

Annual Benefit Statement 2025 – Notes

We have provided these notes to explain your Annual Benefit Statement (ABS) 2025. The notes cannot cover every circumstance and if there is a dispute, the appropriate legislation will apply. The notes do not give you any rights, under a contract or by law.

We receive regular information about you from your employer and this is used to produce the benefit statement. Please read the statement carefully and if any details are incorrect, please inform your employer.

Personal Details

Full name: If you have changed your name, please contact your employer.

Date of Birth: Please check this is correct and if not, please contact your employer.

Partnership status: Your partnership status shown on your record is shown here. If it is not correct, please contact your employer. In the event of your death, we would confirm your current partnership status and make sure the correct death benefits are paid regardless of the status we hold for you.

Address: Please check this is correct and if not, please contact your employer.

Employment Details at 31/03/2025

Scheme Employer: This is your employer at 31/03/2025. If you were paying into the LGPS for more than one job at this date, you will receive an annual benefit statement for each job. If you left employment after 31/03/2025, you will receive a separate notice of your benefits built up to your date of leaving.

Membership Number: This is the reference number for the pension account that this statement relates to. If you have more than one pension account, you will receive more than one statement.

Date joined scheme: This is the date you joined the fund in this job.

Section of LGPS at 31/03/2025: Since 01/04/2014, the LGPS has been a Career Average Revalued Earnings (CARE) scheme and there have been two sections to it – the main section and the 50/50 section. The section you were a member of on 31/03/2025 is shown here. Please see our [website](#) for more details.

Summary of your pension benefits at 31 March 2025

This section shows your total benefits built up to 31/03/2025. The value is based on you taking your pension benefits at your Normal Pension age (NPA), which is the date you reach age 65 or your State Pension age (whichever date comes later). The benefits shown will be reduced if they are paid before your NPA. This reduction is not included in this statement. Please visit our website for information about what reductions may apply.

Annual pension: This is the total value of your annual pension at 31/03/2025. It includes any final salary pension (membership up to 31/03/2014) and CARE pension (for membership from 01/04/2014) you have built up.

Automatic Lump Sum: This is the one-off automatic lump sum payment relating to your membership before 01/04/2008 and is paid when you start to take your annual pension.

You can choose to increase the value of the lump sum paid by changing some of your annual pension into a lump sum amount, this would be added to the automatic lump sum payment. HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) limits will apply, but every £1 of your annual pension you give up provides a lump sum of £12. Under current HMRC rules, the lump sum retirement grant is tax-free, and you can take up to 1/4 of the total value of your pension pot as a lump sum.

Scheme Membership in the final salary pension scheme (pre 01/04/2014)

Membership to 31/03/2008 (80th membership): This is the number of years and days of membership you built up in the final salary pension scheme up to 31 March 2008. The rate your pension built up for this period was 1/80th of your final salary pensionable pay for each year of membership.

Membership from 01/04/2008 to 31/03/2014 (60th membership): This is the number of years and days of membership you built up in the final salary pension scheme between 01/04/2008 and 31/03/2014. The rate your pension built up for this period was 1/60th of your final salary pensionable pay for each year of membership.

Pensionable Pay at 31 March 2025

You must check the figures quoted in the statement. If you think they are incorrect, contact your employer, not the fund, as the figures quoted have been supplied by your employer.

Your CARE pensionable pay – main section: From 01/04/2014, your CARE pension is calculated on your CARE pensionable pay during a scheme year, which is provided by your employer.

If you paid into the main section of the LGPS during the year to 31/03/2025, the figure given for 'CARE pensionable pay – main section' is any pensionable pay you received while paying into the main section between 01/04/2024 and 31/03/2025. If you work part-time, your pensionable pay represents your actual pay and is not a full-time equivalent.

The definition of pensionable pay in the CARE scheme includes any pay received for extra hours worked such as overtime and additional hours.

The pensionable pay figure used to work out your pension should include some assumed pensionable pay if you are (or have been) off work and receiving reduced or no pay due to:

- Sickness
- Injury, or
- Paid child-related leave

For a full explanation of final salary and CARE pensionable pay and how any periods of lower pay or authorised unpaid leave may affect it, please visit the fund's website at www.cheshirepensionfund.org/members/paying-in/work-events/absences-from-work/

Your CARE pensionable pay – 50/50 section: If you paid into the 50/50 section of the LGPS during the year to 31/03/2025, the figure shown here is the pensionable pay you received while paying into the 50/50 section.

The pay in this section is based on the definition of CARE pensionable pay above. If a figure is shown here, it means you have chosen to be in the 50/50 section. Your 50/50 section CARE pensionable pay is split from your main section CARE pensionable pay so that you can check the pension you have built up in each section. If you were a member of both the main section and the 50/50 section of the LGPS at different times during the scheme year, you will have figures shown for both.

Your final salary pensionable pay: If you became a member of the LGPS before 1 April 2014 or have transferred in membership with a final salary link, your final salary pensionable pay shown in this section is your annual full-time equivalent pay at 31/03/2025. This information has been provided by your employer.

If you joined the LGPS on or after 01/04/2014 and have not transferred in membership with a final salary pensionable pay link, this section will show a pay figure but will not impact on the value of your benefits.

Projection of LGPS Benefits to your Normal Pension Age (NPA)

Date of Normal Pension Age: The date shown is your current NPA for your CARE benefits, which is your State Pension age or age 65, whichever comes later. Your NPA is the age at which you can take the pension you have built up in full. Your NPA may change if your State Pension age changes in the future before your benefits are paid. Your NPA only applies to benefits built up in the CARE scheme. The NPA for benefits built up in the final salary scheme is 65.

If the date of your Normal Pension Age is in the past it is not possible to provide a projection of your pension benefits in this section.

Annual pension: This is the estimated value of your pension at your NPA, including your final salary pension and CARE pension, if you continue to contribute to the scheme on your current pay and hours until the date shown.

Automatic lump sum: This is the standard lump sum relating to your membership before 1 April 2008 and is paid when you take your pension benefits.

Value of Death in Service Benefits

Lump sum death grant: If you die while you are an active member of the LGPS, a death grant is paid. The amount of the death grant would be three times your assumed pensionable pay at the date you die. However, if you die while you are an active member and also have deferred benefits in the LGPS, are receiving an LGPS member pension (that is, not a survivor's pension) or a suspended 'tier 3' ill-health pension (or both), the amount of the death grant would be:

- the total of all death in service lump sums; or
- the total of all death grants from the deferred pension, pension in payment, or suspended tier 3 ill-health pension records whichever is more.

Who you have nominated to receive your lump sum death grant:

Please check who you have nominated to receive any death grant that may become due if you die. If this section is blank, we have no record of your nomination. If you would like to make a nomination or change the one we hold for you, please complete the details on the My Cheshire Pension Portal, or the online form 'Nominate who receives your death grant' on the website. You can nominate whoever you like to receive your lump sum death grant. The nomination is not legally binding as the fund has to review your personal circumstances at the time of your death before making payment, but wherever possible we will try to follow your wishes.

Partners pension: A survivor's pension is paid if, when you die, you are married, have a civil partner or a qualifying cohabiting partner.

We have used the partnership status we have on our records to decide the survivor's benefit shown on your statement. If we do not know your partnership status, we will assume your status is single.

1. If our records show you are single, no benefit will be shown.
2. If our records show a cohabiting partner, the survivor's benefit shown will be based on your membership after 05/04/1988 and any membership before 06/04/1988 bought by an additional survivor benefits contribution (ASBC).
3. If your status on our records is married or in a civil partnership, the survivor's benefit shown will be based on all your LGPS membership.
4. Survivor's pensions may be paid to eligible children. However, the rates of these pensions are not shown on your annual benefit statement.

If your partnership status is incorrect, please contact your employer.

If the fund does not hold your correct partnership status, when you die, any eligible survivor's pensions will still be paid as long as the fund receives the relevant marriage or civil partnership certificate or, in the case of cohabiting partners, evidence that they meet the requirements for receiving a survivor's benefit. Please see the fund's website for more details about the requirements that co-habiting partners need to meet to qualify for a survivor's benefit.

The survivor's pension shown in this section is based on the total of your final salary survivor's pension built up to 31/03/2014, any added years bought, any additional regular contributions (ARCs) that included a survivor's pension element, and the survivor's pension due under the CARE scheme. It does not take account of any deductions relating to a pension sharing order.

If you die after leaving the LGPS, a survivor's pension is still paid but could be a lower amount.

For more information about how survivors' pensions are worked out, please visit the fund's website.