



North East Scotland Pension Fund

nespf

Pensions Newsletter
2025



Your Pension Increase

Pensions are increased each April to keep up with the cost of living. This year your pension will increase by 1.7%.

How is the pensions increase decided?

The Fund does not set the pension increase amount. We must follow pension legislation which states the Pensions Increase to be applied each April is to be based on the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) for the previous September. So the 1.7% increase in April, is based on the CPI rate from September 2024.

When will my pension increase?

Your pension will increase from 7 April. As this is part way through the month, you'll only receive part of the increase. From May onwards, your monthly pension will include the full increase.

You will receive a payslip in April which will confirm your new pension amount. If your pension has increased by 50p or more per month, you will also receive a payslip in May showing your new monthly payment.

Why is the increase lower than expected?

If you paid into the Fund before 6 April 1997 and have now reached State Pension Age, it is likely you will have a Guaranteed Minimum Pension (GMP). GMP is the minimum amount of pension we must pay you. Your GMP is also increased but some or all of it is paid with your State Pension.

So while the increase from us may be lower than expected, your State Pension will also increase giving you the full 1.7% increase you are entitled to. The exception to this is members whose State Pension Age is after 5 April 2016, the Fund will pay the full increase in these cases.

State Pension Increase

The basic State Pension will increase by 4.1%. This is higher than the Fund's pension increase because of the 'triple lock'.

The triple lock means that Government must increase the state pension by whichever of the following is highest:

- ▶ **Wage growth**, or
- ▶ **Inflation**, or
- ▶ **2.5%**

Wage growth was highest, even more so than inflation which is used for our pensions increase, meaning the State Pension increases in line with wage growth this year.

For more information on your state pension visit www.gov.uk or call **0800 731 0469**.

Tax

P60

We will post a P60 to you at the end of April. Your P60 will show you how much pension had been paid to you over the last 12 months and the tax deducted from it.

Tax Codes

Your final tax code for 2024/25 can be found on your P60. Your tax code for the coming year (2025/26) will be on your April payslip. If your tax code changes you do not need to contact us as HMRC automatically tell us about any changes.

If you receive a letter from HMRC informing you of a change to your tax code, please check your April payslip to ensure the correct tax code has been used.

Can't wait?

**Your P60s and
payslips will be
available on
My Pension+
by mid-April.**



Personal Allowance and Tax

While there have been increases to both public sector pensions and the state pension, personal tax allowance remains frozen at £12,570. For some members this means that while your pension has increased, it causes you to exceed this limit, meaning you now pay tax, or are pushed into a higher tax bracket, resulting in you paying more tax.

The State Pension is taxable but cannot be taxed at source. Any tax due from your state pension may therefore be taken from your NESPF pension through an adjustment of your tax code by HMRC. This means, in order to make sure the correct amount is being deducted across all incomes, there could be a change in the amount of tax paid through your NESPF pension.

As a result, you may find that your gross pension with the NESPF increases but that your net pension is reduced due to the change in tax code. However the net income across both your state pension and NESPF pension will, most likely, remain higher than before.

Any questions about tax must be directed to HMRC. The Fund does not set and cannot change your tax code so queries must go to HMRC at 0300 200 3300.

Pay Days 2025/26

Your pension is paid on the 15th of each month. If this falls on a Saturday, Sunday or public holiday, it will be paid on the previous working day.

| 2025 | | 2026 | |
|-----------|----------------|----------|---------------|
| April | Tuesday 15th | January | Thursday 15th |
| May | Thursday 15th | February | Friday 13th |
| June | Friday 13th | March | Friday 13th |
| July | Tuesday 15th | | |
| August | Friday 15th | | |
| September | Monday 15th | | |
| October | Wednesday 15th | | |
| November | Friday 14th | | |
| December | Monday 15th | | |

Are you entitled to more money?

When it comes to retirement, a little extra money can go a long way. That's why it is important to ensure you are receiving all of the income you are entitled to. Below are two resources you can use to check that you are not missing out:

1. Tracing Lost Pensions

With most adults having several employments during their lifetime, it can be easy to lose track of what pension pots were paid into and when. If you know the name of the scheme or suspect you may have had a pension with a previous employer, you can contact them directly to enquire about any pension you may be due.

However if you don't know the name or can't make contact, you can use the Pension Tracing Service. This is a free, government-led service which searches a database of pension schemes to provide you with the contact details you need. To find out more about this service visit www.gov.uk/find-pension-contact-details

2. Pension Credit

Another source of income which may help during retirement is Pension Credit, a weekly benefit to boost your pension pot.

Pension Credit is a means-tested benefit separate from your State Pension. It can give you extra money if you are over State Pension Age and on low income.

There are an estimated 880,000 pensioners missing out on this cash boost so visit www.gov.uk/pension-credit-calculator to check your eligibility and get an estimate of how much you could get.



Financial Support

With the cost of living crisis putting added strain on everyone's finances, you may find yourself in need of assistance. Here's where you can find extra support:



Age Scotland: Provides information on a range of topics from energy bills to benefits that you may be entitled to. Call for free, confidential advice over the phone **0800 12 44 222** or visit www.ageuk.org.uk/scotland/



Citizens Advice: Get help with queries about employment, housing, debt, benefits and consumer issues like energy bills. Call free on **0800 028 1456** or visit www.cas.org.uk/

Change of Circumstances

Please let us know if you change your:

- ▶ **Name**
- ▶ **Marital Status**
- ▶ **Address**
- ▶ **Bank details**

You can update your address and bank details online through *My Pension+*. Alternatively, you can send a letter notifying us of any changes. We cannot accept bank details over the phone for security reasons.

Going Online with our My Pension+ Portal

Check your pension details at any time

My Pension+ is a secure online tool that gives you instant access to your pension details. With an updated look and simpler login process, *My Pension+* lets you:



Pension Values

- ▶ Check your pension value
- ▶ See your spouse's/partner's survivor's pension
- ▶ View the value of your death grant



Documents

- ▶ View and download payslips and P60s
- ▶ Upload forms, certificates and other documents
- ▶ Access newsletters, guides and forms



Update Details

- ▶ Change bank account details
- ▶ Update address and contact information
- ▶ Make or change death grant nominations



Security

- ▶ *My Pension+* is fully accredited and certified to meet the latest online security requirements

To sign up to *My Pension+* visit nespf.pensiondetails.co.uk

Are your beneficiaries up to date?

If you were to pass away while your pension is in payment, your pension will no longer be payable. However, there are some other benefits which may be payable to your loved ones upon your death, including a death grant. This is a tax-free cash lump sum which will be paid in certain circumstances. Whether a death grant is payable and the value of the death grant depend on when you left the scheme and how long you were receiving your pension.

It is important to consider who you would like to receive this death grant and ensure that we have the correct details. **Up to date death grant nominations can make processing and payment easier during a difficult time for loved ones and help ensure that we understand your wishes.**

You can tell us who your preferred beneficiaries are by updating your death grant nominations via My Pension+ or by completing an Expression of Wish form available on our website. Please note the Fund does not have to follow your wishes but we will do so wherever we can. If you are receiving a survivor's pension, a death grant will not be payable when you pass away.

Join Us

We are excited to announce that the North East Scotland Pension Fund is now on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn! These platforms – along with our existing presence on X (formerly Twitter) – offer an easy and convenient way for you to connect and engage with us, as well as stay informed about your pension.

What you can expect;

- ▶ **Important Updates** = Stay up to date with key news, important dates and changes that may affect your pension
- ▶ **Helpful Resources** = Useful guides, FAQs and tips on managing your pension
- ▶ **Gain Insight** = See the NESPF's activities as we continue to be one of the largest Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) providers in Scotland

Facebook: **North East Scotland Pension Fund**
LinkedIn: **North East Scotland Pension Fund**

Instagram: **@NESPFund**
X: **@NESPF**

Fund in Figures



£6.3billion
Total Fund Value



77,865
Members



27,171
Pensioners



1,554
Votes at AGMs



52%
Membership registered
for *My Pension+*

Financial Summary

| Income | £m |
|------------------------|-----|
| Employee Contributions | 40 |
| Employer Contributions | 136 |
| Transfers In | 3 |
| Investment Income | 87 |

| Outgoing | £m |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Pension Benefits | 198 |
| Transfers & Refunds | 8 |
| Admin & Investments Costs | 26 |

Top 5 Directly Held Stock as at 31 Dec 2024

| | £(m) | % of Fund |
|---------------------------|-------|-----------|
| Amazon.com | 144.9 | 2.22 |
| Microsoft | 89.5 | 1.37 |
| Boston Scientific | 58.2 | 0.89 |
| United Health Group | 53.7 | 0.82 |
| Intercontinental Exchange | 52.0 | 0.80 |

Responsible Investment & ESG



As a long-term investor, the Fund is committed to engaging with the companies we invest in on environmental, social, and governance (ESG) issues, and collaborating with others to drive meaningful change.

Help us reduce our carbon footprint by opting to get your newsletter, payslips and P60s online.

Simply contact us or login to *My Pension+* to update your communication preference.

ESG in Practice

There are several actions we can take as investors to promote positive change.

► Climate Statement

NESPF acknowledges the risks posed by climate change and the potential impact on investment values. However, we also recognize the opportunities for investment returns, particularly in green energy investments during the transition to a lower carbon economy. Our approach to managing climate-related risks and opportunities includes both strategic asset allocation and a strong focus on engagement and voting.

► Direct Investment

Since 2017, the Fund has been increasing its exposure to renewable energy opportunities, including wind, solar, and energy-from-waste infrastructure projects. Currently, the Fund holds approximately £200 million in direct renewable energy investments.

► Collaboration

We understand that there are limits to what we can achieve as a single investor. By collaborating with other investors, we can leverage our collective influence to drive better corporate responsibility standards. The Fund is a member or signatory of several ESG initiatives, including:

- **Climate Action 100**
- **Carbon Disclosure Project**
- **UN Principles for Responsible Investment**

Local Authority Pension Fund Forum

The Fund has been actively collaborating with the Local Authority Pension Fund Forum (LAPFF) to enhance our responsible investment practices. LAPFF is the leading voice for local authority pension funds across the UK, advocating for responsible investment and corporate governance. Through this collaboration, we have been able to leverage our collective influence to drive positive change and promote better standards of corporate responsibility. The Forum meets quarterly and provides an opportunity for discussion and debate on a broad range of investment issues concerned with shareholder responsibilities and action.

Responsible Investment Initiatives

We have been working diligently on enhancing our responsible investment section on the website. This includes adding asset-specific examples, revamping the area, and publishing our first-ever TCFD report.

To find out more about our involvement with LAPFF visit:

www.nespf.org.uk/about/investment/responsible-investment/lapff/

More information on our investments can be found on our website.

<https://www.nespf.org.uk/about/investment/responsible-investment/climate/direct-investment/>



Contact Us

If you have any questions or would like more information, please get in touch.

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Tel: 01224 045 045 (10:00-16:00 Monday to Friday)

Email: pensions@nespf.org.uk

Web: www.nespf.org.uk

Visit: Face-to-face appointments must be booked in advance to ensure availability and can be booked via our website at www.nespf.org.uk/contact-us/ or by phone.

Prefer a digital newsletter?

You can update your communication preferences online via your *My Pension+* account, or contact us at the details above to advise us of your preference.

Data Protection

Member privacy is paramount to us and all personal information collected will be managed in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

To enable us to carry out our statutory duty, we are required to share your information with certain bodies but will only do so in limited circumstances.

To find out more, view our Privacy Notice available on our website

www.nespf.org.uk/about/data-privacy/



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