

The Local Government Pensions Committee
Secretary: Terry Edwards

CIRCULAR

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No. 216 - OCTOBER 2008

PRACTITIONER & EMPLOYER TRAINING EVENTS "THE 2009 SCHEME CHANGES" SEMINARS

Purpose of this circular:

1. This Circular has been issued to advise authorities in Scotland of a number of events being organised by the Local Government Pension Committee (LGPC) in the run-up to the introduction of a "New-Look" Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) from 1 April 2009 in Scotland.

Introduction

2. It was stated in LGPC Circular 198 of May 2007 that the LGPC were planning to run a series of seminars and training events on the new look LGPS in England and Wales, both at a detailed level during the Autumn of 2007 for administering authorities and again, at a more over-arching level for employers, during January / February 2008.
3. The events were eventually delivered in three tranches and finished with overflow events in April 2008 because of sheer demand. One of the constant themes in delegate feedback was that material delivered too early or too late was of less assistance in implementing the new look scheme. With the benefit of that experience and taking account of the feedback, it has been decided to run events for Scottish authorities in January 2009.

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Local Government Employers is the business name of Employers Organisation for Local Government, a company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales, number 3676611
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part of the LGA group

4. In order to continue the LGPC's plan to deliver training as regionally and as locally as practicable, the workshops are to be held in a number of locations across Scotland. A total of five seminars have been arranged for authorities operating the LGPS (Scotland) as detailed later in this Circular.
5. There are two seminars designed for administering authorities and three for employing authorities. Whilst the printed notes that accompany the course will be comprehensive at all events, the delivery of the material will differ significantly to reflect the intended audience. There are many operational features of the scheme which affect administering authorities only and these will be of little interest to employers. Similarly, the employer-focused seminars will spend more time on those issues of major importance to employers.

"THE 2009 SCHEME CHANGES" SEMINARS

Seminar Details

6. The seminars will cover the structure of the New-Look LGPS for 2009 in Scotland, incorporating the transitional arrangements for the reckoning of LGPS rights accrued up to 31 March 2009. The seminars will also consider the challenges of implementing a new-look LGPS and explore the preparations necessary for a seamless transition. The seminars will commence at 10:00 and conclude no later than 16:00 and sessions will include:
 - Joining – Who's eligible / Auto-entry / Casual employees
 - Pensionable Pay and Contribution Bands
 - Final Pay Calculations
 - How Membership Counts
 - Accrual Rates – New Look vs. Old Look vs. Mixed Look
 - Structure of Retirement Benefits (including ill-health*)
 - Structure of Death and Survivors' Benefits
 - Extra Benefits
 - A lamentation on what has disappeared
 - Communicating the Changes

* this includes a look at the "third-tier" benefits which are to sit outwith the pension scheme.

Intended Audience – Administering Authority Events

7. These two seminars are primarily aimed at Pensions Section staff within LGPS Administering Authorities but may also be of interest to some operational staff within Employing Authorities who require a detailed understanding of the new-look scheme. It follows that the seminars will not necessarily be suitable for delegates with little or no experience of the LGPS (for whom more foundational material such as “Insight” or “Fundamentals” training courses which the LGPC also run may be more appropriate). This is because, to fully understand the implications of the operation of a new scheme, it is advantageous to already have a grasp of the existing scheme terms.

Dates and Locations

Edinburgh Tuesday 6th January, Apex International Hotel

Aberdeen Thursday 8th January, Copthorne Hotel

Intended Audience – Employing Authority Events

8. These three seminars are primarily aimed at staff of Employing Authorities although they might be of some interest to Administering Authority staff and others (trade union representatives and advisers for example). They are not necessarily suitable for delegates with little or no experience (for whom more foundational material such as “Insight” or “Fundamentals” training courses which the LGPC also run may be more appropriate). This is because to fully understand the implications of the operation of a new scheme it is advantageous to already have a grasp of the existing scheme terms.

Dates and Locations

Edinburgh Thursday 15th January, Apex International Hotel

Glasgow Tuesday 20th January, Holiday Inn Theatreland

Aberdeen Tuesday 22nd January, Copthorne Hotel

Cost and Booking

9. The delegate rate for each seminar, inclusive of lunch, refreshments and all delegate materials is £170 plus VAT at the standard rate.
10. Early booking is highly recommended as places are limited. Bookings are made via the on-line events booking facility which is part of the Local Government Employers’ website at www.lge.gov.uk. Please note our

cancellation policy contained in our Terms and Conditions on the website. When booking, you will need full delegate details to hand including the address to which the invoice for payment is to be sent. Purchase order numbers must also be provided if required by your organisation to pay invoices.

11. If the seminar at your preferred location is full and you do not wish to book on one at an alternative location, you are advised to enter your name on the reserves' list at your preferred location. It is important to do so as, not only will you have a priority warning should any cancellations occur, but it also enables the LGPC to consider increasing delegate places where possible or, on occasion, to organise overflow events.
12. If you experience any difficulties in using the on-line website booking facility, please contact Colin Divens, LGPC Executive Officer, by email colin.divens@lge.gov.uk

ACTIONS FOR ADMINISTERING AUTHORITIES

13. All Administering Authorities in Scotland are urged to copy this Circular to all employers in their Fund (other than to Local Authorities to whom this Circular has been sent directly) or bring the Circular to the attention of employers by directing them to the Circular on-line at www.lge.gov.uk/lge/core/page.do?pageld=119530

Tim Hazlewood
LGPC Training and Development Manager
2 October 2008

Distribution sheet

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