



Peelers

Police pensioners' newsletter



your
pension
service

Welcome to the 2017 edition of Peelers Post Newsletter

2016 was rather a busy year in the world of Police Pensions. We processed 162 retirements and paid over £63 million in pensions to pensioners throughout the world.

Yet again this year, more of you signed up to **My Pension Online** allowing you to securely access your pension record and to view your payslips and P60, amend your address and bank details on line.

If you are not yet signed up to this service please see the 'My Pension Online' article which gives step by step guidance on this.

As always, we welcome your feedback on any of the services we provide as well as what you would like to see in any future editions of Peelers Post. Please use the details on the back page to leave us your views.

I do hope you enjoy this issue of Peelers Post.

Many Thanks



Diane Lister
Head of Your Pension Service



**Lancashire
Constabulary**
police and communities together





Important information about your P60

What is a P60?

A P60 is a statement which is issued to taxpayers each year. The P60 contains information about how much you have earned and how much tax you have paid (if applicable). You will often know this information already from viewing your monthly pay slips.

When do I need a P60?

You may never need a paper version of your P60 as often just having the figures will suffice. You may need information from your P60 in the following scenarios:

- Filling in a self-assessment tax return
- Applying for a mortgage or tax credits
- Claiming a tax refund
- Queries with HMRC

If you are registered for **My Pension Online** then you can view your P60 at any time, meaning that there is no need for printing and storing things manually. Your online account acts as a virtual filing cabinet for your P60s and pay slips. You will find the P60 under the Member Documents option once you are logged in.

For details on how to register online please see the article **My Pension Online**.

2017 Pension Pay Dates

April 2017	–	Fri 31 March	October 2017	–	Wed 29 Sept
May 2017	–	Fri 28 April	November 2017	–	Wed 1 Nov
June 2017	–	Thu 1 June	December 2017	–	Fri 1 Dec
July 2017	–	Fri 30 June	January 2018	–	Fri 29 Dec
August 2017	–	Tue 1 Aug	February 2018	–	Thu 1 Feb
September 2017	–	Fri 1 Sep	March 2018	–	Thu 1 March

Are your details up to date and correct?

Keep your details up to date from the comfort of your armchair with just a few clicks!

Has anything significant changed since you last updated your details?

If you haven't already done so then please register for an activation key so that you can begin to enjoy the benefits of the **My Pension Online** system. You will find instructions on how to register in the article My Pension Online. This is now the main method of communication between us and you, therefore we do not want you to miss important information.

Once you are a member you can:

- Change your address
- Change your email address
- View and print your P60
- View your pay history
- Change the bank account into which pension payments are made from Your Pension Service (account must be in your name)
- View your nominated beneficiaries (where applicable)
- View factsheets and access forms
- Contact Your Pension Service

If you do not wish to use My Pension Online then you can still notify us of changes in writing, but please be aware that this can take longer.

My Pension Online

As highlighted above we now have a service where you can view all of your Pension details online. If you would like to register for the service please follow the instructions below:

1. Go to the www.yourpensionservice.org.uk website
2. Click "**My Pension Login**" at the top left hand corner of the page
3. Select "**Lancashire Members Login**"
4. Click "**Sign Up**" to request an activation key for your online account
5. Complete the 4 fields on the registration form and then click "**Submit**"

An Activation key will be sent to your home address, once received you should revisit the website and follow instructions 1-4 above, but this time select "**Complete Your Registration**" and complete the relevant fields to finalise your account.

Once you are a fully registered Member then please check that your details are up to date. If you believe that your address is incorrect then we will not be able to get the activation key to you, so please contact the helpdesk (*details on final page*).

You will now have full access to all the features above. If you have any problems with your registration please contact the helpdesk (*details on final page*).

Benefits and Data Matching



Benefits

Please be aware that if you are claiming any type of benefit, for example housing benefit, you need to declare that you are drawing a pension. This is because its value may be taken into account. Failure to do so may be considered a form of fraud and may lead to an overpayment of benefits, so please notify your benefits office of any changes as soon as possible.

Please note that key payroll data and personal identifiers such as contact details may be provided to bodies responsible for auditing and administering public funds for the purposes of preventing and detecting fraud. For more details go to www.yourpensionsservice.org.uk.

Death Notification

When a member of the scheme passes away it is vitally important that we are made aware as soon as possible. This avoids overpaying pension benefits.

To prevent this from happening you can inform the person who will be managing your affairs to notify ourselves at the earliest opportunity. This can be done by phone on 0300 123 6717.

Not only will this cease your pension before overpayments are made, but it will enable us to put in place any dependants pensions which may arise, eg spouses pension.

Pensioners Abroad

If you are a pensioner residing abroad, each year we also require you to fill in a form for data matching for the same purposes as above. As you are no longer resident in the UK, if you were to pass away we would not be automatically informed, so the form is a method of confirming you are still alive each year.

Data Protection Act

All data held is for the purpose of administering the pension scheme and paying pension benefits. The administrators have a legal obligation and a legitimate interest under the Data Protection Act 1998 in processing data as a result of your membership of the scheme. This may include passing such data to the actuary, administrators, auditors, insurers, lawyers and such other third parties as may be necessary for the operation of the scheme.

The Police Pensions Authority for Lancashire, is the data controller under the Data Protection Act with the Local Pensions Partnership processing data on its behalf.

Pensions increases

The annual inflationary increase to pensions*, payable from 10 April 2017, has been set at 1% based on the consumer price index (CPI) over the 12 months to the previous September.

**Increases are applied providing you are at least age 55 or you retired on ill health. If you retired mid year then you will receive a pro rata increase.*

State Pension and increases

Pension increase when you attain State Pension Age

Both your State Retirement Pension and your Police Pension Scheme are increased in line with inflation each April in accordance with Pensions increase (Review Orders).

When you became a member of the Police Pension Scheme you were contracted out of the State 2nd Pension (S2P). If you had pensionable service between 6 April 1978 and 5 April 1997 your pension will include an amount known as the "Guaranteed Minimum Pension" (GMP). The GMP is the minimum pension amount required to be paid in respect of your contracted out service in the Police Pension Scheme since 6 April 1978. The GMP becomes important when you reach state pension age as the way in which the pensions increases are applied to your pension then changes.

From the April following reaching state pension age the pension increase is paid either with your Police Pension or with your State pension:

- 1) Increases on your GMP built up to 5 April 1988 - paid by the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP), together with your State Pension;
- 2) Increases up to the first 3% on your GMP built up after 6 April 1988 paid by Police Pension Scheme;
- 3) Increases in excess of 3% on your GMP built up after 6 April 1988 as above (1) paid by DWP.

This means that the amount of pension, including GMP, is fully increased, but you will receive the GMP increases from two places, your Police Pension and DWP.

Hopefully the example below will explain this a little more clearly:

J Smith's GMP is applied at State Pension Age so the pension is broken down into the following sections:

a) Basic Pension	= £500.00 per month
b) GMP up to 5 April 1988	= £200.00 per month
c) GMP from 6 April 1988	= £100.00 per month
Total pension in payment	= £800.00 per month

An example of total pension increase payable from April is 2.7%, so increases are applied to the above pension:

a) Basic Pension plus the full increase of 2.7%	= £513.50 per month
b) GMP up to 5 April 1988 with no increase (as 1 above)	= £200.00 per month
c) GMP from 6 April 1988 plus increase limited to 3% (as 2 above)	= £102.70 per month
Total pension in payment	= £816.20 per month

Full increases on (b) and any additional % on (c) will be paid by DWP in your state pension.

For members who attain their State Pension age between 6 April 2016 and 5 December 2018, the scheme will pay the full increase due on the GMP element with their Police Pension Scheme. In November 2016, the government launched a consultation in respect of members who attain their State Pension age on or after 6 December 2018. We are currently waiting for the government to respond to the consultation.

Tax Allowances

Each year everybody is allowed a certain amount of income, tax free. There are various tax allowances, but for most the only one which applies is a personal allowance.

Previously there have been differing personal allowances for people dependant on their date of birth, however the Finance Bill 2015 removed these factors and there is now a single personal allowance regardless of the date they were born.

For the year 2017/18 the allowance will be £11,500 and anything earned over this amount from all income, including pensions benefits will be taxed at a rate of 20%.

Breaking the code

Once the tax man works out your allowance a notification of coding will be issued to make sure the right amount of tax is taken from your income. As mentioned previously this will be 20% for the basic rate, but if your income exceeds £45,000 then you will move onto the higher rate.

Lifetime Allowance

New rules came into effect on 6 April 2006, regarding the maximum amount of pension benefits that can be paid. This maximum limit is known as the Lifetime Allowance. The lifetime allowance was reduced to £1 million from the 6 April 2016.

The amount of Lifetime Allowance that you have used in respect of your scheme membership can be seen on your P60 which can be accessed by signing up to the “My Pension Online” service. More information is also available on our website.

Further Allowances

There are a number of other allowances that may apply, such as blind person’s allowance or married couple allowance. These don’t apply to all so if you feel they may be applicable to yourself please view the tax office website or contact them directly.

Contact details
HM Revenue and Customs
Tel: **0300 200 3300**
Web: **www.hmrc.gov.uk**

Please have your national insurance number to hand.

Do I have to do anything with my notice of coding?

No, it’s just the taxman notifying you of the change and we will receive a notice too.

Why do I pay tax on my pension?

The taxman looks at all types of income, pensions, wages, and so on. If you exceed your allowance then you pay tax!

I think my code is wrong, what should I do?

Please don’t call us, we are not allowed to adjust your tax code. You need to contact HMRC directly as only they can change it.



Perks of the job

Employment

During your service with the police force you have built up a valuable set of skills. These skills are transferable and may perfectly match alternative career options. If you would like to consider another career path or are simply looking for part time employment to pass the time please visit www.policeoracle.com/jobs

Benefits

Also, did you know as an ex member of the force you have access to a wide range of exclusive benefits. These vary from very competitive mortgage rates to discounted shopping cards. For more information and to start saving visit www.policebenefits.co.uk

Members of the 2006 & 2015 Schemes, are you single and living with your partner?

If so, the Police Pension Scheme includes survivor pensions for co-habiting partners.

To be able to nominate your partner for a survivor pension in the event of your death, **all of the following conditions must have applied to both you and your nominated co-habiting partner for a continuous period of at least 2 years on the date you both sign the nomination form.**

- Both you and your nominated co-habiting partner are, and have been, free to marry each other or enter into a civil partnership with each other, and
- You and your nominated co-habiting partner have been living together as if you were husband and wife, or civil partners, and
- Neither you or your nominated co-habiting partner have been living with someone else as if you/they were husband and wife or civil partners, and
- Either your nominated co-habiting partner is financially dependent on you or you are financially interdependent on each other.

If you qualify, please complete a nomination form.
This can be found at www.yourpensionservice.org.uk

Our Contact Details

Pensions Helpdesk

 Tel: 0300 123 6717

 E-mail: askpensions@localpensionspartnership.org.uk

 Web: www.yourpensionservice.org.uk

Useful Contacts

Lancashire Constabulary Pensioners Association
Secretary: David Hilton, 17 Waterside Road,
Summerseat, Bury BL9 5QL.

 Tel: 01706 825547

 E-mail: davidhilton@conway5658.plus.com

NARPO –
National Association of Retired Police Officers

Andy Edwards

 Tel: 07895 050 328

 E-mail: andyedwards@narpolancashire.org.uk

 Web: www.narpolancashire.org.uk

North West Police Benevolent Fund

 Web: www.nwpgbf.org

Feedback

As always, we welcome your feedback on any of the services we deliver as well as what you would like to see in future editions of Peelers Post. Why not take part in our survey by completing the [Your Pension Service Survey](#)