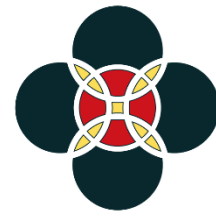


lgps

Local Government
Pension Scheme



Cronfa Bensiynau
CLWYD
Pension Fund

Local Government Pension Scheme Transferring Previous Pensions into the LGPS

April 2024

Contents

Introduction	3
What is a transfer value?	3
Transfers from LGPS.....	3
Final salary link (rejoining the LGPS with membership before 1st April 2014)	3
Additional contributions	4
Transfers from public sector pension schemes	4
Transfers from private sector or personal pension schemes	4
Pension credits.....	5
Annual Allowance	5
Transfer in process.....	5
Where can you find more information?	6
Disclaimer.....	6

Introduction

When you start to pay pension contributions into the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS), you can transfer previous pensions into the scheme if you make a request for it to be done during the first 12 months of joining. Employers have the discretion to extend the transfer window.

What is a transfer value?

A transfer value (also known as a Cash Equivalent Transfer Value) shows the value of your pension rights with your previous pension provider. For a transfer to go ahead, the transfer value will be paid to your LGPS fund by your previous provider and your pension record will be credited with an additional pension amount, which is then added to your existing LGPS pension. Once a transfer value has been paid, you will normally have no further claim to benefits with your previous pension provider.

From time to time, the Government Actuary's Department will introduce new transfer factors which may change the amount of pension your transfer value will buy in the LGPS.

Transfers from LGPS

If you have a previous pension in the LGPS in England or Wales, and you stopped paying contributions on that pension on or after 1st April 2014, it will be automatically combined with the new ongoing LGPS pension (so long as each LGPS fund is aware of the membership you have elsewhere). Your LGPS pensions will only be kept separate if you choose for this to happen. You have 12 months from rejoining the LGPS to choose to keep the pensions separate.

If you stopped paying LGPS contributions on or before 31st March 2014, the older pension will be kept separate from the new ongoing LGPS pension, unless you choose to combine them. You have 12 months from rejoining the LGPS to choose to combine.

Final salary link (rejoining the LGPS with membership before 1st April 2014)

If you have had a continuous break in LGPS membership of less than five years, you will keep any pension built up before 1st April 2014 as Final Salary pension. The pension built up from 1st April 2014 will be Career Average Revalued Earnings (CARE) pension. This means that your LGPS pension will be transferred over to your new LGPS fund on a like for like basis.

If you have had a continuous break in LGPS membership of more than five years, the transfer will break the final salary link and all pension (final salary and CARE) will be transferred over and converted to CARE pension.

Additional contributions

You can transfer a previous in-house additional voluntary contribution (AVC) plan to your new LGPS fund's in-house AVC provider.

If you were:

- buying added years, or
- paying additional regular contributions (ARCs), or
- paying additional pension contributions (APCs),

you may have the chance to continue paying these additional contributions, but you would need to let your new LGPS fund know about them.

Transfers from public sector pension schemes

Public sector schemes include:

- Civil Servants
- The Judiciary
- Armed Forces
- Local Government workers
- Teachers
- Health Service Workers
- Fire & Rescue
- Police Forces
- Members of a new Public Body Pension Scheme

If you have pensions in any of these schemes and have a continuous break in membership of less than five years, you will qualify to keep your final salary link even if you transfer it into the LGPS.

However, if the break in membership is more than five years, the final salary link will be broken when the transfer happens, and the pension will be converted to a CARE pension in the LGPS.

Transfers from private sector or personal pension schemes

Transfers from private sector or personal pension schemes are treated differently compared to public sector pensions. The amount of pension credited when you transfer will vary from scheme to scheme and may also be affected by the fluctuation of financial markets and your final transfer value.

Pension credits

You are unable to transfer a pension credit into the LGPS. A pension credit is a share of an ex-partner's pension. This would have been awarded to you by the Court under a pension sharing order in England or Wales, or by a qualifying agreement in Scotland, following a divorce or dissolution of a civil partnership.

Annual Allowance

Your annual allowance is the amount the value of your pension benefits can grow in a tax year without you having to pay a tax charge. If the value of your pension savings from 6th April to 5th April is more than your annual allowance, the excess will be taxed as income. This annual allowance check includes pension savings outside of the LGPS.

The current standard annual allowance limit is £60,000 so it does not affect most pension scheme members.

When you transfer a previous pension into the LGPS, you are most likely to be affected by annual allowance if:

- you transfer pension rights into the LGPS from a previous public sector pension scheme under the club transfer rules and your full-time equivalent salary when you join the LGPS is higher than the salary you earned when you left the previous scheme
- you combine a previous LGPS pension benefit that was built up in the final salary section of the LGPS with your current pension record and your full-time equivalent salary has increased significantly since previously leaving the scheme

Transfer in process

All registered pension schemes must follow current HM Revenue & Custom's rules at the time of the transfer.

To begin the process, you must request a transfer investigation by completing a Transfer Authority form within 12 months of joining your LGPS fund. The Transfer Authority form can be found on **the forms and resources section** of our website. You should complete a form for each transfer you want us to look into.

Transfers may take some time to finalise. The earlier you complete and return your Transfer Authority form(s), the earlier your LGPS fund can begin the transfer process by contacting your previous pension provider.

Once your LGPS fund has all the information they need from your previous pension provider, you will receive a quotation showing how much LGPS pension the transfer will buy you. Quotations are worked out based on the transfer value from the previous pension provider.

You may wish to seek independent financial advice before deciding to transfer your previous pensions to the LGPS.

If you choose to transfer, your LGPS fund will then complete all the required forms and request payment from your previous pension provider. We will write to you to confirm when the transfer has been completed.

Where can you find more information?

This factsheet gives general guidance only. If you need more information, please contact the Clwyd Pension Fund:

Phone: 01352 702940

Email: pensions@flintshire.gov.uk

Address: Clwyd Pension Fund, County Hall, Mold, Flintshire, CH7 6NA

Website: <https://mss.clwydpensionfund.org.uk>

Disclaimer

The Clwyd Pension Fund is unable to provide any financial advice. After reading this factsheet, you may want to seek independent financial advice to make an informed decision.

These bodies may be able to help you:

Unbiased:

<https://unbiased.co.uk>

MoneyHelper:

<https://www.moneyhelper.org.uk/en/getting-help-and-advice/financial-advisers/choosing-a-financial-adviser?source=mas>



Cronfa Bensiynau
CLWYD
Pension Fund

mss.clwydpensionfund.org.uk

Clwyd Pension Fund, County Hall, Mold, Flintshire, CH7 6NA

Please note that Flintshire County Council is the administrative authority of the Clwyd Pension Fund and we use your personal data in accordance with Data Protection legislation to provide you with a pension administration service. For more information about how we use your data, who we share it with and what rights you have in relation to your data, please visit the Privacy Notice on our website.