

The Local Government Pensions Committee
Secretary: Jeff Houston

CIRCULAR

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No. 270 – MAY 2013

LGPS PRACTITIONER AND EMPLOYER TRAINING EVENTS

“UNDERSTANDING” WORKSHOPS

Purpose of this circular:

1. This Circular has been issued to advise administering authorities and employers participating in the Local Government Pension Scheme of a number of workshops to be run at various locations across Great Britain. These events have been organised by the Local Government Pension Committee (LGPC).

Background

2. For a number of years the LGPC has held numerous one-day topic-specific Understanding workshops covering various aspects of the Local Government Pension Scheme and associated compensation provisions. The majority of these workshops are cycled to run every 18-24 months.
3. As many of these workshops are hands-on and contain practical exercises, the “class” size is usually kept to a maximum of 12/15 people to ensure that delegates get the most out of the learning experience.

Details of workshops

4. The next topic-specific Understanding workshops are to be run in June and July 2013 and cover the subject of 'Transfer Values'.
5. This subject has been covered in workshops several times since 2003 and most recently in July 2011 and is one of the most popular cycled events for administering authority pension practitioners. As a result of the sea-change in methodology in 2012 (moving from age 60 to age 65 factors) the content of the workshop notes is the subject of a major revision. In addition, all practical exercises are being revisited, refreshed and updated where necessary.
6. In order to continue the LGPC's plan to deliver training as locally as practicable, the forthcoming workshop is to be held in a number of locations across the country. In putting together the entire schedule, the Secretariat has attempted to be as 'geographically' fair as possible.
7. With reference to events for Scottish administering authorities and employers, it was agreed at Scottish Pensions Liaison Group in December 2010 that demand should be canvassed in advance of any bespoke workshops in Scotland being organised. Any such events will be arranged separately and announced directly to Scottish administering authorities and via them to employers where necessary.
8. At the Understanding workshops, delegates have the benefit of an experienced tutor and a detailed workbook they can take away for future reference. Each workshop will involve several practical exercises and all necessary delegate material, including calculators, will be provided. The workshops will start at 10:00 a.m. and finish no later than 4:00 p.m., with lunch and refreshment breaks included as well as coffee/tea on arrival from 9:30 a.m. As the workshops are delivered "locally" this should avoid the time and expense of overnight stays for many delegates.
9. Further details on the revised course content, locations and dates can be found in **Appendix A** attached to this Circular.

Intended Audience

10. These workshops are particularly aimed at Administering Authority staff who deal with, or need to learn about, cash equivalent transfer values (CETVs) and inter-fund adjustments (IFAs). They are unsuitable for delegates with little or no experience of the LGPS. The logic behind the methodology is challenging but the workshop attempts to explain it whilst also explaining the processes necessary to comply with overriding legislation and GAD Guidance. It is improbable that Employing Authority staff would benefit by attending.

Cost and booking

11. The delegate rate for each workshop, inclusive of lunch, refreshments and all delegate materials is £210 plus VAT at the standard rate.
12. 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 Association website at <http://www.local.gov.uk/web/lgaworkforcepensions/training-and-events>
13. Please be sure to note our cancellation policy contained in our Terms and Conditions which you will be asked to confirm you have read when completing your booking details on the booking events page. You will also 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.
14. If the session 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 judge demand for future events or, on occasion, organise overflow events.
15. If you experience any difficulties in using the on-line website booking facility, please contact Elaine English, LGPS Executive Officer, by email elaine.english@local.gov.uk

Tim Hazlewood
Pensions Training and Development Manager
1 May 2013

UNDERSTANDING...TRANSFER VALUES

Course content covers:

- 1. The Governing Legislation**
- 2. Inter-Fund Adjustments**
 - Options for aggregation
 - Administration
 - Methodology (within and cross-Border)
- 3. Transfers Out**
 - Overriding provisions and deadlines
 - Public Sector Transfer Club
 - Calculation Methodology
 - Accrued rights
 - GMPs
 - Protected, Unprotected and Taper membership
 - Contracted-In and Contracted-Out Schemes
 - QROPS and Pension Liberation
- 4. Transfers In**
 - Administration, deadlines and consequences
 - From Club Schemes
 - From non-Club Schemes
 - The historical reiteration process
 - (for transfers that affected CRA)
 - More than a calculation!
 - Considerations on decision whether to transfer
- 5. Bulk Transfer Arrangements**
- 6. CEVs for Pension Sharing on Divorce (PSoD)**
 - A brief look at the methodology*

** This is not a comprehensive look at CEVs for PSoD – that is a subject in its own right and is covered in detail in a separate Understanding workshop*

Workshop locations & dates:

06 June	London
13 June	Exeter
18 June	Leeds
20 June	Durham
24 June	Birmingham
02 July	Cardiff
04 July	Liverpool

Distribution sheet

Local authorities who have registered for notification of Circulars
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Officer advisory group
Local Government Pensions Committee
Trade unions
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