

Guidance Notes - 2024 Deferred Benefit Statement

Your Pension Benefits

Deferred benefits are calculated from the day after you leave, and these benefits are not paid until a later date. Deferred benefits are increased each year by a percentage figure, under the Pensions Increase (Review) Orders (Northern Ireland), until they are brought into payment. An increase of 6.7% applied this year, at 8 April 2024. The figures in this statement are the current value of your deferred pension and any lump sum.

If you stopped contributing to the Scheme during the 2023/24 year, two adjustments have been applied to your benefits. The first is a part-year revaluation adjustment, made on 6 April 2024, relating to the Career Average Revalued Earnings (CARE) portion of your pension built up while you were working. The second adjustment is a part-year pensions increase, relating to the period that you were deferred.

If you are above your normal pension age (NPA), your benefits will include late retirement increases. Final salary benefits are usually increased from the age of 65, and CARE benefits are increased from your NPA, which is linked to your State Pension Age. Actuarial adjustments are made to your pension and lump sum if you retire earlier or later than your NPA. If you left the Scheme before 6 April 2006, you are unable to defer drawing your deferred benefits. We will pay your pension when you reach your NPA. If you left the Scheme after 5 April 2006, you have the option to delay payment of your deferred benefits until after your NPA, however, your pension must be paid by your 75th birthday.

If you left the Scheme before 1 April 2015, your normal pension age is likely to be 65. If you left after 31 March 2015, your normal pension age is linked to your State Pension Age. You can check your current State Pension Age at this website; www.gov.uk/state-pension-age. Your State Pension Age may change in the future. You can run retirement quotations of your benefits from [My NILGOSC Pension Online](#), but you must be aged 55¹ or over to be able to take your pension benefits (unless you are in ill-health, when you may be able to take your pension immediately regardless of age).

If you have other periods of membership in the Scheme you will receive a statement for each one.

Updating Your Details

Personal Details

If your contact details have changed, or if you notice anything is incorrect, please let us know. You can update

¹ The national minimum pension age, the earliest age you can access your pension benefits, will be increased from age 55 to age 57 from 6 April 2028.

your details instantly via [My NILGOSC Pension Online](#) or you can visit our website www.nilgosc.org.uk/contact/communication-preferences, email pbs@nilgosc.org.uk or call on 0345 3197 325.

Calculating your Benefits

Pension

Any pension built up after 31 March 2015 is on a Career Average Revalued Earnings (CARE) basis. Pension built up before 1 April 2015 is linked to your final salary at the date you left employment. If you have built up both CARE and final salary benefits, the calculated pension is the total of both elements.

• Membership after 31 March 2015

CARE pension builds up at different rates depending what section of the Scheme you are in; the Main section (1/49th of pensionable pay) or 50/50 section (1/98th of pensionable pay).

• Membership before 1 April 2015

Your annual pension is calculated as the total of:

$1/80 \times$ your membership to 31 March 2009 (if applicable) \times your final pay

plus

$1/60 \times$ your membership from 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2015 (if applicable) \times your final pay.

NOTE: If you are a Councillor, Classroom Assistant or Nursery Assistant your benefits are worked out slightly differently. More information on this can be found on our website -

www.nilgosc.org.uk/members/about-the-scheme



Lump Sum

If you were an active member before 1 April 2009, a lump sum was an automatic part of your benefits. This was calculated on your final salary at leaving, your final salary membership to 31 March 2009, and an accrual rate of 3/80ths. If you joined after 1 April 2009, an automatic lump sum was no longer a part of your benefits. All deferred members have the option to give up pension for lump sum at retirement, subject to tax limits.

See overleaf for more information

Protection on Death

If you die, a death grant and, if applicable, survivors' pensions are payable. Survivors' pensions are paid to a spouse, civil partner, eligible cohabiting partner and eligible children. The death grant shown on your statement is an estimated amount. Further information on these benefits is on our website at www.nilgosc.org.uk/deferred-members/death-benefits.

If you have re-joined the Scheme in another employment, it will change how death benefits are calculated. If you are an active member as well as a deferred and/or pensioner member, your death grant will be the higher of:

- three times your assumed pensionable pay in the active employment, or;
- the total of all other deferred and/or pensioner death grants payable.

You can say who you would like any death grant paid to, including death benefits from an AVC arrangement. You can do so by completing and giving NILGOSC your Expression of Wish. If the "Expression of Wish Nominations" section is blank on your statement, it means we hold no Expression of Wish details for you. You can give us this information by logging into [My NILGOSC Pension Online](#) or downloading and completing an [LGS20 – Expression of Wish](#) Form from our website.

More Information

Additional Contributions

If you paid Additional Pension Contributions (APC) / Shared-Cost APC / Additional Regular Contributions (ARC) or if you purchased Added Years, the proportionate value of your contract has been included in your benefits. If you made Additional Voluntary Contributions (AVCs), you will receive a separate statement from NILGOSC's AVC providers, the Prudential or Utmost Life.

McCloud Remedy

The new rules on the McCloud Remedy became law on 1 October 2023. It will take time for NILGOSC to complete calculations for eligible deferred members. This statement does not reflect any changes due to the McCloud Remedy. If you are eligible for the remedy, then it will be taken into account at retirement. For further information, see <https://nilgosc.org.uk/deferred-members/your-benefits/the-mccloud-remedy/>.

Check your State Pension Forecast

The UK Government recently launched a 'Check your State Pension Forecast' digital service - <https://www.gov.uk/check-state-pension>. Here you can find out how much state pension you could get and when you can get it. It also tells you how to check for and fill any gaps in your National Insurance record to help increase your State Pension. To use the service you will need to prove your identity using Government Gateway or register if you have not used it before.

Protect your Pension from Scammers



Your LGPS (NI) pension is one of the most valuable assets you own. Pension scammers will do whatever it takes to get their hands on your savings and enjoy your retirement. Sadly, the last decade has seen an increase in pension companies being formed to defraud the public of their pension savings,

by encouraging them to transfer their pension savings to unsuitable or fraudulent schemes.

NILGOSC has pledged to do whatever it can to protect scheme members and follow the principals of the Pension Scams Industry Group (PSIG) Code of Good Practice. Pledging to combat pension scams confirms our intent to protect our members and to stop scammers in their tracks.

Further information on protection from pension scams is available here:

<https://www.fca.org.uk/consumers/pension-scams> and https://nilgosc.org.uk/tpr_pensions_consumer_leaflet_screen/

National Fraud Initiative (NFI)

Key data may be provided to bodies responsible for auditing and administering public funds for the purpose of preventing and detecting fraud. Details are set out in the Northern Ireland Audit Office's website:

www.niauditoffice.gov.uk or by going to the NFI page on our website.

Accessibility for our Members

Information produced by NILGOSC can be made available in several languages and formats (such as large print, in Braille or on audio disc).

Our offices are open Monday to Friday, from 9am to 5pm. Please contact us in advance of visiting our office to ensure that a meeting room is available. The office is closed on public and statutory holidays. You can contact us by phone or via our email address, pbs@nilgosc.org.uk.

If you have any questions about your benefit statement, you will find the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) section of our website helpful -

<https://nilgosc.org.uk/deferred-members/annual-information/pension-benefit-statement-faqs/>.

These FAQs cover topics such as transferring benefits and ill-health. If you cannot find the answer to your query on the website, please contact us on 0345 3197 325.