pension Fund also takes part in the **National Fraud Initiative (NFI)**, which cross checks our pension records with those held by the DWP. Any cases that are identified are investigated, and those connected with fraud can require Police involvement.

It's therefore extremely important if you claim any sort of benefit that you tell the benefit provider you are in receipt of a pension from the North Yorkshire Pension Fund 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.

Scheme Funding

NYPF held total Investment Assets of £2.85 Billion as at 31st December 2016. This represents an Investment Return of 18.5% over the previous 12 month period. These assets, in combination with total current and future liabilities, resulted in the Scheme being 97% funded as at 31 December 2016.

A funding plan is in place which will increase this to 100%. Pension payments are not at risk.

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

Pensioners' Representative

Your views and issues are still represented by Gordon Gresty, a pensioner who worked for NYCC for 24 years. As Pensioners' Representative, Gordon has a place on the Pension Board which gives him the opportunity to contribute to the way that the North Yorkshire Pension Fund is run and to ensure that pensioners' views are considered.

You can contact Gordon with your views via email at pensions@northyorks.gov.uk (please put his name in the subject box). You can also visit his website page at www.nypf.org.uk under **Pension Fund / Investments > Pension Board.**

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

Reminder: Payslips and P60s

As many of you will be aware you will only get a payslip when your net pension has changed by more than £1 from the previous month. Your P60 is 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.

View your payroll record online

Did you know that you can access your payroll record online via the 'MyView' facility? Once registered (see below) you can access your personal details and view your payslips and P60s. MyView also allows you to change the bank account details of the account to which your pension is paid. 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 telephone number. You will need to state in the email that you wish to be set up for access to 'MyView' for pensioners.

Changing Bank Details? You must let us know by the 5th of the month

The easiest way to change your bank account details is via 'MyView'; please see the section called 'View your payroll record online' for further details. Alternatively, you can write to the Employment Support Service at the address given below. Include your payroll reference, sort code, account number and the date your account will be changing. **Your request must be received before the 5th of the month. Where this falls on a non-working day the deadline will be the last working day before the 5th.**

Employment Support Service
North Yorkshire County Council
County Hall
Northallerton
North Yorkshire
DL7 8AL



Contact us...

Pension Payments: NYCC's Employment Support Service (ESS).

Telephone 01609 532190 or via **email** at EmploymentSupportService@northyorks.gov.uk

Address:

Employment Support Service
North Yorkshire County Council
County Hall
Northallerton
North Yorkshire
DL7 8AL

Other enquiries: North Yorkshire Pension Fund (NYPF)

Telephone: 01609 536335 or via
email: pensions@northyorks.gov.uk

The address is the same as that shown above for the Employment Support Service.

Viewing Pensions Focus online

If you would like to receive future copies of your newsletter via email please confirm this in a short email to pensions@northyorks.gov.uk. Please quote your name, National Insurance number and the email address that you would like us to use. All of your newsletters can also be accessed on the NYPF website at www.nypf.org.uk.

Find out more!

Further information that may be of interest can be found at www.nypf.org.uk in the **'Member Info' > 'Retired Members'** area.

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