

AVON PENSIONER newsletter



AVON PENSION FUND'S NEWSLETTER FOR OUR MEMBERS WHO ARE RECEIVING A PENSION

Update for Avon Pension Fund members - Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Dear Member,

In these unprecedented times I have taken this opportunity to write to you, to assure you that we are doing all that is possible to mitigate against the effects of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on the Avon Pension Fund.

As with most similar organisations, we have had to close our office and our staff are now homeworking. We have adapted our processes and the way that we engage with our scheme employers to maintain as normal a service as possible.

Our focus has and will continue to be on the payment of all pension benefits to our members and their dependants. We can reassure you that your pension will be paid on the usual day of the month, even if any necessary payslips, are delayed due to production and postal issues.

Over the past few months there have been falls in global stock market values due to the pandemic, but this will not affect your pension from the Avon Pension Fund. As with other Public Service Pension Schemes the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) is a defined benefit scheme which means your pension is guaranteed and has been calculated based on your salary and how long you paid in whilst you were an active member. Your pension is not linked to stock market performance, so it will be unaffected.

We have produced a set of Coronavirus FAQs in conjunction with the Local Government Association, which will hopefully answer any questions that you may have relating to your LGPS pension. This document can be accessed from the news section of our website at the following location:
<https://www.avonpensionfund.org.uk/coronavirus-covid-19-faqs-for-lgps-members>

If you need to get in touch with us, I would ask wherever possible to use email. If you have an enquiry, please email: avonpensionfund@bathnes.gov.uk

As we currently have very limited access to both our building and incoming post, we have introduced a secure service by which you can send and receive documents digitally. Full details on how to use the SecureShare portal software are available in the news section of our member website.

If you are not able to communicate digitally you can send documents to the Avon Pension Fund at the usual address, however, incoming post is currently retrieved on a limited basis, and we must therefore make you aware that this may change as the situation continues to develop.

You can still contact us by telephone if your enquiry is urgent, please call 01225 395100. Our telephone service is operating weekdays, between 10am and 3pm.

You can access your pension account using our secure self-service website my pension online. Where you can view your pension details including your monthly payslips. You can also update your expression of wish nominations and contact details.

If you have not already signed up for the service, please visit our member website:
www.avonpensionfund.org.uk/my-pension-online

We will keep updating our member website regularly as the situation changes.

We appreciate your understanding during this difficult time and hope that you and your loved ones remain safe.

Yours faithfully

Tony Bartlett
Head of Business Finance and Pensions
Avon Pension Fund
Bath & North East Somerset Council

Increase In pension payments for 2020

1.7%

There is a 1.7% rise in the pension that you get from the Avon Pension Fund from 6 April 2020.

Your local government annual pension is reviewed each April and the amount of Pensions Increase (PI) is based on an index specified by the government. PI is currently based on the change in the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) in the 12 month period up to the end of the previous September. The CPI was set at 1.7% for this period.

The Consumer Prices Index (CPI) measures changes in the price level of selected consumer goods and services purchased by households. The CPI is an estimate constructed using the prices of a sample of representative items whose prices are collected periodically.

Sign up for "my pension online"

View your pension details, including your monthly payslips, through 'my pension online'. Just go to www.avonpensionfund.org.uk and click on the "my pension online" logo.

my pension online



Pension Pay Dates 2020/21



If you are paid on:	9th of the month	22nd of the month
April	09.04.2020	22.04.2020
May	07.05.2020	22.05.2020
June	09.06.2020	22.06.2020
July	09.07.2020	22.07.2020
August	07.08.2020	21.08.2020
September	09.09.2020	22.09.2020
October	09.10.2020	22.10.2020
November	09.11.2020	20.11.2020
December	09.12.2020	22.12.2020
January	08.01.2021	22.01.2021
February	09.02.2021	22.02.2021
March	09.03.2021	22.03.2021
April	09.04.2021	22.04.2021

Tax Office Contact Details

HM Revenue & Customs
Pay As You Earn, PO Box 1970, Liverpool, L75 1WX
Tel: 0300 200 3300 Tax Ref: 070 EXA 100P

The State Pension will also increase by 3.9%

The Chancellor of the Exchequer confirmed in his Autumn Budget last November, that the state pension would rise by 3.9% in April 2020, in line with the government's 'triple lock'. The 'triple lock' guarantees that the increase payable from April will be the highest of three measures - CPI inflation, earnings or 2.5%.

Beware of pension scams during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak

Watch out for scams related to coronavirus (COVID-19). These scams take many forms and could be about insurance policies, pensions transfers, or high-return investment opportunities, including investments in crypto assets.

Scammers are sophisticated, opportunistic and will try many things. They're also very likely to target the vulnerable. Beware of investments that appear to be too good to be true.

To help protect yourself you should:

- reject offers that come out of the blue
- beware of adverts on social media channels and paid for/sponsored adverts online

- use the Financial Services Register and Warning List to check who you're dealing with.
- do not click links or open emails from senders you don't already know
- avoid being rushed or pressured into making a decision
- if a firm calls you unexpectedly, use the contact details on the Register to check that you're dealing with the genuine firm
- not give out personal details (bank details, address, existing insurance/pensions/investment details).

If you suspect a scam, call Action Fraud straight away on 0300 123 2040.