

LGPC Bulletin 258 – December 2024

This bulletin contains updates for all LGPS stakeholders. It includes important articles on:

- [LGPS \(Remediable Service\) \(Scotland\) \(Miscellaneous Amendment\) Regulations 2024](#) (LGPS Scotland only)
- [Club transfer calculator for McCloud protected members](#) (England and Wales)
- [Dashboards connection guide – version 1.1](#)
- our [2025 training programme](#) (England & Wales)
- a reminder to [submit your fund annual report for 2023/24](#) (England and Wales).

If you have any comments or articles for future bulletins, please contact query.lgps@local.gov.uk.

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LGPS England & Wales

Extension of New Fair Deal to FE colleges

HMT has confirmed in a letter to the Association of Colleges that [New Fair Deal guidance](#) applies to FE colleges that operate in the statutory sector in England from 14 November 2024.

The new Fair Deal guidance provides that compulsorily transferred employees must have continued access to the same public sector pension scheme with the new employer. It was published in 2013 and applies directly to central government departments, agencies, and other parts of the public sector under the control of central government eg academies. It has been extended to FE colleges in England following the [reclassification of FE colleges as public bodies](#) in November 2022.

When a Fair Deal employer undertakes an outsourcing, the new employer must continue to provide the transferred employees with access to the LGPS in their new employment (where the employees were eligible to be members of the LGPS before the transfer).

Updated transfer guidance

MHCLG has published updated guidance on Individual Incoming and Outgoing Transfers. The main changes are:

- confirmation of how to reflect late retirement increases when calculating the McCloud element of a non-Club transfer value – see paragraphs 4.8, 4.10 and 4.14
- confirmation of the position for added pension bought under the CARE scheme when a Club transfer is completed – in the LGPS (England and Wales) added pension always transfers on non-Club terms
- replacing DLUHC with MHCLG
- other minor changes to add clarity.

You can find this and all other guidance relating to the 2014 Scheme on the [Actuarial guidance](#) page of www.lgpsregs.org.

Club transfers out and McCloud protection – guide and calculator

We have published new resources for administering authorities to use when processing a transfer out for members protected by the McCloud remedy.

- **Club transfers out and McCloud guide** summarises the information that you must provide to the receiving scheme in relation to a Club transfer out

- **Club transfer calculator** to work out the additional information that you must provide to the receiving scheme that may not be included in your current system output.

You can find both on the [Administrator guides and documents](#) page of www.lgpsregs.org. Use the 'subject' filter on the right hand side of the page to find all resources related to McCloud.

This basic calculator cannot be used for all cases. Administering authorities remain responsible for providing the information required by section 4.7 of the Club memorandum. Manual calculations may be required for some complex cases.

Please read the 'notes' tab before using the calculator. This contains useful information about how to use the calculator and its limitations. No fields in the spreadsheet are protected. You may wish to make local changes to include additional information or to ensure the wording is aligned with your other communications.

We would like to thank East Sussex Pension Fund for their help in producing the calculator. Please contact rachel.abbey@local.gov.uk if you have any questions about using the calculator or if you spot any errors in the output.

Action for administering authorities

Compare the guide with your current system output to check whether you are supplying all the information needed in relation to a Club transfer for a McCloud protected member. Use and adapt the new calculator to fill any gaps.

We will be producing a version of the calculator for use in Scotland in the coming days.

LGPS Scotland

LGPS (Remediable Service) (Scotland) (Miscellaneous Amendment) Regulations 2024

On 12 December 2024, the Scottish Government laid the [LGPS \(Remediable Service\) \(Scotland\) \(Miscellaneous Amendment\) Regulations 2024](#) (the 'Amendment Regulations'), which will amend the underpin rules. These regulations come into force on 6 February 2025.

The Scottish Public Pensions Agency (SPPA) consulted on the Amendment Regulations between 2 September 2024 and 28 October 2024. The consultation

documents, including our response, are available on the [Scheme consultations](#) page of www.scotlgpsregs.org.

In our view, none of the changes are material changes to basic scheme information. Therefore, the disclosure requirement in regulation 8 of the Occupational and Personal Pension Schemes (Disclosure of Information) Regulation 2013 does not apply.

The main changes are:

Correcting an error in regulation 4L(4)

Regulation 4L(4) of the LGPS (Transitional Provisions and Savings) (Scotland) Regulations 2014 provides for actuarial reductions to provisional underpin amounts, calculated using the early retirement GAD guidance. This will apply where:

- the member is drawing the main CARE pension on voluntary retirement or flexible retirement before age 65, and
- their pre-April 2015 benefits are being actuarially reduced.

The second condition is an error. The intention is that actuarial reductions may apply to the provisional underpin amount where the first condition is met, even if the pre-April 2015 benefits are not reduced.

Amendment Regulation 4 will correct the error by revoking the second condition with backdated effect to 1 October 2023.

The early retirement GAD guidance was drafted assuming the second condition was an error. The guidance is available on the [Actuarial guidance](#) page of www.scotlgpsregs.org. We do not anticipate any impact on administering authorities, who have been following the guidance.

Active and deferred annual benefit statements (ABSs)

From 2023/24 onwards, before preparing an ABS for an active and deferred CARE account, administering authorities must identify whether the account qualifies for underpin protection. If it does, the ABS figures must be calculated using the new underpin rules set out in the LGPS (Remediable Service) (Scotland) Regulations 2023. To do this accurately, the administering authority must have:

- obtained, validated and loaded all relevant McCloud service data
- ensured that all transfers-in and aggregations are correctly and fully recorded
- for deferred members or active members over the final salary normal retirement age, calculated the provisional assumed benefits and provisional underpin amounts.

Additionally, the authority's software must be capable of calculating the ABSs figures using the new underpin rules.

The Scottish Government acknowledges that it will take time for administering authorities to be able to calculate the ABS figures for CARE accounts with underpin protection under the new underpin rules correctly. For example, there may be delays in determining whether the account qualifies or in obtaining the necessary data.

Amendment Regulation 6 modifies the LGPS ABS rules for 2023/24 and 2024/25 with backdated effect to 1 October 2023:

- **ABS for 2023/24:** administering authorities should have calculated the ABS figures ignoring the new underpin rules. If, for any member or class of members, the authority was able to, it has discretionary power to have calculated the figures under the new underpin rules. This power can be exercised at any point before 1 April 2025.
- **ABS for 2024/25:** administering authorities must calculate the ABS figures using the new underpin rules. For any members, or class of members, the authority has discretionary power to calculate the ABS figures ignoring the new underpin rules where it considers it reasonable in all circumstances of the case. This power can be exercised at any point before 31 August 2025. If the authority uses this power, it must notify the member in the ABS.

Pension credit member ABSs

Administering authorities must revisit pension credit calculations where the pension debit member qualifies for underpin protection and the effective date of the pension sharing order was between 1 April 2015 and 30 September 2023.

From 2023/24 ABS onwards, the figures should reflect any recalculations.

The Scottish Government acknowledges that it will take time for administering authorities to complete the recalculations. Therefore, the modifications to the LGPS ABS rules for 2023/24 and 2024/25 also apply to ABSs for pension credit members.

Pensioner member death grant recalculations

Regulation 7 of the LGPS (Remediable Service) (Scotland) Regulations 2023 requires administering authorities to recalculate death grants for pensioner CARE accounts that qualify for underpin protection where:

- the member both retired and died before 1 October 2023,
- the death grant was calculated before 1 October 2023, and

- after recalculating the member's pension for the underpin, arrears of pension are due.

Amendment Regulation 10 will amend regulation 7 with backdated effect to 1 October 2023 as follows:

- the condition requiring the death grant to have been calculated before 1 October 2023 will be revoked
- where the member was also an active member at death and the single death grant paid was three times the assumed pensionable pay, authorities will not need to recalculate the pensioner death grant.

These amendments align the rules on recalculating pensioner death grants with those for recalculating deferred member death grants.

Special interest - misalignment with LGPS (England and Wales) rules

Regulation 14 of the LGPS (Remediable Service) (Scotland) Regulations 2023 outlines the special interest rules for McCloud recalculations.

The Scottish Government intended to align these rules with the equivalent rules in LGPS (England and Wales). However, the rules in LGPS Scotland are unintentionally misaligned:

- When a member's pension increases due to the McCloud recalculation and the member elects to commute some of the extra pension for a tax-free lump sum, the regulation does not specify the start date for calculating special interest on the lump sum. In LGPS (England and Wales), the start date is the earliest date from which the administering authority would have been able to pay the lump sum.
- When a top-up death grant, top-up transfer payment or top-up trivial commutation payment (including small pot payment) is due as a result of a McCloud recalculation, special interest is calculated from the day that falls halfway through the period beginning with the date on which the original payment was made and ending with the date on which the top up payment is paid. In LGPS (England and Wales), the start date is the day on which the original payment was made.

Amendment Regulation 13 will align the special interest rules with the equivalent rules in LGPS (England and Wales) with backdated effect to 1 October 2023.

Special interest rules - Club transfers

Paragraph 65 of the [McCloud implementation statutory guidance](#) says:

The Scottish Public Pensions Agency is aware that there is an error in regulation 14 of the 2023 Regulations regarding the interest due for retrospective adjustments to Club transfers. The regulation requires interest to be paid on all top-up transfer payments (other than bulk transfers). For top-up Club transfer payments to chapter 1, judicial and other LGPS schemes, this conflicts with paragraph 4.41 of the Club Memorandum, which says not to pay interest. Scottish Ministers will amend the LGPS regulations to align with the Club memorandum.

Amendment Regulation 13 will correct this error with backdated effect to 1 October 2023 by disapplying the special interest rules to top-up transfer payments to other McCloud remedy schemes (eg NHS Pension Scheme, Civil Service Pension Scheme, Teachers' Pension Scheme).

The amendment applies to both non-Club and Club transfers. However, in our view, the special interest rules should continue to apply to top-up **non-Club** transfer payments to other McCloud remedy schemes. We will raise this with SPPA.

Minor technical amendments

Amendment regulations 3, 5, 8, 9, 11 and 12 will make minor technical amendments with backdated effect to 1 October 2023. We do not anticipate that these will have any impact on administering authorities.

We will update the timeline regulations and the McCloud administrator guide early in the new year to reflect these changes.

Action for administering authorities

Review the amendments and ensure that your processes are in line with them.

Other news and updates

GAD request for 2024 valuation data

GAD recently sent its request for 2024 valuation data to all pension managers, requesting upload by 20 December 2024. GAD thanks those who have been able to progress this request.

If any administering authority did not receive the original request or subsequent GAD correspondence about this request for data, or is experiencing any problems or delays, please contact gad.lgps@gad.gov.uk as soon as possible.

Pensions dashboards

Dashboards connection guide – version 1.1

On 19 December 2024, we published version 1.1 of our Pensions dashboards connection guide. You can find clean and tracked changes versions on the:

- [Administrator guides and documents \(England and Wales\)](http://www.lgpsregs.org) page of www.lgpsregs.org
- [Administrator guides and documents \(Scotland\)](http://www.scotlgpsregs.org) page of www.scotlgpsregs.org.

We have made the following updates:

- **Section 6 – accuracy and accessibility of data** includes a new example setting out the impact of inaccessible records
- **Section 9 – timescales for connecting to the ecosystem** updated the section on deferring your connection deadline as the application deadline has passed
- **Section 10 – registering with MAPS** added updates from TPR guidance on how and when to register your administering authority with MAPS
- **Section 16 – the data you must provide to the ecosystem** added updates on TPS guidance on reporting breaches including the aligning the illustration dates of main scheme and AVC calculations
- **Section 17 – timings to provide information to the ecosystem** re-written for clarity including examples to help users understand when information should be sent to the ecosystem. As we have re-written this section, we have not shown tracked changes.
- **Section 19 – compliance and enforcement** includes the publication of TPR’s compliance and enforcement policy.

Action for administering authorities

Review version 1.1 of the Pensions dashboards connection guide and implement any changes to your processes as necessary.

PDP progress update report

The [tenth PDP progress update report](#) was published in December 2024. The report looks at the Pensions Dashboard Programme’s (PDP) progress over the last six months.

Training

2025 LGPS Governance Conference – Online attendance

Booking is still open for virtual attendance at the LGPS Governance Conference 2025. The event will take place **Thursday 30 January – Friday 31 January 2025** at the **Bournemouth Highcliff Marriott Hotel**.

The conference is designed for councillors, members of pension committees/panels and local pension boards. Previous delegates have included trade union and employer representatives, as well as officers who support these committees.

Please note that in-person places have sold out. You can book to attend online until **22 January 2025**. **The cost for online attendance is £400 plus VAT**. We will send invitations to those attending virtually approximately one week before the event.

Visit the [LGPS Governance Conference booking page](#) to book your place and view the full programme.

Unpaid training invoices

We are experiencing a high volume of non-payment for our training courses and conferences. The LGPC team is not resourced to repeatedly chase this debt. We have therefore taken the difficult decision not to honour future bookings where previous training invoices remain unpaid.

We will undertake an audit of outstanding invoices in the new year and contact the relevant authorities.

2025 Training Programme

2025 training events are available for booking via the [LGA events website](#). Each course page provides information on the programme, pricing and the booking link.

Bookings are processed on a **first-come, first-served basis**. To ensure fairness, each topic is limited to **five delegates per organisation**.

If you are unable to secure a place on a course or require more than five places, please email training.lgps@local.gov.uk with details of the course(s) you wish to attend, including the number of places required and preferred format (online or in person). We will maintain a waiting list and may consider running additional sessions if demand is sufficiently high.

In response to your feedback, we have split the following courses:

- **Transfers:** now split into Transfers In and Transfers Out
- **Retirements:** now split into Intermediate Retirements and Advanced Retirements

Employer Role training

- [Employer role: 6 February 2025 online](#)
- [Employer role: 8 April 2025 online](#)
- [Employer role: 29 May 2025 online](#)
- [Employer role: 20 June 2025 online](#)
- [Employer role: 16 July 2025 London](#)
- [Employer role: 29 July 2025 online](#)
- [Employer role: 14 August 2025 online](#)
- [Employer role: 19 August 2025 online](#)
- [Employer role: 30 September 2025 online](#)
- [Employer role: 28 October 2025 online](#)

Understanding LGPS Transfers Out training course

- [Transfers out: 26 March 2025 London](#)
- [Transfers out: 9 April 2025 online](#)
- [Transfers out: 1 May 2025 online](#)

Understanding LGPS Transfers In training course

- [Transfers in: 12 March 2025 online](#)
- [Transfers in: 1 April 2025 online](#)
- [Transfers in: 22 April 2025 online](#)
- [Transfers in: 7 May 2025 online](#)

Aggregation training

- [Aggregation: 23 April 2025 London](#)
- [Aggregation: 30 April 2025 online](#)
- [Aggregation: 8 May 2025 online](#)

Insight training course

- [Insight: 17-21 March 2025 online](#)
- [Insight: 19-22 May 2025 York residential](#)
- [Insight: 30 June – 4 July 2025 online](#)
- [Insight: 22-25 September 2025 Eastbourne residential](#)

Intermediate Retirements training course

- [Intermediate retirements: 19 June 2025 online](#)
- [Intermediate retirements: 9 July 2025 London](#)

- [Intermediate retirements: 7 August 2025 online](#)
- [Intermediate retirements: 3 September 2025 online](#)

Advanced Retirements training course

- [Advanced retirements: 30 July 2025 London](#)
- [Advanced retirements: 12 August 2025 online](#)
- [Advanced retirements: 10 September 2025 online.](#)

For more information on all available training courses, please visit [LGPS Training and Development](#).

For any further enquiries, please contact us at training.lgps@local.gov.uk.

Action for Administering Authorities

Please share details of the employer role training with your Scheme employers to ensure they are aware of the opportunities available.

LGPS England & Wales Scheme Advisory Board (SAB)

LGPS Fit for the Future presentation

On 4 December 2024, the Board hosted an episode of LGPS Live, a regular webinar series looking at topical issues within the LGPS. The December episode called ‘Five months on from the General Election – what are the implications so far for the LGPS?’ included a presentation from the Head of Local Government Pensions at the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), Teresa Clay. She set out the headlines from the LGPS Fit for the Future consultation which is open until 16 January 2025. The [slides presented at the webinar](#) are available on the Board website. You can watch the full episode, along with all other LGPS Live webinars on the [LGPS Live website](#).

The Board’s response to the consultation will be published as soon as practicable, hopefully early in the New Year.

Audit Roundtable meeting on 9 December 2024

The Board held the latest meeting of local authority audit stakeholders on 9 December 2024. The Roundtable brings together representatives of pension fund finance officers, education sector finance officers, fund actuaries, audit companies appointed to conduct principal local authority audit and the relevant regulators and standards setting bodies (like the National Audit Office, the Financial Reporting Council, the Chartered Institute of Public Finance Accountancy and the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW)).

The agenda covered dealing with objections to pension fund accounts, the Virgin Media Section 37 case and completion of outstanding audits. The group also discussed the [informer document](#) jointly produced by the Board and ICAEW published in June 2024 and whether any updates were needed to it. The group agreed that it was relatively early days for substantial feedback. Funds should contact the Board's secretariat with any feedback on the informer.

Consultation: Local audit reform

Following the publication of the [Government's English Devolution White Paper](#) on 16 December 2024, MHCLG launched an open consultation setting out proposals for overhauling the local audit system in England. The consultation is called [Local audit reform: a strategy for overhauling the local audit system in England](#). It closes for responses on 29 January 2025.

The consultation sets out a strategy to improve the local audit system and asks respondents to comment on proposals within the strategy. Specifically mentioned at paragraph 77 in the consultation document is a proposal to decouple pension fund accounts from the main accounts of the administering authority. The Board has recommended this change for some time. The [Board Secretary recently wrote to Local Government Minister Jim McMahon MP](#) to reconfirm the Board's position on the issue. The Board welcomes the Government's commitment set out in this proposal and will be considering how best to respond to the consultation.

If implemented, the proposals would also mirror the approach successfully adopted by the Local Government Pension Scheme in Scotland and Wales.

Board decision on LGPS Code of Transparency data system

The Board has been engaged in a project over the last year to determine the long-term future of the data system supporting the LGPS Code of Transparency. The system is being run by Byhiras until August 2026. The research to inform the Board's decision included establishing a working group of practitioners to explore options and conducting an Early Market Engagement exercise over the summer. A survey was also issued to funds in September 2024 to gather views from the fund perspective. The Board remains strongly committed to the Code and reporting investment cost data has now been successfully embedded in the LGPS.

At the Board meeting on 25 November 2024, it was agreed to explore replacing the centrally procured system with a framework approach, together with the [National LGPS Frameworks](#) team, which would continue to offer basic collecting and reporting of cost templates to all funds but allow them to procure data validation and benchmarking services alongside this in a seamless fashion. The Board also agreed to explore additional avenues to promote compliance with the Code and the effective

reporting of cost data, including via Board guidance, CIPFA guidance and potential amendments to the LGPS Investment Regulations 2016. The Board thanks all the participants that have contributed to this project so far.

Funding Strategy Statement (FSS) guidance sent for Ministerial approval

In [Bulletin 257](#), we reported that the draft replacement FSS guidance had been submitted to MHCLG for Ministerial approval. It is hoped the Minister will adopt it as statutory guidance early in the new year. A link to the draft guidance was also included in the previous edition of the bulletin. Once Ministerial approval has been received, the final guidance document will be published on the Board's website.

Reminder – submit your fund annual report for 2023/24

The Board publishes fund annual reports on its website and uses the data contained in the reports to pull together the Scheme Annual Report. The statutory deadline for publishing these reports was 1 December.

As of 18 December 2024, we have been sent 34 reports and have found an additional 51 independently, with two still outstanding. We have uploaded reports to the [Board website](#) that have been sent directly to the SAB secretariat inbox and thank the funds that sent those reports to us. When fund reports are finalised, please send completed annual reports for 2023/24 to the SAB secretariat – these can be draft or final.

Action for administering authorities

Please send completed 2023/24 annual reports to sabsecretariat@local.gov.uk as soon as possible.

2024 SAB survey respondents

The Board wishes to thank all fund officers, pool representatives, pension committee members and pension board members who have responded to surveys this year. The Board remains committed to providing a comprehensive service to administering authorities and the survey responses have proved highly informative and useful.

Board Annual Review

The Board secretariat team has had another busy year with a number of significant developments and thanks the Board, Committees and all workstream volunteers that have contributed to the successes achieved this year.

Some highlights include:

- The publication of revised Annual Report Guidance jointly with Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) and Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG)
- The publication of an audit informer document jointly with The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW)
- The completion of revised Funding Strategy Statement guidance to be published after Ministerial approval

The secretariat team will be publishing the Board's inaugural Annual Review in the coming weeks which will give an overview of the work completed in the 2023 calendar year.

SAB website

[The SAB website](#) provides information about its work. Use the links below to find out more about:

- [a summary of the last SAB meeting](#)
- [latest news](#)
- [SAB meeting and agenda papers](#)
- [committee meetings and agenda papers](#)
- [Responsible Investment Advisory Group meetings and agenda papers](#).

HMRC

Pensions schemes newsletter 165

On 5 December 2024, HMRC published [Pensions schemes newsletter 165](#). The newsletter includes articles about:

- submitting the pension scheme return on the Managing pension schemes service for the 2024/25 year onwards
- submitting new event reports on the Managing pension schemes service for the 2023/24 year onwards
- member requests to return a pension commencement lump sum that was taken because of speculation about changes in the 2024 autumn budget
- queries about The Pensions (Abolition of Lifetime Allowance Charge etc) (No.2) Regulations 2024:
 - transitional rules for those who have already received a transitional tax-free amount certificate (TTFAC)
 - pre-commencement benefits and TTFACs
 - the 'disregard' for members taking a pension after age 75.

TPR

Statement on communications and data protection

The Pensions Regulator (TPR), the Financial Conduct Authority and the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) issued a joint statement on 15 November 2024. You can read the [joint statement on data protection and effective communications](#) on the ICO website.

One aim of the statement is to provide clarity to pension schemes on how they can support customers' decision-making through communications in line with TPR's Code of Practice and guidance.

TPR works with Eastenders on pension scams

Eastenders recently featured a storyline about a long-running character falling for a pension scam. TPR and [Stop Scams UK](#) provided guidance to the show's scriptwriters and researchers, sharing insights into the latest tactics used by scammers and the impact on victims. It is hoped the storyline will highlight the threats to pension security and prompt viewers to report any suspicious activity to [Action Fraud](#).

Annual report and accounts

On 12 December, TPR published its [Annual report and accounts for 2023/24](#).

Wider landscape

TPO blog on the operating model review

The Pensions Ombudsman (TPO), Dominic Harris, has published a [blog reflecting on TPO's progress over the last year](#). The blog focusses on the success of their key Operating Model Review workstreams as the number of complaints they receive increases.

PASA publishes data scoring guidance

The Pensions Administration Standards Association (PASA) has released new [guidance on data scoring](#). The aim of the guidance is to help pension schemes achieve higher data standards. It highlights the importance of:

- regular, relevant and targeted data testing
- consistency across the industry to allow data quality to be compared
- being able to provide evidence of data quality improvements.

You can read more about the guidance in the [PASA press release](#).

Legislation

Scottish Statutory Instruments

[Local Government Pension Scheme \(Remediable Service\) \(Scotland\) \(Miscellaneous Amendment\) Regulations 2024](#) [SSI 2024/374]

Useful links

[LGPS member website \(England and Wales\)](#)

[LGPS member website \(Scotland\)](#)

[LGPS Advisory Board website \(England and Wales\)](#)

[LGPS Advisory Board website \(Scotland\)](#)

[LGPS Regulations and Guidance website \(England and Wales\)](#)

[LGPS Regulations and Guidance website \(Scotland\)](#)

[Current LGPS job vacancies](#)

[Public Sector Transfer Club](#)

[Recognised Overseas Pension Schemes](#) that have told HMRC that they meet the conditions to be a ROPS and have asked to be included on the list.

LGPS pensions section

Raising a query

If you have a technical query, please email query.lgps@local.gov.uk and one of the team's LGPS pension advisers will get back to you. To avoid delays in receiving a response, please do not email advisers directly.

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Further information

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