

Pensions Increase is 2.7% 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 2.7% from 7 April 2014.

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 2014 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 7 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 8 April 2013 your pension will have increased by the full 2.7% (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
08 April 2013 to 22 April 2013	2.70%
23 April 2013 to 22 May 2013	2.48%
23 May 2013 to 22 June 2013	2.25%
23 June 2013 to 22 July 2013	2.03%
23 July 2013 to 22 August 2013	1.80%
23 August 2013 to 22 September 2013	1.58%
23 September 2013 to 22 October 2013	1.35%
23 October 2013 to 22 November 2013	1.13%
23 November 2013 to 22 December 2013	0.90%
23 December 2013 to 22 January 2014	0.68%
23 January 2014 to 22 February 2014	0.45%
23 February 2014 to 22 March 2014	0.23%

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 80% funded as at 30 September 2013, 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>

Dependents Benefits

Remember, the Scheme will pay a spouse's (or nominated cohabiting partner'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 (subject to satisfying the qualifying criteria). 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

Viewing Pensions Focus online

If you use a computer, and have an email address, could you help us reduce our costs by viewing your Pensions Focus online? It would be a great help to us as printing and design costs are heading upwards. Simply email pensions@northyorks.gov.uk and confirm that you are happy to do this. So, what if you don't use a computer? If you know someone who has access to the internet, perhaps you could consider giving us their email address, so that we can email them with the latest edition. Alternatively, you can access the latest newsletter from our website www.nypf.org.uk. They are always available in early April.

Conversely, if you are familiar with the internet, and maybe know a fellow North Yorkshire Pension Fund retired member who doesn't use a computer, but would consider viewing the Pensions Focus with you, please ask them to contact us and we will remove them from our paper mailing list.

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.

LGPS2014

Your pension 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 access the National LGPS 2014 website from the link on our Home Page.

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 Employment Support Service (ESS) on **01609 532190**.

Changing Bank Details? Please let us know!

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

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

Or via email at:
EmploymentSupportService@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**

