

The Local Government Pensions Committee
Secretary: Jeff Houston

CIRCULAR

Please pass on sufficient copies of this Circular to your Treasurer/Director of Finance and to your Personnel and Pensions Officer(s) as quickly as possible

No. 285 – OCTOBER 2014

LGPS (SCOTLAND) PRACTITIONER TRAINING EVENTS

“LGPS2015” WORKSHOPS

Purpose of this circular:

1. This Circular has been issued to advise administering authorities participating in the Local Government Pension Scheme (Scotland) of two workshops to be run in January 2015. These events have been organised by the Local Government Pension Committee (LGPC).

Background

2. In Circular 284 of July 2014 we announced a number of workshops in September aimed at employers participating in the LGPS (Scotland) to explain the new Scheme being introduced on 1 April 2015. That Circular stated that more detailed training for practitioners would follow in the new year. This circular gives information on this second wave of training.

Purpose of workshops

3. The Local Government Pensions Committee provides a full programme of training events for pension practitioners, councillors and employers with an interest in the LGPS. Its training programme builds on the wealth of information that is already provided and seeks to deepen knowledge and understanding of the LGPS.
4. These workshops comprise the detailed training for Administering Authority “pension practitioners” in January 2015, ready for the launch of the new scheme on 1 April 2015.

Intended Audience

5. These workshops in January 2015 are primarily aimed at administering authority staff, particularly those involved in the day-to-day administration of the LGPS. They are LGPS (Scotland) specific and are therefore not relevant to administering authorities in England and Wales.
6. To explain the changes it is helpful for the delegate to understand the present scheme and the administration it requires, so it is preferable for delegates to have some experience of the LGPS.

Details of workshops

7. In order to continue the LGPC’s plan to deliver training as locally as practicable, workshops are normally held in a number of locations across the country. However, after soliciting the opinion of administering authorities on this occasion, it was more convenient to all those who responded to hold the training purely in Edinburgh but on more than just one date.
8. The workshops will be interactive and experiential. As there will be one tutor, the “class” size is normally kept to a maximum of 15 people to ensure that delegates get the most out of the learning experience.
9. If both events sell out, there will be further opportunities made available for training which, depending on demand, would take the form of another overflow workshop.
10. 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.
11. Further details on the expected workshop content can be found in **Appendix A** attached to this Circular. The locations and dates are as follows:

20 January	Edinburgh	Apex International Hotel
27 January	Edinburgh	Apex International Hotel

Cost and booking

12. The delegate rate for each workshop, inclusive of lunch, refreshments and all delegate materials is £220 plus VAT at the standard rate.
13. 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>
14. 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.
15. If the sessions are full you are advised to enter your name on the reserves' list on your preferred date. It is important to do so as this will enable the LGPC to judge demand for overflow events (see paragraph 9).
16. 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
30 October 2014

LGPS2015 Workshops for Practitioners

Course content

Membership

Joining the Scheme and opting-out
Pension Accounts – a whole new concept
The 50/50 Section

Refunds, Deferreds and Aggregation

Paying refunds and deferred pensions
The new rules on auto-aggregation

Pensionable Pay

A new definition – the implications

Employee Contributions

Assessed now on actual pay not whole-time equivalent

Absences

New rules on how employers deal with absences
Additional Pension Contributions

Revaluation

How revaluation works in the CARE scheme

Retirement Benefits

A look at the package of benefits plus all the protections

Death Benefits

How death benefits are worked out in the CARE scheme
Impacts for existing deferreds and pensioners

Annual Benefit Statements

Changes to ABSs for 2015 and 2016 and beyond

Transfers

How transfers will work going forward

Miscellany

An eclectic bunch of other matters to be aware of

Delegates will receive a comprehensive set of course notes expected to be well in excess of 100 pages.

Distribution sheet

Local authorities who have registered for notification of Circulars
Pension managers (internal) of administering authorities
Pension managers (outsourced) and administering authority client managers
Officer advisory group
Local Government Pensions Committee
Trade unions
DCLG
COSLA
SPPA
Regional Directors
Private clients
Website

Visit the LGA's website at: <http://www.local.gov.uk/>

Copyright

Copyright remains with the LGA. This Circular may be reproduced without the prior permission of the LGA provided it is not used for commercial gain, the source is acknowledged and, if regulations are reproduced, the Crown Copyright Policy Guidance issued by OPSI is adhered to.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this Circular has been prepared by the LGPC Secretariat, a part of the LGA. It represents the views of the Secretariat and should not be treated as a complete and authoritative statement of the law. Readers may wish, or will need, to take their own legal advice on the interpretation of any particular piece of legislation. No responsibility whatsoever will be assumed by the LGA for any direct or consequential loss, financial or otherwise, damage or inconvenience, or any other obligation or liability incurred by readers relying on information contained in this Circular. Whilst every attempt is made to ensure the accuracy of the Circular, it would be helpful if readers could bring to the attention of the Secretariat any perceived errors or omissions. Please write to:

LGPC
Local Government House
Smith Square
London
SW1P 3HZ

or email: tim.hazlewood@local.gov.uk

or telephone: 01455 824850