

LGPS Pension - Staff update

Dear Pension Fund member,

We're writing to update you on an issue we're having with our pensions data.

The council provides employee data to the East Sussex Pension Fund (ESPF) to ensure pension records are kept up to date and accurate.

We're currently working with the ESPF to change the way we provide the data.

In the past we have supplied this data manually each year.

To modernise the system to ensure more efficiency and more up to date records are maintained, we're moving to a new system where the council provides monthly data which is used to directly update member records.

A huge challenge and task

Changing the way we provide data to the ESPF is a huge challenge for the council due to the complexities involved, and we're still in the process of doing this work.

For the majority of people, it means your record is currently up to date to March 2022.

Your contributions have been made - and are safe

Any contributions deducted from your salary have been paid to the ESPF on time, it's just individual records that need brought up to date.

What it means for you

We recognise there are certain pension events that need to be dealt with urgently, so retirements (whether early, normal, late or ill-health), deaths, divorce and redundancy work is being prioritised.

We're postponing other requests to concentrate on the above but will help if you have a genuine need to receive this information urgently.

Joiners – if you have become a council employee since 1 Apr 2022 you won't have received correspondence in relation to membership of the Pension Fund.

It also means you won't yet have access to 'My Pension', the member self-service portal. We'll provide joiner information as soon as possible.

Change of job role – If you have had a change of job role since 1 April 2022 your pension records will not reflect this change currently. This will be updated in due course.

Leavers/opt-outs – Employees who have left employment or opted out of the scheme will not have been notified of the available options if they have left on or after 1 April 2022. These options could include either a refund of member contributions or deferred benefits in the scheme.

No changes – If you've been in the same role since before 1 April 2022, your records will be updated as soon as possible.

This year's Annual Benefit Statement

Annual Benefit Statements show the value of your pension to 31 March each year, as well as a projection to normal pension age, assuming you continue to contribute.

Statements for the year ending 31 March 2023 will be delayed. We will contact you when they are finalised.

Going forward

We're working as hard as possible to bring your records up to date but hope you can appreciate this will take time.

In the meantime, if you'd like to access your ESPF record and current statement you can through My Pension at www.mypension.eastsussex.gov.uk

Support notes on using My Pension can be found at the ESPF website and Self Service Portal support at <https://www.eastsussexpensionfund.org/help-support/my-pension-member-self-service-portal/>

Please note, as above, if you joined the scheme after March 2022, you'll not yet have access to the My Pension portal, but you'll receive an invite to join in due course.

Contact information

For urgent queries only, please contact payroll 01273 295106 or hrpayroll@brighton-hove.gov.uk.

Further information on what ESPF provides can be found on the website at www.eastsussexpensionfund.org including a Brief guide to the Local Government Pension Scheme at <https://www.eastsussexpensionfund.org/media/ywbfvuac/a-brief-guide-to-the-local-government-pension-scheme-east-sussex-pension-fund.pdf>.