

Local Government Pension Scheme (Scotland) 2026/01

- Who should read:**
- Secretary General, Convention of Scottish Local Authorities
 - Chief Executive, Scottish Local Authorities
 - Chief Executive, Water Authorities
 - Principal Reporter, Scottish Children's Reporter Administration
 - Chief Executive, Scottish Environment Protection Agency
 - Director General, Strathclyde Passenger Transport Executive
 - Clerk, Strathclyde Passenger Transport Authority
 - Chief Executive/Director, VisitScotland

Action: This circular should be brought to the attention of Local Government Pension Scheme Employers, their Occupational Health Providers, Human Resource Managers, Employer Payroll Departments and Fund Administrators.

Subject: Updates to the Ill-Health Retirement and Internal Dispute Resolution Procedure guidance.

Date: 29 January 2026

The purpose of this circular is to provide updated guidance for those persons with the responsibility for making decisions regarding ill-health retirement, and persons reviewing those decisions, under the Internal Dispute Resolution Procedure (IDRP) process, as required by the Local Government Pension Scheme (Scotland) Regulations 2018 and preceding regulations.

The changes to this guidance have been made in response to comments from stakeholders and follow the principles set out by the Pensions Ombudsman in managing appeals from members of pension schemes.

The ill-health Guidance aims to assist the "appointed person" by setting out their responsibilities when they review an employer's decision at the request of the member under Regulation 70 of the LGPS regulations.

This guidance is based on the Pensions Ombudsman's guidance and should be followed in all cases. Cases sent to SPPA for consideration by Scottish Ministers at the second stage of the IDRP will be reverted back to the decision-maker for further consideration if this process has not been followed.

The guidance relates to both active and deferred members of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Scotland) and includes sections on the Key Facts, Q&A's, the Role of the IRMP, Special Considerations, Definitions and Annexes.

The LGPS(S) III Health Guide can be downloaded at the following website address:

[III Health Guidance | SPPA \(pensions.gov.scot\)](#)

Any questions?

Please contact sppapolicy@gov.scot if you have any enquiries about this circular.

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Head of Pensions Policy
29 January 2026