

Briefing note – Reporting of pension fund transactions for LGPS in England and Wales

1. Introduction

This document has been produced further to discussions that the LGPC Secretariat have held with GAD and DCLG on new requirements for the reporting of LGPS pension fund transactions for cashflows from 1st April 2017 onwards.

The new split of transactions is required in order that GAD may undertake their cost control calculations under sections 11 and 12 of the Public Service Pensions Act 2013. Whilst the cost control process in the LGPS in England and Wales is first being undertaken this year when the data split outlined in this document will not be held by administering authorities, GAD are seeking a more comprehensive data set for the 2019 process to ensure the calculations are based on the most detailed data available.

Under [regulation 114\(4\)](#) of the LGPS Regulations 2013, administering authorities must provide the Scheme actuary (i.e. GAD) with the information it requires to undertake a valuation of the Scheme. For the avoidance of doubt, administering authorities must therefore hold, and be able to supply, the information detailed in section 5 of this paper from 2017/18 onwards in order to comply with the 2013 Regulations.

Previous communications on this topic have suggested that this information would also be required to be included in LGPS fund accounts via amendments to the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (SI2015/234). However, it has since been agreed that this data need not be included in fund accounts and the accounting regulations will therefore not be amended for the purposes set out in this document. Nevertheless, the totals of the cashflows must reconcile with the totals included in funds' audited accounts.

Section 5 of this paper contains a data specification setting out our understanding of the new reporting requirements so that pension funds may ensure that their pensions payroll, payments and accounting software systems are updated to be able to report in line with these requirements by 1st April 2017. Please note that the specification set out in section 5 is a draft and is subject to change. A final version is planned to be issued later in Summer 2016.

Please also note section 8 outlining our planned next steps and proposed implementation timetable.

2. Summary of the new requirements

For the purposes of cost control, GAD will largely be treating the pre-April 2014 Scheme, the post-March 2014 main section and the post-March 2014 50/50 section as if these are individual periods of pension scheme membership. To do this, these periods need to be valued as if each period is separate from any other period of LGPS benefit accrual and GAD will, therefore, where appropriate, need these elements split out in to their respective parts:

- Transactions relating to final salary (pre-April 2014) benefit accrual,
- Transactions relating to career average (post-March 2014) main section benefit accrual, and
- Transactions relating to career average (post-March 2014) 50/50 section benefit accrual.

3. Scope

The data referred to in this document is transactions data – i.e. cashflows in and out of pensions funds. It therefore primarily relates to items stored in pensions payroll, payments and accounting software systems. However, pensions administration systems will also need to be able to store the data as split in section 5, in order that this data can flow through to pensions payroll, payments and accounting software systems accordingly.

We understand that separate discussions over the past year between GAD, pensions administration software providers and fund actuaries on the 2016 valuation data requirements mean that all data items included in this document are already planned to be obtainable from administration software systems in time for 1st April 2017 and, if not, beforehand.

No additional changes to pensions administration software should therefore arise as a direct result of the changes outlined in this document. However, if you are aware of any data items where you believe your administration software will not hold the required information by 1st April 2017, please get in touch.

4. Providing the data to GAD

GAD's 2019 cost control calculations will be done using membership and transactions data provided by each fund to GAD. To supply the transactions data, each fund will, on request from GAD in the months after the 31st March 2019 valuation date, have to complete a standard data capture spreadsheet containing all the transactions data outlined in section 5 of this document. The data will only need to be provided at fund level, and not at individual employer level.

A draft data capture spreadsheet for submitting this data to GAD is attached to this document. Comments on this draft are much appreciated.

In 2019, the data will have to be provided as specified for the 2017/18 and 2018/19 scheme years. For 2016/17, funds will not need to provide data to GAD in accordance with the new requirements, but will just need to supply totals of each category.

A similar process will be followed for all fund valuation years after 2019. For all subsequent valuations, data for all years in the valuation period will have to be provided in accordance with the new requirements.

In due course, it is possible that the data funds provide to GAD for cost control purposes may be able to be used as a replacement for some of the other data requests that funds receive from their actuaries, although this will become clearer as work on the GAD requirements progresses. In the meantime, funds should ensure that they can continue to provide their fund actuary with transactions data in accordance with their own requirements.

5. Draft data specification

Reporting of income items

Item	Description	Additional notes	<i>To be split where relevant into the following categories</i>			Total (sum of columns A to C)
			Column A - Pre-April 2014 benefit accrual	Column B - Post-March 2014 main section benefit accrual	Column C - Post-March 2014 50/50 section benefit accrual	
1	Employee basic contributions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be allocated to columns B or C according to the section of the Scheme the member is in. 	X	✓	✓	✓
2	Employer contributions (future service and deficit)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This item does not need to be split between columns A to C as GAD have confirmed this is not necessary for their calculations. This item to include any employer contributions towards additional pension, for example where an employer contributes towards shared cost APCs, or where an employer is contributing towards part-time buy back. Note that this does not preclude any requirement from a fund's actuary to require that contributions data is split 	X	X	X	✓

		between deficit and future service elements.				
3	Employer strain payments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To include all employer strain payments relating to redundancy, ill health, DBs into payment, flexible retirement, etc. To be apportioned between columns A to C based on the benefit accrual to which the cost relates. See section 6 for further comments. 	✓	✓	✓	✓
4	Employee additional contributions (added years, ARCs, APCs, SCAPCs, PTBB, Pre72, etc)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be allocated to column A or B according to the time the transaction first arose. For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> APCs would be allocated to the post-March 2014 main section, column B (except for where a member in the 50/50 section enters into a lost pension APC and column C applies). all added years and ARCs would be allocated to the pre-April 2014 section, column A. 	✓	✓	✓	✓
5	Transfers in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The treatment will depend on the type of transfer received. Interfund transfers should be split between columns A to C where the transfer received contains any or all of these elements. 	✓	✓	✓	✓

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For inward Club and non-Club transfers, any final salary element received should be allocated to column A, and any career average element received should be allocated to column B. See section 6 for further comments. 				
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Reporting of expenditure items

Item	Description	Additional notes	<i>To be split where relevant into the following categories</i>			Total (sum of columns A to C)
			Column A - Pre-April 2014 benefit accrual	Column B - Post-March 2014 main section benefit accrual	Column C - Post-March 2014 50/50 section benefit accrual	
1	Member pensions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This item to exclude pensions increase (PI) (see item 2). Ill health enhancements to be allocated to the period when the enhancement was awarded. (NB, this allocation applies only to the enhancement.) For example, if an ill health enhancement became payable prior to April 2014, this would go into column A. All ill-health enhancements awarded post-April 2014 should be allocated to column B as all such enhancements are awarded at the main section accrual rate, even if the member 	✓	✓	✓	✓

		was in the 50/50 section at the time of their ill-health retirement.				
2	PI on member pensions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PI on ill health enhancements to be allocated to the period when the enhancement was awarded. (NB, this allocation applies only to the enhancement.) For example, if an ill health enhancement became payable prior to April 2014, this would go in to column A. All ill-health enhancements awarded post-April 2014 should be allocated to column B as all such enhancements are awarded at the main section accrual rate, even if the member was in the 50/50 section at the time of their ill-health retirement. 	✓	✓	✓	✓
3	Retirement lump sums	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This item to exclude PI (see item 4). Accrued lump sums relating to pre-April 2008 membership to be allocated to column A. Commuted lump sums to be apportioned between columns A to C based on benefit accrual. See section 6 for further comments. 	✓	✓	✓	✓
4	PI on retirement lump sums	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PI on accrued lump sums relating to pre-April 2008 membership to be allocated to column A. PI on commuted lump sums to be apportioned between 	✓	✓	✓	✓

		columns A to C based on benefit accrual.				
5	Death grants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This item to exclude interest paid (see item 6). • All active member death grants for deaths after 31 March 2014 should be allocated to column B. • Deferred and pensioner member death grants should be apportioned between columns A to C based on benefit accrual. • See section 6 for further comments. 	✓	✓	✓	✓
6	Interest on death grants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All interest on active member death grants for deaths after 31 March 2014 should be allocated to column B. • All interest on deferred and pensioner member death grants should be apportioned between columns A to C based on benefit accrual. 	✓	✓	✓	✓
7	Dependant pensions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This item to exclude PI (see item 8). • No portion to be included in column C as all post-March 2014 dependant benefits accrue in the main section. • Death in service enhancements to be allocated to the period when the enhancement was awarded. For example, if a death in service enhancement became payable prior to April 2014, this 	✓	✓	X	✓

		would go into column A. (NB, this applies only to the enhancement.)				
8	PI on dependant pensions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No portion to be included in column C as all post-March 2014 dependant benefits accrue in the main section. PI on death in service enhancements to be allocated to the period when the enhancement was awarded. For example, if a death in service enhancement became payable prior to April 2014, this would go into column A. (NB, this applies only to the enhancement.) 	✓	✓	X	✓
9	Transfers out	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This item to exclude any interest that may be payable on transfers (see item 10). The value of the transfer to be apportioned between columns A to C based on calculations set out in actuarial guidance. Transfers of pension credits to be allocated according to the Scheme in which the pension credit was granted. For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> if the transfer relates to a post-March 2014 pension credit, this should be allocated to column B, if the transfer relates to a pre-April 2014 pension credit, this should be allocated to column A. 	✓	✓	✓	✓

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See section 6 for further comments. 				
10	Interest on transfers out	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This item does not need to be split as GAD do not expect this item to be material. 	X	X	X	✓
11	Refunds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This item does not need to be split between columns A to C as GAD do not expect this item to be material. • This item to include interest paid. • Can be gross or net of Contribution Equivalent Premiums (CEPs) and tax, but needs to be clear which approach has been adopted. 	X	X	X	✓
12	Trivial commutation/ De Minimis payments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This item does not need to be split as GAD do not expect this item to be material. • This item to include interest paid. 	X	X	X	✓
13	Tax charges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be split according to when and in what section of the scheme the transaction arose. • For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If the annual allowance was breached post-March 2014 and the member was in the 50/50 section of the scheme, the whole of the scheme pays tax charge (if used) would be allocated to column C. - If the tax-charge relates to a pre-April 2014 unauthorised payment, the whole of the 	✓	✓	✓	✓

		<p>tax charge would be allocated to column A.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In practice, this will mean the majority of tax charges will be allocated to column B. 				
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6. Notes on calculations

In some cases, it may not immediately be clear how a benefit can be split into any or all of the pre-April 2014, post-March 2014 main and post-March 2014 50/50 categories. Where this may be the case, please see the below:

a. Commuted lump sums

Under regulation 13 of the LGPS (Transitional Provisions, Savings and Amendment) Regulations 2014 (the Transitional Regulations), where a member has both pre-April 2014 and post-March 2014 membership and commutes some of their pension to lump sum, each part of the member's pension is reduced in proportion to the total pension.

Example

Pre-commutation

Total pension - £10,000pa

Proportion based on pre-April 2014 benefit accrual - £9,000pa

Proportion based on post-March 2014 benefit accrual - £1,000pa

The member chooses to commute £1,000 pension to lump sum, giving the member a commuted lump sum of £12,000. 90% of the member's pension relates to pre-April 2014 benefit accrual and 10% relates to post-March 2014 benefit accrual, so £900 of the commuted pension relates to pre-April 2014 benefit accrual and £100 relates to post-March 2014 benefit accrual.

Post-commutation

Total pension - £9,000

Proportion to be allocated to pre-April 2014 benefit accrual - £8,100pa

Proportion to be allocated to post-March 2014 benefit accrual - £900pa

Commuted lump sum - £12,000

Proportion to be allocated to pre-April 2014 benefit accrual - £10,800pa (12,000 * 0.90)

Proportion to be allocated to post-March 2014 benefit accrual - £1,200pa ($12,000 * 0.10$)

Taking into account the 50/50 section

In addition to the above, for the purposes of providing transactions data to GAD for cost control, if the member was in the 50/50 section for a time, their post-March 2014 lump sum will need to be proportioned in accordance with the proportion of their post-March 2014 pension that relates to the time when they were in the 50/50 section of the scheme.

This should be done in accordance with the above principles. For example, if £90 of the above member's post-commutation, post-March 2014 pension of £900 related to a time when they were in the 50/50 section, that would represent 10% of the member's total post-March 2014 pension. 10% of the post-March 2014 lump sum would therefore need to be apportioned to the 50/50 section (column C in the draft specification). This would work out as £120 ($£1,200 * 0.10$).

b. Employer strain payments

Where an employer strain payment is made to the fund, a split of the total strain payment into the proportions of the payment that relate to pre-April 2014 benefit accrual, post-March 2014 main section benefit accrual and post-March 2014 50/50 section benefit accrual must be obtained from the fund actuary/ pensions administration software in order that the payment can be split into each of the columns A to C in the draft specification.

Note that where, for example, an additional amount is built into an employer's contribution rate to self-insure for ill health retirements, no proportioning between the different columns in the draft specification is needed. The amount paid by the employer for this should just be included in the total employer contributions category.

c. Transfers out

Under GAD's individual incoming and outgoing transfers guidance dated 28th March 2014, to calculate the value of a transfer out, it is necessary to split an individual's benefits into the following categories (where applicable):

- pre-April 2008,
- post-March 2008 and pre- April 2014, and
- post-March 2014.

For GAD's purposes, the sum of the value of the CETV of the first two bullets should be the total inserted in the pre-April 2014 benefit category (column A in the draft specification) and the value of the CETV of the last bullet should be the total inserted in the post-March 2014 main section benefit category (column B in the draft specification).

Taking into account the 50/50 section

In addition to the above, for the purposes of providing transactions data to GAD for cost control, if the member was in the 50/50 section for a time, the part of the transfer value that relates to post-March 2014 benefit accrual will need to be split to take account of this period. This should be done by proportioning that part of the transfer value by reference to the amount of the member's post-March 2014 pension which relates to the 50/50 section. For example, if 10% of the total value of the member's post-March 2014 pension relates to 50/50 section membership, it should be 10% of that part of the transfer value which goes into the 50/50 section (column C).

d. Transfers in

For an inward interfund transfer, the split in the transfer value calculated by the outgoing fund should be used to derive the split needed for the purposes of apportioning the payments between columns A to C in the draft specification.

For an inward Club or non-Club transfer, if the transfer is all career average, the total should all be allocated to the post-March 2014 main section (column B in the draft specification). If the transfer is all final salary, the total should all be allocated to the pre-April 2014 main section (column A in the draft specification). If the transfer includes both final salary and career average elements, the transfer should be split between the two columns in accordance with the outgoing scheme's calculation of the two elements (for a Club transfer, under the terms of the Club memorandum of March 2015).

e. Deferred and pensioner death grants

Under regulation 17(8) of the Transitional Regulations, where a member becomes a deferred or pensioner member with pre-April 2014 and post-March 2014 scheme membership, the total death grant that is payable is based on adding the death grant payable for the pre-April 2014 membership, as calculated under the 2007 Benefits Regulations) with the death grant payable for the post-March 2014 membership, as calculated under the 2013 Regulations. The two elements calculated should provide the split in membership needed for the purposes of this document.

Taking into account the 50/50 section

In addition to the above, for the purposes of providing transactions data to GAD for cost control, if the member was in the 50/50 section for a time, the total of the post-March 2014 death grant will need to be split to take account of this period. This should be done by proportioning that part of the death grant by reference to the amount of the member's post-March 2014 pension which relates to the 50/50 section. For example, if

10% of the total value of the member's post-March 2014 pension relates to 50/50 section membership, it should be 10% of that part of the death grant which goes into the 50/50 section (column C).

7. Areas for consideration

- Where, for example, a pension is already in payment prior to 1st April 2017 and has elements that fit into one or more of the columns A to C, it is still to be determined whether backdated reworking will be necessary so that these pensions are correctly apportioned from April 2017 onwards. Comments and views on the scale of work this reworking would require if needed are requested from administering authorities. This would seem to be an issue in respect of pensions elements only - expenditure items 1, 2, 7 and 8.

At this stage, GAD do not anticipate requiring retrospective allocation to be undertaken so that transactions that took place prior to April 2017 would need to be reported along the lines outlined in section 5. For example, if a transfer was paid in July 2015 that included both a pre-April 2014 and a post-March 2014 element, this would not need to be retrospectively allocated into the different sections.

- Where in section 5, the draft specification says that apportioning a split in a category of benefit isn't necessary as this is unlikely to be material to GAD's calculations (for example, refunds), we understand that this position could change in the future, and such items may indeed need to be split out. Funds and software suppliers may wish to consider whether it is preferable to update their systems so that these elements can be split out as described now, or whether they would prefer to wait until this is possibly required at some point in the future.
- If there are types of pension fund transaction not described in the draft specification which you think should be, or it is unclear how certain transactions should be dealt with, please contact cornelius.hargrave@local.gov.uk. A later version of the specification will contain any necessary clarifications, additions or amendments.

8. Next steps and implementation timescales

This briefing note has been circulated to pension fund contacts on the LGPC's distribution list. It has also been circulated to representatives of pensions payroll and payments software suppliers where those details were supplied to the LGPC Secretariat following an email sent to all LGPS administering authorities in England and Wales on 29th July 2015.

Subsequent to circulation of this briefing note, the proposed implementation timetable is as follows:

Description	By when	Responsible party
All comments and feedback on proposed changes to be sent to LGPC Secretariat.	15/07/2016	Administering authorities and software suppliers
Final specification circulated	12/08/2016	LGA and GAD
Changes to software implemented	01/04/2017	Administering authorities and software suppliers