

PensionConnection

Introduction

Welcome to the latest edition of Pension Connection, our newsletter for retired members of the Rhondda Cynon Taf Pension Fund and Fire Pension Schemes. This year sees a 0.50% increase for the majority of our retirees on their pensions from April 2021.

This newsletter is intended to provide you with useful facts and information about your pension. There's quite a bit of information so please do remember that our Pension Helpdesk Team are happy to help on

01443 680611

You can also find a great deal of useful information on our pension website which has a specific section dedicated to our retired members. The site has some useful links to related sites.



Our website can be accessed via:
www.rctpensions.org.uk

My Pension On-line

If you haven't done so already you can register for My Pension On-line, this is an on-line facility which allows you to view your payslips and P60 on line or update your address or bank account details. You can register for the service by clicking on the My Pension On-line button on the RCT Pension Fund website and following the instructions.



Pension Pay Dates

Fire Payroll 96	Local Government Payroll 98 (end of month)	Local Government Payroll 99 (mid monthly)
April 30	April 30	April 16
June 01	May 28	May 14
July 01	June 30	June 16
July 30	July 30	July 16
September 01	August 31	August 16
October 01	September 30	September 16
November 01	October 29	October 15
December 01	November 30	November 16
December 31	December 31	December 16
February 01	January 31	January 14
March 01	February 28	February 16
April 01	March 31	March 16

Data Protection

General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) came into force in May 2018. Rhondda Cynon Taf Pension Fund is a Data Controller, this means we store, hold and manage your personal data in line with statutory requirements to allow us to administer your pension. Further details on the data we hold and what we do with that data can be found in our Privacy Notice on www.rctpensions.org.

Your P60 & Payslips

Your P60 Certificate will be issued in May this year and provides a summary of the pension you have received and tax paid for the year, up to 5 April 2021. Your P60 includes information which is required by HMRC, called the Lifetime Allowance.

The Lifetime Allowance is a limit on the value of all of your pension benefits before incurring excess tax charges. The limit for 2020/2021 was £1,073,100. Your Lifetime Allowance figure can be found on your P60 Certificate, and is based on your Local Government pension benefits and does not include any other pensions in payment.

Please note that members who retired before 6 April 2006 will have a blank entry on the P60 Certificate, as this is not required by HMRC.

It is important that you keep your P60 certificate safe as you may need to refer to it in the future.

You will receive a monthly pay-slip if your net pension changes by more than £1 from the previous month or your tax code changes, so usually you will only receive a pay-slip in March, April and May of each year.

Make a Connection!



Pensions Helpdesk: 01443 680611
Mon - Fri: 9am - 5pm



Email: pensions@rctcbc.gov.uk



Website: www.rctpensions.org.uk



Write: Bronwydd House, Porth CF39 9DL

Changes to your personal details

Please make sure you let us know if you move house or change your bank details.

You can either tell us by

- Using My Pension On Line, or
- If you have previously registered a password with us you can tell us about these changes by telephone, or
- You can download the **Change of Address or Bank Details Form** from our website at www.rctpensions.org.uk Make sure you tell us in good time otherwise it may delay your payment.

If you tell us that you have moved we will automatically report your new address details to HMRC.

If your marital status has changed, you will need to tell us and send us your original marriage certificate, civil partnership certificate or decree absolute.



RHONDDA CYNON TAF

This year's pension increase

The annual increase to your Local Government and State pension is based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) as at 30th September from the preceding year and will be payable from 12th April 2021.

Your pension will be increased if you:

- are aged 55 or over
- or are receiving a spouse's, beneficiary's, or child's pension
- or retired on ill health grounds

If you do not fall into one of these groups, your pension will still attract the increase, but it will not be paid until your 55th birthday.

This year, your pension will increase by 0.50%

If your pension began after 27th April 2020 then you will receive a proportion of these benefits depending on the date you retired.

If you are receiving a pension and have reached State Pension Age the full increase may not be paid by the Pension Fund, some of it will be paid by the Department for Works and Pensions in the form of an increase to your Basic State Pension. This will be equal to the full increase.

Pensions Beginning	Pensions Increase
22nd March 2020 to 27th April 2020	0.50%
28th April 2020 to 27th May 2020	0.46%
28th May 2020 to 27th June 2020	0.42%
28th June 2020 to 27th July 2020	0.38%
28th July 2020 to 27th August 2020	0.33%
28th August 2020 to 27th September 2020	0.29%
28th September 2020 to 27th October 2020	0.25%
28th October 2020 to 27th November 2020	0.21%
28th November 2020 to 27th December 2020	0.17%
28th December 2020 to 27th January 2021	0.13%
28th January 2021 to 27th February 2021	0.08%
28th February 2021 to 27th March 2021	0.04%

Language of Choice

We are happy to correspond with you in either Welsh or English, please let us know your preference and we will make sure all future correspondence is provided in that language. Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay.

Protecting your money

The Pension Fund participates in the National Fraud Initiative which is designed to target and prevent fraud and corruption, which costs the taxpayer hundreds of millions of pounds each year.

Rhondda Cynon Taf Pension Fund's involvement in this exercise helps detect fraud and corruption, and we have a legal duty to protect public money. As part of this initiative public agencies are allowed to share this information.

Do not be alarmed if you receive a request for information as it may be an inconsistency that requires further clarification.

If you are claiming any sort of benefit, for example housing benefit, you need to disclose your pension payments, including ill health pensions from the Local Government Pension Scheme.

The change will automatically be taken into account in survivor benefits paid to civil partners and same sex spouses in the future.

Overseas Pensioners

As a result of Brexit, we are aware that some of our pensioners that reside overseas, but still have Bank Account's held in the UK, are being informed by their Banks that they are no longer able to keep the British bank accounts open.

We will be contacting our overseas pensioners shortly with further details of a replacement service that we will soon be pleased to offer. This service will result in your pension being paid in local currency to a local bank account.

Your State Pension and Tax Queries

The Pension Service, which is a part of the Department for Work and Pensions, can provide you with information on your state pension and pension credits as well as providing advice on winter fuel payments and other related benefits.

Claiming your State Pension for the first time:

0800 731 7898

**Welsh Language number:
0800 731 7936**

State Pension Enquiries:

0800 731 0469

**Welsh Language number:
0800 731 0453**

It is also possible to apply for your State Pension online at

www.gov.uk/get-state-pension

If you have any question about your tax you should contact the tax office, quoting your National Insurance number.

HM Revenue & Customs

South Wales Area

Ty Glas, Llanishen

Cardiff CF14 5YA

Tel: 0300 200 3300

**Welsh Language number:
0300 200 1900**

www.hmrc.gov.uk

McCloud Judgement

When the Government reformed public service pension schemes in 2014 and 2015 they introduced protections for older members. In December 2018, the Court of Appeal ruled that younger members of the Judges' and Firefighters' Pension schemes have been discriminated against because the protections do not apply to them. The Government has confirmed that there will be changes to all main public sector schemes, including the LGPS and Firefighters Pension Schemes, to remove this age discrimination. This ruling is often called the 'McCloud judgment' after a member of the Judges' Pension Scheme involved in the case.

The final details of the changes have not yet been confirmed by Government, once we know what the changes are, we will check the pensions of all members who are affected to see if their pension benefits should be increased. To be affected by the judgement you had to be an active member of your pension scheme on 31 March 2012 and left the LGPS after 1st April 2014 or the Firefighters Pension Scheme after 1st April 2015.

You don't need to do anything, we will contact you if you are affected by the changes.