

Local Government Pensions Committee
Secretary, Jeff Houston

LGPC Bulletin 141 – February 2016

This month's Bulletin contains a number of general items of information.

Please contact [Con Hargrave](#) with any comments on the contents of this Bulletin or with suggestions for other items that might be included in future Bulletins. LGPC contacts can be found at the end of this Bulletin.

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LGPS England and Wales

Appointment of SAB chair

Cllr Roger Phillips has been appointed the first chair of the scheme advisory board for the LGPS in England and Wales after an appointment process undertaken by DCLG in late 2015.

Since 2013, Cllr Phillips has been an employer representative on the shadow scheme advisory board and, since 2012, has been chair of the Local Government Pensions Committee.

A press release containing further details is available on [the Board website](#).

Exit payment reforms

Exit payment cap

House of Commons committee stage for the Enterprise Bill concluded towards the end of February. During the deliberations, the Minister, Anna Soubry MP, confirmed that the earliest date the cap will be effective from will be 1st October 2016. However, the Minister also confirmed that the Government do not plan to provide for any transitional measures for exits agreed before the cap comes into force, but where the physical exit will take place after the implementation date.

The Government refused an amendment proposing that the LGPS be amended to mean that an individual aged 55 or over who leaves on the grounds of redundancy or business efficiency is not required to take their pension at the point of their redundancy if, under the cap, this would be subject to actuarial reductions. Instead, the Minister said that 'any further amendments to the local government scheme should be made after consultation with members in the normal manner.' We will be taking this issue up again at Report Stage.

In recent weeks, the LGPC secretariat have received a number of queries asking what organisations will be covered by the cap. The Government have used the [ONS public sector classification guide](#) as their starting point to define what bodies will be covered by the policy. There are some exceptions to this, more details of which are contained in paragraph 1.1 of the [original consultation paper](#).

Notably though, as higher education and further education bodies are no longer included in the definition of public sector, the exit payment cap will – in general – not apply to them. However, please note that there are a limited number of bodies listed on the ONS spreadsheet which call themselves 'Universities' or 'Colleges' which are still defined as public sector and so would be caught by the cap.

Please also note that it is up to the employing organisation to determine whether the cap does or does not apply to them. It is not an administering authority's responsibility to determine whether this is the case or not.

Exit payment recovery

As reported in [bulletin 139](#), exit payment recovery – i.e. where an individual has to pay back some or all of their total exit payment if they leave with a salary of £80,000 or more and return to the public sector within 12 months of their exit – is due to be effective from 1st April 2016.

In discussions with HM Treasury, it has been confirmed that the implementation date is forward looking – i.e. only exits taking place on or after 1st April will potentially be caught by the requirements. If a person leaves a public sector employment prior to 1st April 2016 and then rejoins after this date (but within 12 months of their original exit), they will not be covered by the exit payment recovery regulations.

Further exit payment reforms

During February, the Government [commenced a further consultation](#) on making reforms to public sector exit payments. Amongst the proposals included in the new consultation are the following:

- Setting the maximum for calculating exit payments at three weeks' pay per year of service.
- Capping the maximum number of months' salary that can be used when calculating redundancy payments to 15 months.
- Setting a maximum salary for the calculation of exit payments e.g. £80,000.
- Enabling the amount of lump sum compensation an individual is entitled to receive to be tapered as they get close to the normal pension age or target retirement age of the pension scheme to which they belong, or could belong, in that employment.
- Reducing or removing employer-funded pension top up payments, and / or increasing the minimum age at which an employee is able to receive an employer funded pension top up.

The consultation closes on 3rd May 2016.

Part time buy back claims

Confirmation has been received from DCLG that:

- where a person has still to lodge a claim to count previous part-time service in the LGPS under the Preston rulings, and
- furthermore, their employer is willing to accept that the individual has a reasonable claim,

the individual does not need to lodge an employment tribunal claim before their case can be considered.

The letter received from DCLG confirming this is attached as [appendix 1](#).

Issue of new actuarial factors for purchase of Additional Survivor Benefits

Under regulation 14A of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Benefits, Membership and Contributions) Regulations 2007, a member could elect, prior to 1st April 2014, to make additional contributions to the LGPS in respect of the whole or part of any period of membership occurring prior to 6th April 1988 to be credited with additional benefits in respect of a surviving nominated cohabiting partner (within the meaning of regulation 25 of the Benefits Regulations).

In respect of such additional survivor benefits (ASBs), DCLG have issued new actuarial guidance containing new factors that must be used for existing contracts for the period from 1st April 2016 onwards. The new rates for contributions from 1st April 2016 should reflect the rates in this note but based on the member's age and payment period for the original contract (rather than their age at 1st April 2016 and their remaining payment period).

The new factors are contained in an actuarial guidance document now available on www.lgpsregs.org – it is on the bottom half of the [DCLG statutory guidance](#) page in the section 'Actuarial guidance issued under earlier LGPS Regulations'. However, please note that the LGPS secretariat have requested a number of changes to the guidance, as listed below:

1.3: Amend "takes up" to "has taken up"

1.4: Amend "member may elect" to "member could elect, prior to 1st April 2014". Also, at the end of the paragraph add ", but no later than 31st March 2014."

1.7: After "Benefits Regulations" add a footnote to say "now regulations 35(5) and 35(6) of the LGPS Regulations 2013." Also, amend "not likely to obtain" to "unlikely to be capable of undertaking any" in order to mirror the wording that now applies under regulations 35(5) and 35(6) of the LGPS Regulations 2013 (as no-one can now be retired on ill health grounds under the Benefits Regs).

1.9: Delete the first, third and fourth sentences as they are now irrelevant (as no new ASBC contracts can be entered into).

2.1: Amend "choose" to "have chosen". Also delete "nominated" as, for death occurring after 31st March 2014, the cohabitee no longer has to have been nominated.

2.2: Amend "may be made" to "may have been made" and amend "chooses" to "chose".

2.3: Amend "chooses" to "chose" in both places it occurs.

2.4: Amend "regulations 20(2) or 20(3) of the Benefits Regulations" to "regulations 35(5) or 35(6) of the LGPS Regulations 2013" (as no-one can now be retired on ill health grounds under the Benefits Regs).

2.5: Amend "regulations 20(2) or 20(3) of the Benefits Regulations" to "regulations 35(5) or 35(6) of the LGPS Regulations 2013" (as no-one can now be retired on ill health grounds under the Benefits Regs). Also, delete "nominated" as, for death occurring after 31st March 2014, the cohabitee no longer has to have been nominated.

3.1: Delete the whole of 3.1 as no new ASBC contracts can now be entered into. Alternatively, if it is felt necessary to retain 3.1, after "normal retirement age" add "under the Benefits Regulations" and delete "(see Example 2)".

3.2: Delete the whole of 3.2 as no new ASBC contracts can now be entered into.

3.4: Delete the whole of 3.4 as no new ASBC contracts can now be entered into. Paragraph 1.10 deals with amendments to existing contracts.

4.1: Delete the first sentence.

5: Examples 1 and 2 in the former guidance are now irrelevant as no new contracts can be entered into. Therefore, only examples 3 and 4 from the old guidance are relevant. Please, therefore, drag Examples 3 and 4 from the old guidance into this new guidance and update those examples to reflect the new guidance factors.

GAD have indicated in general terms that they would be willing to make changes to the guidance to pick up the points noted above, but that these changes may not necessarily be achieved in the same way.

Investment Regulations consultation

The DCLG consultation on the introduction of new investment regulations for the LGPS in England and Wales closed on 19th February 2016. The LGA's response is available on the [Drafts and Consultations](#) page of www.lgpsregs.org.

LGPS Scotland

Updates to Timeline Regulations

Following the issuance of both [SSI2015/448](#) and [SSI2016/32](#) in recent months, the timeline versions of the [LGPS \(Scotland\) Regulations 2014](#) and the [LGPS \(Transitional Provisions and Savings\) Regulations 2014](#) have been updated in tracked and clean formats.

The necessary updates to the 'Old' timeline pages in respect of the amendments made to the pre-2014/ 2015 Regulations by the amending SSIs are still to be made and, when updated, this will be reported in a future bulletin.

LGPS 2015 ill health certificate

In Bulletin 139, we attached an updated version of the LGPS 2015 ill health certificate. After the issue of that bulletin, it came to light that a further update had to be made to reflect a change made by [SSI2016/32](#). The updated certificate was emailed to all Scottish administering authorities on 11th February 2016 and is also attached to this bulletin as [appendix 2](#).

New State Pension / Ending of Contracting out

HM Treasury statement on indexation of GMPs

On 1st March 2016, HM Treasury announced a decision on the interim solution regarding the indexation of GMPs – the HM Treasury statement is available [here](#).

The statement confirms that public service pension schemes will be responsible for paying full pensions increases on both the pre and post 88 GMP (for the life of that member and any subsequent dependents) for members who reach State Pension age between 6 April 2016 and 5 December 2018 inclusive.

The Government will take forward a public consultation on the indexation of GMPs for members who reach State Pension age after 5 December 2018.

Please note, we have previously communicated the interim solution period as running from 6 April 2016 to 5 November 2018, to align with the date that men and women's State Pension ages will become equalised. We have been informed that GAD have

recalculated the date at which this equalisation will occur and as a result the interim solution period now runs from 6 April 2016 to 5 December 2018.

HM Treasury letter

On 4th February, the LGPC secretariat circulated a letter on behalf of HM Treasury to all LGPS pension funds outlining their recommended approach to the contracted-out reconciliation exercise, including in respect of overpayments and tolerances. If your fund has decided not to follow any of the recommendations and you have not done so already, please contact [Jayne Wiberg](#) stating:

- the recommendation(s) which will not be followed
- what alternative approach is being taken, and
- the reasons for taking the alternative approach.

The letter was subsequently amended and re-circulated to funds on 10th February. The amended version was attached as an appendix to [Bulletin 140](#) (see below).

Bulletin 140

On 12th February, the LGPC secretariat issued [Bulletin 140](#), a special bulletin on the linked topics of the new state pension and the ending of contracting out. It included the below topics and will be of interest to administering authorities, and in sections, to employers:

- A background to the changes,
- A description of the cost implications for employees and employers,
- A summary of the new payroll codes to be used after the end of contracting out in April 2016,
- Employee and employer communications,
- In respect of scheme reconciliation:
 - A summary of what needs to be done,
 - The LGA view as to whether this is compulsory or not,
 - A list of the benefits of reconciliation, and
 - The recommended approach set out in the HM Treasury letter mentioned above,
- Links to the HMRC countdown bulletins,
- A description of the Contracted out Pension Equivalent figure (COPE),
- An overview of pensions increase on GMPs post-April 2016, and
- Links to the relevant legislation.

HMRC

Clarification on HMRC newsletter no. 75

An article was included in [Bulletin 139](#) drawing attention to the publication of [HMRC newsletter no. 75](#). In that article, we referred to section 2b, which spoke of changes to how HMRC will treat Defined Benefits Lump Sum Death Benefits (DBLSDB) on death of member before age 75 from April 2016 onwards.

In the article we said:

“Currently, where a member dies before age 75 and such a payment is not made within two years of the death...”

However, this should have said:

“Currently, where a member dies before age 75 and such a payment is not made within two years of the **date the administering authority receives notification of the death...**”

Pension Schemes newsletter no. 76

[HMRC pensions schemes newsletter no. 76](#) was published during February 2016. Of particular note, the newsletter provides further details of the interim processes for individuals looking to apply for Individual Protection 2016 or Fixed Protection 2016. These interim processes may be of relevance to individuals planning on taking benefits between 6 April 2016 and July 2016.

HMRC have produced pro forma letters for both protections to assist members with making their applications. The pro forma letters are attached as appendices to the newsletter.

Countdown Bulletin no. 14

HMRC have issued [countdown bulletin no. 14](#) in respect of the ending of contracting out.

If you have not yet made an expression of interest to use the scheme reconciliation service, the countdown bulletin contains instructions for you to do so. This must be done before 5th April 2016 at the very latest. In addition, the bulletin describes: -

- the new Scheme administrator GMP calculation service, for an event that occurs after 5 April 2016, and
- confirms the content of the letter to be sent to individuals in December 2018 (contracted out history and name of defined benefit scheme, although HMRC are working with DWP to decide what, if any, additional information should be included in the letter).

HMRC lifetime allowance service

On 10th February, an email was sent to funds on behalf of HMRC seeking scheme members to act as volunteers as HMRC develop their new online system for users to apply for LTA protections. Respondents were requested to respond by 29th February.

Subsequent to this, an email was sent to funds on 26th February stating:

“As you know, we contacted you earlier in the month to ask you to contact your members to help us with some user research into the new online service for applying for lifetime allowance protection.

We are also interested in your feedback as a pension scheme administrator and we'd be grateful if you could complete the short survey below. You can do this by clicking on the following link <http://goo.gl/forms/WLMD1q0DGo>. This will help us to understand your needs and help us to build the best possible service.

After you have completed this survey our User Researcher, Harry Brignull, may contact you as part of his further research with end users. If you're interested in participating in this further research over the next few months, simply opt-in to participate at the end of the questionnaire.

This is your opportunity to let HMRC know what your needs are as users of our new pension lifetime allowance online services.”

LTA/ AA Communications

At the communications working group meeting in February, it was agreed that member factsheets on the lifetime allowance and the annual allowance would be beneficial, particularly in light of the changes that have been and are soon to be made to both. Work is underway to develop these and they will be made available on www.lgpsregs.org as soon as they are finalised.

Work continues on the annual allowance administration guide and it is hoped that this will be issued during March.

Other News and Updates

Negative revaluation

In early February, it was confirmed that the Government intend to proceed with the issue of a negative revaluation order of -0.1% following September 2015 CPI of the same level. A [written ministerial statement](#) given by Greg Hands MP, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury confirmed this intention.

A number of questions have been raised on this matter in the weeks since this was confirmed.

When and how will the negative revaluation order be passed?

The Public Service Pensions Act 2013 requires that where there is a percentage decrease the Treasury Order must be expressly approved by both the House of Commons and the House of Lords for it to become law; this is called the affirmative procedure.

The draft Order [will be debated](#) in the House of Commons General Committee on 2nd March 2016.

Which LGPS members will this impact?

The negative revaluation would apply to:

- active pension accounts,
- any intervening periods between aggregated periods of membership where the break was less than 5 years,
- deferred, deferred pension and retirement pension accounts where the member ceased to be an active member between 1 April 2015 and 31 March 2016,
- partners' and childrens' pension accounts where an active member died in service between 1 April 2015 and 31 March 2016,
- partners' and childrens' pension accounts where an active member became a deferred member between 1 April 2015 and 31 March 2016 and died in the same year, and

- partners' and childrens' pension accounts where an active member became a pensioner member between 1 April 2015 and 31 March 2016 and died in the same year.

This is in accordance with:

- regulations 22(9) (aggregate account where break was less than 5 years), 23(2) (active members), 24(7) (deferred members), 25(6) (retirement from active members), 27(5) (flexible retirement members), 41(5) (partner's pension following death of an active member), 42(12) (child's pension following death of an active member), 44(5) (partner's pension where active member became deferred member and died in the same scheme year), 45(12) (child's pension where active member became deferred member and died in the same scheme year), 47(5) (partner's pension where active member became pensioner member and died in the same scheme year) and 48(12) (child's pension where active member became pensioner member and died in the same scheme year) of **the LGPS Regulations 2013**.

It should be noted that the LGPC has requested an amendment to regulation 26 to deal with cases where a member ceases to be an active member, becomes a deferred member and starts to draw pension all within the same Scheme year i.e. to add a new regulation 26(9) If the member ceased to be an active member, became a deferred member and a pensioner member all within the same Scheme year, the balance in the member's retirement pension account at the end of the Scheme year in which the retirement pension account was opened is adjusted at the beginning of the following Scheme year by the revaluation adjustment applicable to the Scheme year in which the retirement pension account was opened, in accordance with actuarial guidance issued by the Secretary of State. Similarly, the LGPC has requested an amendment to regulation 28 to deal with cases where a member ceases to be an active member, becomes a Tier 3 pensioner member and has the Tier 3 pension stopped all within the same Scheme year i.e. to add a new regulation 28(5) If the member ceased to be an active member, became a pensioner member in receipt of Tier 3 benefits and had those benefits discontinued under regulation 37(3) or (7)(c) all within the same Scheme year, the balance in the member's deferred pensioner member account at the end of the Scheme year in which the deferred pensioner member account was opened is adjusted at the beginning of the following Scheme year by the revaluation adjustment applicable to the Scheme year in which the deferred pensioner member account was opened, in accordance with actuarial guidance issued by the Secretary of State.

- regulations 22(7) (aggregate account where break was less than 5 years), 23(2) (active members), 24(7) (deferred members), 25(6) (retirement from active members), 27(5) (flexible retirement members), 39(5) (partner's pension following death of an active member), 40(12) (child's pension following death of an active member), 42(5) (partner's pension where active member became deferred member and died in the same scheme year), 43(12) (child's pension where active member became deferred member and died in the same scheme year), 45(5) (partner's pension where active member became pensioner member and died in the same scheme year) and 46(12) (child's pension where active member became pensioner member and died in the same scheme year) of **the LGPS (Scotland) Regulations 2014**.

It should be noted that the LGPC has requested an amendment to regulation 26 of the LGPS (Scotland) Regulations 2014 to deal with cases where a member ceases to be an active member, becomes a deferred member and starts to draw pension all within the same Scheme year i.e. to add a new regulation 26(8) If the member ceased to be an active member, became a deferred member and a pensioner member all within the same Scheme year, the balance in the member's retirement pension account at the end of the Scheme year in which the retirement pension account was opened is adjusted at the beginning of the following Scheme year by the revaluation adjustment applicable to the Scheme year in which the retirement pension account was opened, in accordance with actuarial guidance issued by the Scottish Ministers.

How should a negative revaluation order be applied to mid-year leavers?

For a mid-year leaver, in the case of positive revaluation, the Treasury Order revaluation would be an adjusted calculation in order to ensure there would be no double indexation (for example, if September 2015 CPI had been 1% and revaluation was not adjusted, the member could end up receiving a total increase to their pension account of a figure in excess of 1%).

However, as this would not be a problem in the case of negative revaluation (because in the event of a negative Treasury Order, PI would be 0.0% and so there would be no double application of -0.1%), what approach should be taken?

One view is that the -0.1% Treasury Order should be applied in full to all mid-year leavers regardless of when it was during the year they left. As PI will be 0.0%, proportioning the revaluation would mean that the full rate of the -0.1% revaluation of active benefit accrual would not apply to certain individuals, and this is not the intention of the legislation.

However, an alternative view is that, there is no legislative reason a negative Treasury Order should be treated differently from a positive Treasury Order, and the negative Treasury Order should therefore be apportioned.

We are seeking urgent clarification on this question from both DCLG and SPPA.

Wouldn't there be unauthorised payments if we reduced pensions in payment?

We are seeking urgent clarification of this matter – and consequential connected issues - from HM Treasury. The queries we have raised are attached as [appendix 3](#).

2016/17 employee contribution bandings

The LGPC secretariat continue to receive a number of questions concerning the employee contribution bands for 2016/17 for both LGPS England and Wales and LGPS Scotland.

In our view, both sets of bandings will remain the same for 2016/17 as they were for 2015/16. This is because:

- Both regulation 9(5) of the LGPS Regulations 2013 and regulation 9(3)(a) of the LGPS (Scotland) Regulations 2014 say that the bandings will be increased as if they were pensions under the Pensions (Increase) Act 1971, and
- The Government has already confirmed that it is intended that, this year, pensions increase under the 1971 Act will be zero.

Therefore, barring any changes to the LGPS Regulations 2013 or the LGPS (Scotland) Regulations 2014 before the end of March 2016 (and we are not aware of any plan for these provisions to be amended), the employee contribution bandings for 2016/17 should be the same as for 2015/16. For England and Wales, we do not anticipate separate formal confirmation of this from DCLG, but we understand that SPPA are working on a circular to confirm the position.

Tell Us Once

For those funds who have completed their Tell Us Once onboarding and uploaded their membership data to the Database, Tell Us Once is now looking likely to be going live on Thursday 3rd March (with funds part of the service beginning to receive death notifications from Friday 4th March onwards).

Following feedback that it could be clearer what needs to be done to get Tell Us Once set up, the LGPC secretariat will be working with some funds who have onboarded already to produce a short document explaining what funds need to do, from the perspective of funds who have already successfully onboarded. It is hoped this will be issued by mid-March.

LGA survey on LGPC service

The LGPC Secretariat currently provides a wide range of services to LGPS administering authorities in return for a small annual fee depending upon the size of the membership of the LGPS fund. Over the last decade pensions administration has become more and more complex, as a result of both over-riding changes to pensions law and our very own scheme changes. During this time, the Secretariat's service has expanded to reduce the pressures in individual administering authorities (e.g. template letters and forms, detailed regulatory guidance etc.) without a comparative increase in the annual fee. Over the past 12 months the Secretariat has received requests from its membership to increase its current range of services and we are keen to explore this avenue in order to make sure that the services we provide continue to be appropriate to the needs of our members. In addition, increased collaborative working may help to reduce the overall costs of funds' pensions administration. Before we proceed any further, we would like to understand if additional services are required by our membership. Accordingly, we emailed all Administering Authorities on 17 February 2016 asking for a simply 'yes' or 'no' (one per administering authority) response to the following question: -

Whether or not in general principle you would be willing to pay a higher annual fee, in return for a more comprehensive service? (Please note that any enhancements to the subscription service would exclude the self-financing training service which will be subject to a separate discussion).

Thank you to all those who have responded so far and for any authorities that have yet to respond, be advised that the closing date for this survey is Thursday 10th March 2016. A 'yes' or 'no' response can be sent by email to [Jayne Wiberg](mailto:Jayne.Wiberg). Once we have collated the outcome of funds' initial view, depending upon take up, we will either develop a more detailed proposition or shelve the idea accordingly.

High Court makes ruling in pensions liberation case

The High Court has [overturned a Pensions Ombudsman decision](#) on a pensions liberation case. The case concerned a member who wished to transfer their pension benefits, but whose pension provider, Royal London, refused to permit the transfer on the

grounds that the member was not being paid by the employer who sponsored the receiving scheme. The Ombudsman had initially found in the favour of Royal London.

In response to the ruling, which the Pensions Ombudsman will not appeal, the Ombudsman Antony Arter said the following:

“Friday’s High Court ruling in the case of Donna-Marie Hughes and Royal London, provides clarity for more than 200 pension liberation cases we currently have on hold. It is now unnecessary for an individual who wishes to transfer their benefits to an occupational pension scheme to be in receipt of earnings from a scheme employer. In fact the scheme employer may not even be trading.”

Updates to [lgpsregs.org](http://www.lgpsregs.org)

During February 2016, in addition to the updates to the Scottish timeline regulations (referred to in an earlier article), the following documents were added on www.lgpsregs.org:

- On the [Drafts and Consultations](#) page:
 - The LGA’s response to the E&W Investment Regulations consultation, and
 - Documents relating to the Government consultation on further exit payment reforms.
- On the England and Wales [Employees’ Guides](#) page:
 - Version 1.2 of the employees’ Q&A on freedom and choice, and
 - Version 1.1 of the employees’ Q&A on the new state pension.
- On the [Technical Group minutes](#) page:
 - Minutes from the December 2015 meeting.
- On the [Communications Resources](#) page:
 - Version 4 of the employer Q&A on the ending of contracting out.
- On the [SPPA circulars](#) page:
 - 2016 circulars 1, 2 and 3.
- On the Scotland [Regulations & Legislation](#) page:
 - SSI2016/74 - The Local Government Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of Funds) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2016.
- On the Scotland [Employees’ Guides](#) page:
 - Version 1.2 of the employees’ Q&A on freedom and choice, and
 - Version 1.1 of the employees’ Q&A on the new state pension.

At the end of March, the following documents will be removed from www.lgpsregs.org on the basis that they no longer provide relevant information, or the information contained may be found in other documents. If copies are needed from this time onwards, these may be obtained from the LGPC Secretariat:

- The [LGPS 2014 Practitioner’s Guide](#) – the equivalent content may be found in the individual administration guides,
- The [LGPS 2015 Practitioner’s Guide](#) – the equivalent content may be found in the individual administration guides,
- The [Q&A for pension funds on Freedom and Choice](#) – the equivalent content may be found in the technical note, and
- The [LGPS 2014 AVC Scenarios document](#), which is now outdated – our current understanding of the position on AVCs for both LGPS 2014 and LGPS 2015 is outlined in the Freedom and Choice technical note.

Restructure of lgpsregs.org

As www.lgpsregs.org has now been in use for a couple of years, we will be undertaking a short project to review its structure, functionality and layout in the coming months. A redesigned version of the website will be launched in the first half of 2016/17. During this project, the content for the English & Welsh and the Scottish schemes will be split out more permanently.

The LGPC Secretariat have already spoken with a number of funds regarding what aspects of the site could be improved but if funds or other website users have other suggestions for improvements, it would be much appreciated if details could be sent through to [Con Hargrave](#).

Consultations

The LGPC Secretariat have been asked to provide a list of the ongoing consultations that may have direct and consequential impacts on the LGPS:

United Kingdom

Date commenced

Title

05/02/2016

Consultation on reforms to public sector exit payments

In the future, the bulletin will include a list of the ongoing consultations that may have some impact on the LGPS (in a similar way to our Legislation section does at the moment). Consultations that have a significant impact on the LGPS, and to which we will usually submit a response, will still be included on the [Drafts and Consultations](#) page of www.lgpsregs.org.

Sharing pensions administration strategies

In [Bulletin 137](#), we included a short article stating our plans to set up a page on www.lgpsregs.org containing a sample of pensions administration strategies from across the LGPS. This was suggested so that funds could get an idea of the range of approaches to employer engagement being taken across the Scheme. A small number of funds have sent theirs in so far, but if any other funds are willing to share theirs, if these could be sent to [Con Hargrave](#), that would be much appreciated. We hope to put these on the website by the end of March.

It would also be much appreciated if funds sending in their strategies could let us know of aspects of their approach that have worked well or, where relevant, where aspects have not worked so well.

Training

[Circular 296](#) was issued publishing the training schedule for April – July. A further Circular will be issued in March regarding the Trustees' Conference and Insight Residential Training.

Legislation

United Kingdom

SI

Reference Title

2016/227

The State Pension (Amendment) Regulations 2016

2016/224	The Pensions Act 2014 (Consequential and Supplementary Amendments) Order 2016
2016/205	The Social Security Revaluation of Earnings Factor Order 2016
2016/203	The Pensions Act 2014 (Commencement No.8) Order 2016
2016/199	The State Pension and Occupational Pension Schemes (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2016
2016/95	The Public Service Pensions Revaluation (Earnings) Order 2016
2016/82	The Pension Protection Fund and Occupational Pension Schemes (Levy Ceiling and Compensation Cap) Order 2016

Scotland

SSI

	Reference Title
2016/74	The Local Government Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of Funds) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2016
2016/62	The Teachers' Superannuation and Pension Scheme (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2016

Northern Ireland

SR

	Reference Title
2016/71	The Public Service Pensions (Certification Officer for Northern Ireland) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016
2016/70	The Superannuation (Certification Officer for Northern Ireland) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016
2016/50	The Public Service Pensions Revaluation (Earnings) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016
2016/34	The Public Service (Civil Servants and Others) Pensions (Consequential Provisions) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016
2016/32	The Pension Protection Fund and Occupational Pension Schemes (Levy Ceiling and Compensation Cap) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016
2016/25	The Pensions (2015 Act) (Consequential, Supplementary and Incidental Amendments) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016

Useful Links

[LGA Pensions page](#)

[LGPS members' website](#)

[LGPS 2014 members' website](#)

[LGPS 2015 members' website](#)

[LGPS Advisory Board website](#)

[LGPS Regulations and Guidance website](#)

[LGPS Discretions](#) lists all the potential discretions available within the LGPS in England and Wales.

[LGPS Discretions](#) lists all the potential discretions available within the LGPS in Scotland.

[Recognised Overseas Pension Schemes](#) approved by HMRC and who agreed to have their details published.

[The Timeline Regulations](#) for Final Salary Scheme

[The Timeline Regulations](#) for Career Average in England and Wales

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Distribution sheet

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