

Pensions Increase is 2.2% this year

What was 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 will be 2.2% from 8 April 2013.

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 2013 less any Guaranteed Minimum Pension (GMP) for anyone who has reached State Pension Age. 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 between 6 April 1978 and 5 April 1997.

The increase on your GMP is paid by the DWP as an addition to your State pension. The DWP refer to the GMP as a 'contracted out deduction' on their correspondence.

When will we notify pensioners about the increase?

Payslips which are sent in April will show the increase for the period from 8 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 9 April 2012 your pension will have increased by the full 2.2% (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 below:

Pension Begins	Increase
09 April 2012 to 23 April 2012	2.20%
24 April 2012 to 23 May 2012	2.02%
24 May 2012 to 23 June 2012	1.83%
24 June 2012 to 23 July 2012	1.65%
24 July 2012 to 23 August 2012	1.47%
24 August 2012 to 23 September 2012	1.28%
24 September 2012 to 23 October 2012	1.10%
24 October 2012 to 23 November 2012	0.92%
24 November 2012 to 23 December 2012	0.73%
24 December 2012 to 23 January 2013	0.55%
24 January 2013 to 23 February 2013	0.37%
24 February 2013 to 23 March 2013	0.18%

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.

Viewing payslips and P60s online

Did you know that you can access your own payroll record online through a facility called 'MyView'? You can view and print your current and previous payslips as well as P60s at:

<https://selfservice.northyorks.gov.uk/nyvl/Portal/index.xsp>



Scheme Funding

The Scheme was 61% funded as at 31 December 2012, however a recovery 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 at <https://www.nypf.org.uk/nypf/quarterlyinvestmentreports.shtml>

Contingent Benefits

Remember, the Scheme will pay a spouse's pension following your death, payable for life.

If you have a cohabiting partner, and paid into the scheme after 2008, you must nominate them if you want them to receive a pension. A cohabiting partner's nomination form must be completed and this can be found under 'Forms' on the NYPF website at www.nypf.org.uk



We mentioned last year that the Everybody Benefits awards scheme was at risk of being discontinued if take-up remained low. Unfortunately, interest in the scheme remains disappointing, and so Everybody Benefits will not be available from 30 November 2013.

LGPS2014

All pensions currently in payment will not be affected by the changes coming in on 1 April 2014.

All benefits in respect of service before April 2014 will still be based on final salary at retirement and the current Normal Pension Age (i.e. age 65).

If you are, however, interested in learning more about the changes that are coming in, go to www.nypf.org.uk and select 'Changes to Local Government Pension Scheme from 1 April 2014' from the 'latest updates' section on the Home page.

Find out more!

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

Contact us...

The administration dealing with your regular pension payment is provided by the North Yorkshire County Council Payroll Service on behalf of the North Yorkshire Pension Fund. If you have any queries you should contact the Payroll Section on **01609 532190**.

Changing Bank Details? Please let us know!

Please write to the payroll address given below. Include your payroll reference, sort code, account number and the date your account will be changing.

North Yorkshire Pension Fund/Payroll Section
North Yorkshire County Council
County Hall
Northallerton
North Yorkshire
DL7 8AL

Or via email at:
pensions@northyorks.gov.uk

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**

