



Welcome to your Annual Benefit Statement!

Your [Annual Benefit Statement \(ABS\)](#) is an estimated value of your pension benefits on 31 March 2023. This guide will help you read your ABS, check we have the correct information about you, and answer your Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). We receive a high number of queries at this time of year. Please read this guide and FAQs first before contacting us.

Before you read your ABS, remember that....

- All information we hold about you is provided to us by your employer. If you think anything is incorrect, please contact them in the first instance. You have the right to appeal if you think something is wrong, but please read this guide thoroughly first.
- Your ABS is based on your pension details as of 31 March 2023. If you've had changes since then, they won't be reflected on the statement.
- To be entitled to a pension, you need to have paid into the scheme for at least two years.
- If you have a 'scheme pays' deduction or a 'pension sharing order', this will not have been deducted from the amounts shown on your statement.
- Lots more information about your pension is available on our website: lgps.buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Section One – Personal Details

This section shows the personal information we hold about you and the pay information used to calculate your pension benefits. Please contact your employer if any of these details are incorrect.

Partnership status: This will be 'M' for 'Marriage' if you've not told us about your relationship status. This is just a default setting and doesn't affect your pension benefits in any way. You don't have to tell us about your partnership status, but you can if you like using ['my pension online'](#).

Payroll number: This will match the one on your payslip. It will help you identify which pension the statement relates to if you have more than one LGPS employment.

Date joined scheme: This is the date your pension account was set up.

Section of the scheme: This will say 'MAIN' unless you were in the [50/50 section](#) on 31 March 2023.

CARE pensionable pay: This is the total pensionable pay earned between 1 April 2022 - 31 March 2023.

Final salary pensionable pay: This figure is used to calculate [pension benefits built up before 1 April 2014](#). If you joined after this date, this figure will not be used to calculate your pension.

Section Two – Summary of Total Pension Benefits at 31 March 2023

This section shows the estimated value of your pension benefits on 31 March 2023.

Annual pension: This is how much your annual pension is worth on 31 March 2023. ([Section Three](#) and [Section Four](#) shows you how this figure has been calculated).

Automatic lump sum: If you were in the scheme before 1 April 2008, you will have an [automatic lump sum](#) as part of your benefits. If you joined after this date, this amount will be £0.

Death in service lump sum: This is the estimated amount your nominated person or charitable trust could receive if you die while paying in. It is 3 x CARE Pensionable Pay shown in [section one](#).

If you have a deferred LGPS pension account, or a pension in payment the higher death grant will be paid, not both. You can quickly and easily make or change a nomination using ['my pension online'](#). More information about death benefits can be found on [our website](#).

Annual survivor's pension: The estimated annual amount your eligible spouse, civil partner or cohabiting partner would receive if you died. More information about survivor pensions can be found on our [website](#).

Lifetime allowance: The total value of your pension pot at 31 March 2023 also known as the 'capital value'.

Percentage of LTA used (this employment): Percentage of the [lifetime allowance](#) this pension uses up.

Your death grant nomination details: The person(s)/charitable trust(s) nominated for the death grant.

Section Three – CARE (Career Average Revalued Earnings) Pension Benefits at 31 March 2023

Pension benefits before and after 1 April 2014 are calculated differently. This is because the scheme changed from a final salary scheme to a CARE scheme. [Section three](#) shows the value of your pension benefits [built up after 1 April 2014](#). The values in [section three](#) and [section four](#) are added together to get the 'annual pension' shown in [section two](#). They are not additional amounts. The date in the header shows your [Normal Pension Age](#), the date your pension is payable from without reductions.

Row 1: Pensionable pay for the year to 31 March 2023 in main section: This is usually the same as your CARE pay shown in section one unless you were in the 50/50 section at any point last year.

Pensionable pay for the year to 31 March 2023 in 50/50 section: This is how much of the 'CARE pensionable pay' shown in [section one](#) you built up in the 50/50 section. If you have not been in the 50/50 section this will be £0.

Row 2: Amount of pension built up in the year to 31 March 2023:

Main section: The total pension you have built up between 1 April 2022 - 31 March 2023. It is calculated as $1/49 \times$ pensionable pay in the main section shown in Row 1.

50/50 section: The total pension you have built up between 1 April 2022 - 31 March 2023 in the 50/50 section. It is calculated as $1/98 \times$ pensionable pay in the 50/50 section shown in Row 1. If you were not in the 50/50 during this period, it will be £0.

Additional pension bought: The total of any [Additional Pension Contributions \(APCs\)](#) built up between 1 April 2022 - 31 March 2023. If you have not purchased Additional Pension, it will be £0.

Transfers in: The total of any transfers in (earned CARE pension) between 1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023. This will be £0 if you did not transfer in or transferred in membership or service.

Total: The amount of pension added to your account for the year. It is the total of all figures shown in row 2.

Row 3: Total CARE pension in the year to 31 March 2023:

Previous year closing balance: Total pension built up between 1 April 2014 and 31 March 2022.

Adjustment for the cost of living: The total cost of living percentage applied to your annual pension.

In year build-up - This is the same as the total in row 2.

Total CARE pension at 31 March 2023: This is the total of the previous three figures. If you joined after 1 April 2014, this amount will be the same as the 'annual pension' shown in [section two](#).

If you have final salary benefits because you joined before 1 April 2014 or you transferred in service, this figure is added to the annual pension total in [section four](#) to get the 'annual pension' in [section two](#).

Section Four – Final Salary Pension Benefits at 31 March 2023

This section shows the estimated value of [final salary pension benefit](#) included in your pension. You will only have final salary benefits if you began paying in before 1 April 2014 or you transferred in final salary pension. The value of final salary benefits are only worked out when you leave the scheme or retire. Your estimated final salary benefits in this section are worked out using the 'final salary pensionable pay' shown in [section one](#).

Final salary pay: This is the same as the 'final salary pensionable pay' shown in [section one](#).

Annual pension total: This is the estimated value of your final salary pension benefits on 31 March 2023. It is made up of the two amounts directly below (60th and 80th annual pensions). It is added to the total annual pension in [section three](#) to form the 'annual pension' shown in [section two](#).

Including 60ths: The estimated value of pension built up between 1 April 2008 - 31 March 2014. This is calculated as $1/60 \times$ total membership \times final salary pay.

+ 80ths: The estimated value of pension built up before 1 April 2008. This is calculated as $1/80 \times$ total membership \times final salary pay. (See [section six](#) for your total membership).

Automatic lump sum: A tax free lump sum associated with pension built up before 1 April 2008. This will be £0 if you joined after this date.

Section Five – Projections if you remain contributing to the Scheme until your NPA

This is an estimate of the pension benefits you might receive if you continued to contribute to the scheme, and your pay remains the same, year on year until [Normal Pension Age \(NPA\)](#). Your NPA is shown in the header. It is the date your pension is payable from without reductions. This estimate is a rough guide only. It assumes nothing will change in your circumstances. It does not take account of any [cost-of-living adjustments](#) or any reductions that may be applied if you [take your pension early](#). Also, the final salary pay used to calculate any final salary pension benefits may be higher or lower depending on your final salary on the date of leaving. If you're thinking of retiring within a year, please [contact us](#) for an estimate.

Total pension at NPA: An estimate of the annual pension payable at your NPA. It is the total of the two amounts shown below.

Including projected CARE Pension to NPA: The estimated value of pension built up after 2014

Including projected Final Salary to NPA: The estimated value of pension built up before this date

Automatic lump sum at NPA: This will be the same as your automatic lump sum shown in Section Two. The projected survivor's annual pension is shown below.

Section Six – Your Membership Details for Final Salary Benefits

This section shows the membership used to calculate final salary pension built up before 1 April 2014. If you don't have final salary benefits this section will be blank. The membership total is used to work out your final salary benefits in section four.

Annual Benefit Statement – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Why isn't my current pension value the same as the contributions I have paid in? As a defined benefit scheme, your LGPS pension is calculated based on your salary and how long you've paid in. Yours and your employer's contributions are used to fund the pension benefits promised to you at retirement. You should consider that the annual pension is not a one-off amount. It will be paid to you each year in retirement for the rest of your life. The average length of time a pension is in payment for is 20 years. The amount you get back is therefore likely to be far higher than the amount you've paid in contributions. For more information, see ['how your pension builds up'](#).

Where are my employer's contributions shown on the statement? Your employer contributions are not shown on the statement. As with your contributions, employer's contributions are used to fund the pension benefit package you will receive at retirement and are not used to calculate your pension.

Why isn't all my membership showing in [section six](#)? Only membership before 1 April 2014 is shown in this section. Membership is not usually used to calculate pension after 1 April 2014. If you think the membership before 1 April 2014 is incorrect, you should contact your employer. Remember that for part-time workers, membership will be less than full time workers. If you work term time only, or seasonally, this will be recorded as part-time.

Is my transfer shown on the statement? If you've transferred in a previous membership it will be shown in [section six](#). If your transfer in was not membership, but for a purchase of earned CARE pension between 1 April 2022 - 31 March 2023, it will be shown in [section three](#) 'transfers in'. If you transferred in earned CARE pension in a previous scheme year, it will not feature as a separate amount on your ABS. It is included in the 'previous year closing balance' in [section three](#). Transfers processed after 31 March 2023, won't be shown on your statement.

I pay AVCs are they included in the ABS? No. If you pay [AVCs](#) you will receive a separate annual statement from your chosen in-house AVC provider.

Will a drop in pay affect the value of my pension? It depends on the reason your pay has reduced as well as whether or not you have final salary benefits built up in the scheme. For a more detailed explanation, please see our [how a drop in pay affects your pension](#).

I have paid APCs are they included in the ABS? Yes. [APCs](#) paid between 1 April 2022 - 31 March 2023, are shown in 'additional pension bought' ([section three](#)). If you paid an APC in previous years, the additional pension will be included in the 'balance carried forward' shown in Section Three.

I purchased added years, are they shown on the ABS? Yes. Any added years purchased up until 31 March 2023 are included in the membership used to calculate your benefits in [section four](#).

I have more than one employment, are all my pensions shown on this statement? No. You will receive an ABS for each. You can use the payroll number shown in section one to determine which pension the statement is for.

I have an LGPS pension(s) with a previous local authority, will this automatically transfer over? In most cases your previous LGPS pension(s) will not automatically transfer over without us writing to you first. If we have not been told about your previous membership, you can complete a Membership Form to let us know so we can investigate your options. See [combining LGPS accounts](#) for more information.

Can I transfer other pensions into my LGPS pension? You can investigate a transfer in if you are within 12 months of joining the LGPS, otherwise you will require your employer's permission. Please see [transfer in](#) for more information.

I'm past my NPA, are late retirement increases shown on my ABS? [Late retirement increases](#) are not included in the current value shown on the statement. If you are close to retiring, please [contact us](#) and we can provide you with an estimate which includes any potential late retirement increases.

Can I contribute less or more to the scheme? Yes. You can pay towards an APC or an AVC fund to [increase your pension benefits](#). You also have the option of paying less by opting into the [50/50 section](#) and paying half the contributions in return for half of the benefits.

When can I take my pension? You can take your pension at any age between 55 and 75. However, if you [take your pension early](#) (before your NPA), there will be reductions applied.

Can I take/increase my lump sum when I retire? Yes, you will have the option to take or increase your lump sum to 25% of your total pension pot at retirement. For more information see, [payment options for your pension](#).

Contact

More information about your LGPS pension can be found on our website: lgps.buckinghamshire.gov.uk
If you have any queries, contact: pensions@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Pensions and Investments Team, Buckinghamshire Council, Walton Street Offices, Walton Street, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, HP20 1UD Website: www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/pensions

Phoneline: 01296 383755 (Monday-Thursday 9am-5.30pm and Friday 9am-5pm)

Manage your pension online: ms.buckinghamshire.gov.uk

We welcome your feedback to improve our service. Email your comments and suggestions to our dedicated inbox: pension.feedback@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

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