

Spring 2025



# Pensions Increase is 1.7% this year from 7 April 2025

#### 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 age 55 or over or who 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 7 April 2025. This payment will be 6 days at your old amount and 24 days at your new amount. Your payslip for May will show the increased pension for a full month.

Please Note: If we receive a tax code change in April you could see a reduction in your net monthly pension rather than an increase, even though we will have correctly increased your pension in payment. Please make sure you check for this on your payslip before contacting the pension section as we are unable to answer tax code queries. You will need to speak to HM Revenue and Customs on 0300 200 3300 and quote your National Insurance number and Pay as you Earn reference number 120/FE27730.

#### Am I entitled to the full increase?

If your pension began on or before 22 April 2024 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
On or before 22 April 2024	1.7%
23 April 2024 to 22 May 2024	1.56%
23 May 2024 to 22 June 2024	1.42%
23 June 2024 to 22 July 2024	1.28%
23 July 2024 to 22 August 2024	1.13%
23 August 2024 to 22 September 2024	0.99%
23 September 2024 to 22 October 2024	0.85%
23 October 2024 to 22 November 2024	0.71%
23 November 2024 to 22 December 2024	0.57%
23 December 2024 to 22 January 2025	0.43%
23 January 2025 to 22 February 2025	0.28%
23 February 2025 to 22 March 2025	0.14%



#### **P60s**

Your P60 for the year up to 5 April 2025 is only issued once a year. The law requires us to issue your P60 certificate by 31 May each year but we aim to produce 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. All P60s are published on your online account on My Pension Online, if you want a paper copy please contact us.

#### **Changing Bank Details?**

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

The easiest way to change your bank details is via My Pension Online. Alternatively, you can write to the payroll team at the address shown in 'Contact us' or email them at <a href="mailto:payroll@northyorks.gov.uk">payroll@northyorks.gov.uk</a>. 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.

You must inform us of the change to your bank account by the 12<sup>th</sup> of the month otherwise the change will not be made until the following month's payment. Where this falls on a non-working day the deadline will be the last working day before the 12<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Moving House?**

If you move house you need to notify us. If we have undelivered mail returned, we will suspend payment of your pension immediately until we can re-establish contact with you. This is our standard practice to ensure we are not paying a pension 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, the easiest way to do this is via My Pension Online. Providing an email address will also help as we will be able to email you immediately to re-establish contact and confirm your address.

#### 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 should all 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 that 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 the pension payments to avoid any overpayment, and also put in place any new pensions, such as pensions for a husband, wife or partner who is entitled to one.

#### **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 could be 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 <a href="www.nypf.org.uk">www.nypf.org.uk</a> under 'Forms/Guides > Forms'.

A lump sum death grant may also be payable if you die within 10 years of retiring. To enable us to make payment to the people you want to receive this benefit, it's important that you keep your death grant nominations up to date. The easiest way to do this is via My Pension Online. If there are no nominations in place when you die we have to carry out an investigation into your circumstances and decide who should receive the money. This may not be the person or people you wanted to receive it. The payment may also be subject to inheritance tax if there is no nomination.

Further information can be found on the NYPF website at <a href="www.nypf.org.uk">www.nypf.org.uk</a> under 'Forms/ Guides > Guides > Brief Guide to the LGPS'



#### **My Pension Online**

All pensioner payslips and P60s are available to view and download on our member website, My Pension Online. It gives you the freedom to access the information we hold about you and make changes to your details at a time that best suits you.

You can do all this online:

- Update your address and contact details (don't forget to tell us if you move so that we can keep in touch and continue paying your pension)
- Contact us out of hours using our 'Contact Us' service
- Nominate a beneficiary to receive your lump sum death grant (if applicable) after you die
- View your correspondence with us
- Change your bank details online
- View and print your P60s and payslips

#### Already have a My Pension Online account?

If you have already been using My Pension Online you do not need to re-register, you can continue to log in with your existing details. The information you will now see is for pensioners of the NYPF.

#### **New users**

Join over 50,000 NYPF members already using My Pension Online, which can be accessed via the main NYPF website <a href="www.nypf.org.uk">www.nypf.org.uk</a> or directly at <a href="https://mypension.northyorks.gov.uk">https://mypension.northyorks.gov.uk</a>

A short video showing you how to complete the registration process is available on our website at <a href="https://www.nypf.org.uk">www.nypf.org.uk</a> My Pension Online > Guides and <a href="https://www.nypf.org.uk">Videos</a>. There is also a guide called 'How to access My Pension Online- Guide' on the same page



#### **Getting Started on My Pension Online**

Follow our simple two-step login process to access your NYPF information online.

#### Step 1

Go to: <a href="https://mypension.northyorks.gov.uk/">https://mypension.northyorks.gov.uk/</a> and click on the 'Create an Account' link from the home page.

Click on the link 'Request an activation key here' and enter your surname, National Insurance number and date of birth, you will also need to enter a valid email address. A personal email address is the most secure.

## If the email address you provide is held on your pension record

An email will be sent to you containing a link to complete the registration process, the link is active for **five days**. If you do not complete your registration within this time the link will expire and you will need to request another activation key.

## If the email address you provide is not held on your pension record

The NYPF will check the personal details that you provide on the 'Sign Up' screen and will email you a link to complete the registration process. The link is active for **30 days** from the date of issue. If the details you provide do not match those held on our records, you will be asked to provide further information.

#### Step 2

When you receive your activation key you can complete your registration at www.nypf.org.uk – My Pension Online.

Click on the link in the activation email and you will be asked to create a username and password. You will also be asked to select and answer two security questions and these will be used as additional checks each time you log in.

Remember to create a username and password that are easy for you to remember.



**Remember, never** disclose any passwords, sensitive information or security answers to anyone. Don't save your password in your web browser either as this may enable someone else to access your online information. For further guidance on staying safe online visit: www.getsafeonline.org



#### **Viewing Payslips and P60s**

You can view payslip information from 'Your Dashboard - Payroll - Payslip'
Select the relevant pay period from the list on the left of the screen to access the detail of each payment made.

You can view P60 information from 'Your Dashboard - Payroll - P60 End of Year Certificate' Select the year from the drop down box to access each P60.

Sometimes, if you have more than one pensioner record, you will need to navigate to the main record on My Pension Online in order to find your payslips and P60s. To do this when you first log in you might see this:



Click on the down arrow and it lists all your other pension records. You will need to click each one to find the 'main' record:

Status     Job Title     Pay Reference     Scheme Name       Pensioner     200     North Yorkshire Pension Fund       Pensioner     HLTA Special School     200     North Yorkshire Pension Fund       Pensioner     200     North Yorkshire Pension Fund     Selection	nsioner 🔽
Pensioner HLTA Special School 200 North Yorkshire Pension Fund Selection	
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Click on the 'Select' button and it will open the dashboard for that record. The main record will have the 'Payroll' section on the dashboard.

If you need paper copies of either payslips or P60s, please request these from the payroll team by emailing payroll@northyorks.gov.uk.

#### Don't want to go online?

Whilst we are striving for continual improvement and modernisation, to reduce our carbon footprint and control costs for the NYPF, we appreciate that not everyone likes to access their information online.

If you would like to receive paper payslips please write to us (an email is fine) to advise that you want to opt out of electronic communications. You will receive a paper payslip if the value of your pension changes by more than £10 from one month to the next.

#### Get what's yours

Lots of people don't realise there is financial help available for all sorts of situations and not everyone is claiming what they are entitled to. With the change to the winter fuel allowance, it's important that you don't miss out on any extra money you could be claiming.

The Government has gathered all this information in one place, take a look to see what support is available at https://www.gov.uk/cost-of-living.



## Setting up a Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA) can give you peace of mind

As we get older, we're more likely to have a lengthy hospital stay or to develop a condition that reduces mental capacity. If this happens, it can be useful to have someone you trust to help make decisions for you. Setting up a lasting power of attorney (LPA) is a common way to do this. Millions of people in the UK have an LPA in place just in case they need it. It's important to set it up in advance rather than wait until it's too late.

#### What is a lasting power of attorney (LPA)?

An LPA is a legal document that sets out who you want to make decisions on your behalf if you're no longer able to make them for yourself.

#### Why is an LPA important?

Without an LPA, it becomes very difficult for your loved ones to manage your affairs, like your pension, bank account or health. This can result in lengthy and costly delays. It could, for instance, mean we have trouble paying you your pension. Not having an LPA in place could even mean a court ends up deciding who can act on your behalf. An LPA means that you can choose this for yourself.

#### What does an LPA cover?

There are two kinds – one for health and welfare, the other for property and financial affairs. Setting up both gives you the best protection for the future.

#### Getting help setting up your LPA

The Scheme can't help you set up an LPA, however, there are organisations that can. Some people choose to use a paid-for service to help them, some use a solicitor or you can do it yourself online.

Age UK has some useful information about what's involved in setting up your LPA. Go to ageuk.org.uk or phone 0800 055 6112.

#### Protect yourself from frauds and scams

There are many ways to keep yourself safe from frauds and scams if you know what to look out for.

Watch out for:

- post that comes to your house for a name you don't know
- unusual activity in your bank account
- anyone who asks for your PIN or password

If you think you are the victim of fraud or a scam, you can report it and get advice by calling Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040.

#### **Sharing Information**

As we don't always get told when one of our pensioners has died, we use a third party company who checks for potential deaths against the General Register Office's records.

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

The Cabinet Office requires 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.

#### Make sure you've got a will

It's just as important to make a will while you're physically and mentally able to. It's the only way to make sure your money, property, possessions and investments go to the people and causes you care about. Find out more about making a will by going to ageuk.org.uk or phoning 0800 055 6112.

Twice a year there's a free wills service available in the UK. Free Wills Month comes in March and October. For more information visit freewillsmonth.org.uk.



#### **Scheme Funding**

As of 31 March 2024, the NYPF's investments were valued at £4.8 billion. The funding position, i.e. the ratio of investments compared to the estimated cost of pension benefits (future cost of pensions in payment now and those yet to come into payment) was 118%. This means that the NYPF has more than enough money to cover the cost of pensions.

The chart below shows the funding position since the Global Financial Crisis in 2007/08, which has improved dramatically. It also shows periods of decline, and each time the Fund has recovered well.



The Fund has a wide range of investments which perform differently in different circumstances. This protects the overall value of the Fund when financial market conditions are more challenging and economies are going through difficult times, as they are now. It's good to know that the Fund is in pretty good shape.

You can read the quarterly investment reports on the Fund's website at <a href="www.nypf.org.uk">www.nypf.org.uk</a>. Go to "About the Fund" and then "Investment Reports".

#### **Pensioners' Representative**

Retired Members views and issues are represented by the Pensioner Representative on the Pension Board. The representative has the opportunity to contribute to the way the NYPF is run and to ensure that pensioners' views are considered. After Gordon Gresty's resignation, Simon Purcell was appointed as the new pensioner representative at the Pension Board on 18 April 2024.

If you wish to contact the pensioner representative, please email pensions@northyorks.gov.uk and put 'Pensioner Representative' in the subject line.



### Contact us...

Website: www.nypf.org.uk

Telephone: **01609 536335** – lines are open every weekday 10am to 4pm excluding Wednesdays when lines are closed all day.

Email: <a href="mailto:pensions@northyorks.gov.uk">pensions@northyorks.gov.uk</a> and remember to quote your name, date of birth and National Insurance number.

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

Pension payments are made by Payroll Services.

Telephone: **01609 532190** – lines are open every day 8.30am to 5pm excluding Wednesdays when they are open from 8.30am – 1pm

Email: payroll@northyorks.gov.uk and remember to quote your name, date of birth and National Insurance number

Post: North Yorkshire County Council, Payroll Services, County Hall, Northallerton, North Yorkshire, DL7 8AD.

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.