

Transferring In Your Pension

Within the first 12 months of joining the West Midlands Pension Fund, you have the automatic right to investigate transferring in any previous pension benefits you may have.

You may still be able to investigate transferring in after 12 months, but this is at your employer's discretion.



This guide provides a general overview of the options available and procedures to follow when joining the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) where previous pension rights are held.

If you have previous pension rights in another LGPS fund, you must inform the West Midlands Pension Fund (WMPF) of where those pension rights are held within the first 12 months of joining.

What you need to do

1

Advise WMPF which LGPS fund(s) your previous pension rights are held with

2

WMPF will contact your previous fund(s) to obtain details of your pension benefits

3

WMPF will provide written information of what your previous benefits will buy if you were to transfer into this Fund

5

WMPF will request payment if you wish to transfer benefits and once payment is received, a new membership certificate will be issued confirming the transfer is complete

4

If you wish to keep your pension benefits separate you **must** inform WMPF – see details below

Rejoining the LGPS with deferred benefits

If you rejoin the LGPS after having previously built up LGPS pension rights (i.e. you previously left an LGPS employment with deferred benefits), then these deferred benefits can be joined with your new active pension account in the scheme.

You have **12 months from rejoining** (or such longer period as your employer may allow) to elect to keep your deferred benefits separate from your new pension account, otherwise these deferred benefits are automatically joined with your new pension account (unless you deferred taking a refund of contributions).

If you opted out of membership of the scheme on or after 11 April 2015, you will not be permitted to join the two periods of membership together, you will have two separate sets of pension benefits in the scheme.

However, there are special rules if you were a member of the scheme on or before 31 March 2014. **The terms given are for general use and full options will be given regarding your own specific circumstances when you have declared previous LGPS pension rights to the West Midlands Pension Fund.**

If you were a member of the LGPS on both 31 March 2014 and 1 April 2014 and left the scheme (or opted-out of the scheme before 11 April 2015) with a –

Break of less than five years between memberships



Your deferred benefits will automatically be joined with your new pension account unless you elect within 12 months of rejoining to keep your deferred benefits separate. Benefits built up in the scheme after 31 March 2014 will be added to your CARE pension account and benefits built up before 1 April 14 will continue to provide final salary benefits*

Break of more than five years between memberships



Your deferred benefits will automatically be joined with your new pension account unless you elect within 12 months of re-joining to keep your deferred benefits separate. Benefits built up in the scheme after 31 March 2014 will be added to your CARE pension account. The membership you built up before 1 April 2014 will purchase an amount of pension and this will be added to your CARE pension account.

***Final salary benefits**

Your final pay when you leave the active employment is used to work out the benefits for your pre-1 April 2014 membership.



You were a member of the LGPS before 31 March 2014 and left an employment (or opted out) before this date

Break of less than five years between memberships



If you rejoined the LGPS after 31 March 2014, you can elect within 12 months of rejoining to be treated as a member of the scheme on 31 March 2014 and 1 April 2014. Therefore, your membership built up before 1 April 2014 will automatically be joined with your new pension account and will continue to be calculated as a final salary benefit.*

If you do not choose to be treated as a member of the scheme on 31 March 2014 and 1 April 2014, you can elect for the membership you built up before 1 April 2014 to purchase an amount of pension and this will be added to your CARE pension account. If you do not make such an election, you will retain separate deferred benefits

Break of more than five years between memberships



You rejoined the LGPS after 31 March 2014, you can elect for these deferred benefits to be transferred to your new pension account. Where you elect for that to happen, the membership you built up before 1 April 2014 will purchase an amount of pension and this will be added to your active pension account. If you do not make such an election you will retain separate deferred benefits.

*Final salary benefits

Your final pay when you leave the active employment is used to work out the benefits for your pre-1 April 2014 membership.



In any of the above situations, if you elect to keep your deferred benefits separate from your new active pension account, then the value of the deferred benefits will increase to keep up with the cost of living.

Rejoining the LGPS with a deferred refund

If you were a member of the LGPS on both 31 March 2014 and 1 April 2014 and you deferred taking a refund of contributions, this is normally where you have less than two years membership, then this deferred refund must be joined with your new active pension account if you did not have a break of more than five years in active membership of the LGPS. The pension from the former employment which you built up on or after 1 April 2014 will be added to your active pension account. The membership you built up before 1 April 2014 will continue to be calculated as a final salary benefit*. However, if you have had a break of more than five years, you will not be able to combine the pension in your deferred refund account with your new active pension account and must, instead, take a refund of contributions.

Transferring pension rights from a non-LGPS arrangement

If you opt to transfer pension rights from a non-LGPS arrangement then a sum of money called a transfer value is offered to buy an amount of extra pension which would be added to your pension account. If you transfer your previous pension rights into the LGPS your retirement benefits will be increased. The extra pension is added to your pension account in the scheme year that the transfer payment is received. Any request you make to investigate a transfer will not be binding until you

have been supplied with full details of the amount of extra pension the transfer payment would buy and subsequently confirm that you wish the transfer to go ahead. Transfer quotations provided by a former pension provider are generally guaranteed for three months. You will need to consider carefully whether to transfer or not, as a transfer may not always be advantageous.

Things to consider

You should compare the amount of extra pension the transfer payment would buy in the LGPS, when that pension is normally payable from (i.e. your normal pension age) and the other LGPS benefits (e.g. the ability to retire and take benefits earlier than normal pension age, death and survivor benefits, etc.) against the value of the package of benefits if left with your previous pension scheme provider.

Transferring your pension rights is not always an easy decision to make, and you may wish to seek the help of an independent financial adviser.

Transferring pension rights with another public service pension scheme**

Transfers from public sector schemes are treated differently if transferred in under Club transfer rules (Club transfer rules allow certain occupational pension schemes, mainly public service pension schemes, to calculate transfers on a special term). If you have previously been a member of another public service pension scheme and:

*Final salary benefits

Your final pay when you leave the active employment is used to work out the benefits for your pre-1 April 2014 membership

** Public service pension scheme – see ‘Some terms we use’ on page 7

- you have not had a break of more than five years between leaving another public service pension scheme (including the LGPS in Scotland or Northern Ireland) and joining the LGPS in England and Wales; and
- your election to transfer pension rights from that other public service pension scheme is made within 12 months of joining the LGPS in England and Wales,

Under the Club transfer rules if you opt to transfer pension rights from a public service pension scheme the amount of extra pension which is added to your pension account will be equal to the amount of pension you had built up in your pension account with your previous pension scheme (increased by that scheme's 'in-service' revaluation rate if there had been a break between leaving that scheme and joining the

LGPS and adjusted to take account of differences in the schemes).

The extra pension would be added to your pension account in the LGPS in the scheme year that the transfer payment is received. Also, under the Club transfer rules, where a transfer from another public service pension scheme includes a final salary element (membership built up in a final salary scheme which in most cases is membership up to 31 March 2015) that element would buy final salary scheme membership in the LGPS provided you have not had a continuous break in active membership of a public service pension scheme of more than five years.

The transfer value will give you broadly equivalent benefits in the LGPS, provided you apply for the transfer within 12 months of joining the LGPS.

What you need to do

1

Advise WMPF that you wish to investigate transferring in previous pension rights

2

WMPF will issue Form AMTVIN for you to complete and send to your previous pension provider for the details

3

Send the information you receive from your previous provider to WMPF. The Fund will calculate and write to you giving the value of benefits the transfer will buy in the LGPS

5

WMPF will request payment and will send confirmation when the transfer is complete

4

If you wish to proceed with the transfer complete the election form and any other discharge paperwork received from your previous scheme and return it to the WMPF

Within the first 12 months of joining the West Midlands Pension Fund, you have the automatic right to investigate transferring in any previous pension benefits you may have.

You may still be able to investigate transferring in after 12 months, but this is at your employer's discretion.

Some terms we use

Public service pension scheme

A public service pension scheme includes a pension scheme covering civil servants, the judiciary, the armed forces, any scheme in England, Wales or Scotland covering local government workers, or teachers, or health service workers, or fire and rescue workers or members of the police forces, or membership of a new public body pension scheme.



Club transfer rules

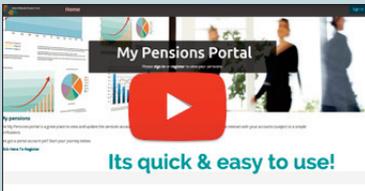
Club transfer rules allow certain occupational pension schemes, mainly public service pension schemes, to calculate transfers on a special term. Transfers into the LGPS, including final salary membership from other public sector club transfer schemes (usually membership up to 31 March 2015), or transfers out of the LGPS to other public sector club schemes (including final salary membership built up before 1 April 2014), provide benefits that are broadly equivalent across both schemes. Provided there is not a continuous break in active membership of a public service pension scheme of more than five years, any final salary membership transferred would purchase a period of membership and retain a final salary link. The Fund will provide you with further information on club transfers should this apply to you.



To find more information about your pension benefits and the Local Government Pension Scheme, please view our short video at <http://www.wmpfonline.com/members>



To understand your annual benefit statement, why not view our short video? <http://www.wmpfonline.com/abs>



For help and assistance to register for a pensions portal account, please visit <http://www.wmpfonline.com/guidancenotes>



West Midlands Pension Fund
PO Box 3948
Wolverhampton
WV1 1XP



Customer Services: 0300 111 1665



Email: www.wmpfonline.com/emailus



Web: www.wmpfonline.com



Pensions Portal: www.wmpfonline.com/pensionsportal

Lines open during the following times:

8:30am to 5.00pm Monday - Thursday

8:30am to 4.30pm Friday.

Calls may be monitored for training purposes.