

NILGOSC NEWS 2026

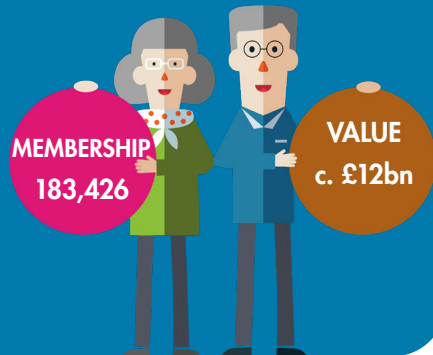


Welcome to the 2026 NILGOSC Annual Members' Newsletter

This newsletter sets out our review of the year, contains notes on your LGPS (NI) benefits and how to claim them and will also answer many of the common questions we get asked. We hope you enjoy reading this edition.

Scheme membership has continued to grow to 183,426 members by March 2026, which includes 87,354 contributing members.

At 31 March 2025 the Fund was valued at £10.95 billion and grew throughout the year to reach almost £12 billion at December 2025.



We recommend that you take this opportunity to:



Read the Dear Jacqueline
section to view frequently
asked questions

SEE PAGE 14



Register with
My NILGOSC Pension
Online

SEE PAGE 20

Contents

News

4

Using AI to Understand the Questions, not to Decide the Answers
Changes to some Scheme Calculations and Buying Additional Pension
Let's Talk Pensions
Stay Safe Online
Wider Pension News
Keep your Pension Safe from Scammers

Your Pension

11

How much do I Pay into the Scheme?
Know your Retirement Date
Pension Confusion? Let's Clear It Up
Will I have enough Pension?
Dear Jacqueline - Answers to Commonly Asked Questions
Accessing your Pension
Planning to Retire Soon – What Next?
Death Benefits

My NILGOSC Pension Online

20

How do I Register?
What can I do?
Annual Benefit Statement Online
Communication Preferences

Review of The Year 2025/26

22

Employers
Member Satisfaction
How we Invest
Investment Performance
Being a Responsible Investor
Climate Risk

Data Sharing and Accessibility

27

Contact Details

28

News

Using AI to Understand the Questions, not to Decide the Answers

AI tools can be useful for everyday things—like finding a cooking recipe, planning a journey or summarising a long article. We know they're becoming part of daily life. When it comes to your pension though, AI should never be used as a standalone tool, it should always be used alongside trusted, official sources.

You may notice AI-generated summaries at the top of search results (for example, an "AI Overview" on Google). These can be a useful starting point, but they're not always accurate or up to date—especially for complex areas like pensions.



Why AI Overviews aren't a reliable source for your pension details

There are many reasons why AI responses can be inaccurate. These include:

- **They can mix up different pension schemes.** Some online pages refer to the LGPS in Great Britain, private pensions, or older rules. AI summaries can blend these together.
- **They can be out of date.** Pension information changes over time, and AI tools can't guarantee they're using the latest Northern Ireland specific guidance.
- **They may miss important detail.** Short summaries can leave out conditions, exceptions, or steps you may need to take. They also do not take into account personal background and circumstances.

Where to get the right information

AI can be used effectively to understand what some pension options mean or to explain some jargon you don't understand. However, it should not be used to make any decisions regarding your pension.

For the most accurate, up-to-date information about the Local Government Pension Scheme (Northern Ireland), please visit the NILGOSC website directly

www.nilgosc.org.uk). We've worked hard to put lots of detailed, accurate information on our website, and we keep it up to date; you'll find member guides, forms and FAQ's to cover nearly every query. If you do use a search engine, click through to the official NILGOSC website result rather than only relying on any AI-generated summary, and, if you were in a legacy section of the Scheme, take care that you're reading the rules applicable to it.

You can also contact MoneyHelper for free, independent guidance at www.moneyhelper.org.uk or call 0800 011 3797.

A quick note on keeping your information safe

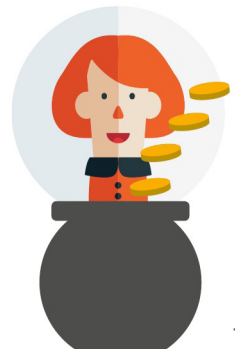
To help protect you from fraud and identity theft, never upload or paste personal information into AI tools (for example, ChatGPT or similar services), because this information could be stored and used by AI tools and you may be misinformed. This includes documents such as your Annual Benefit Statement, as well as payslips, your National Insurance number, date of birth, home address, email address, phone number, bank details, and screenshots of your My NILGOSC Pension Online account.

If you'd like help understanding your benefits, please use the information on our website or your My NILGOSC Pension Online account. If you can't find the information you are looking for you can call us on 0345 3197 325.

Remember: AI can be great for helping you understand complex subjects like pensions, but if you have any specific questions to do with your LGPS (NI) pension, please visit the NILGOSC website directly. This is the best way to make sure you're reading correct, and up to date information.

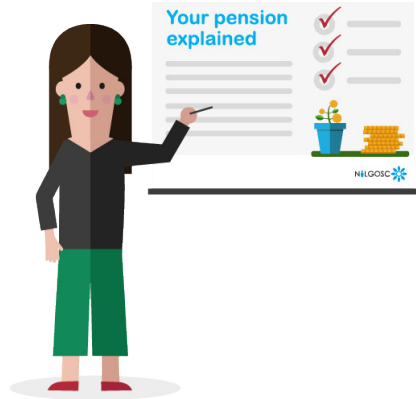
Changes to some Scheme calculations and buying additional pension

Many of the calculations to work out the value of your pension if you retire early, late, if you transfer pension into or out of the Scheme or if you buy extra pension, are based on actuarial factors. These factors are set by the 'Superannuation Contributions Adjusted for Past Experience (SCAPE)' discount rate. We expect HM Treasury to make an announcement in the coming weeks that will change the SCAPE discount rate. Following this announcement the factors will be reviewed over a number of months. We will keep members up to date via the News section of our website and publish the new factors when we receive them.



Let's Talk Pensions

NILGOSC has teamed up with MoneyHelper to deliver online information sessions to help you feel more confident about your pension. To register, scan the QR code at the bottom of the page, or visit the Training and Events page on our website.



Upcoming Sessions

- **Thursday 4th June 2026 @ 1pm – Why is your pension important?**
If you're under 40, discover why planning for retirement now is crucial. The session will highlight the benefits of saving for your future and explain how you can do this within the NILGOSC scheme.
- **Thursday 24th September 2026 @ 1pm – Preparing for the unknown** Unsure what would happen to your pension if you died, or what options you would have if you needed to retire early due to ill health? Learn what happens to your pension in unforeseen circumstances and how to plan for financial security in retirement.
- **Thursday 5th November 2026 @ 1pm – Retirement Planning for Over 50's** If you're over 50, this session will provide a better understanding of your retirement options and help you to feel more confident about planning for the years ahead. It focuses on the practical decisions you may face as retirement moves closer, and the steps you can take now to prepare.

Training Recordings

If you can't attend any of these sessions, don't worry. You can find recordings of previous training sessions on our website - watch them anytime and revisit for a refresher.

<https://nilgosc.org.uk/members/training-events/>



Stay Safe Online

Protect Your Digital Life with Simple Security Measures

With more people embracing digital technology, safeguarding your online accounts has become increasingly important. You can protect yourself by following a few straightforward steps.

Never share your passwords with anyone, whether online, over the phone, or in person. Use strong, unique passwords for each account and avoid using easily guessed words or dates, such as your birthday or pet's name. Consider using a reputable password manager to keep track of your logins securely.

Multi-factor authentication (MFA) is another vital layer of protection. It means you'll need more than just a password to access your account—often a code sent to your phone or email. This makes it harder for hackers to gain access, even if they have your password. My NIIGOSC Pension Online uses MFA. Currently a code is sent by email, however later this year we plan to introduce the option to have this sent via text message.

Staying safe online is easier than you might think. By following these simple guidelines, you can enjoy the benefits of digital technology with peace of mind.

Wider Pension News

Inheritance Tax on Pensions

The Government has confirmed that from 6 April 2027 inheritance tax will become payable on the value of any unused pension funds and pension death benefits held within a member's estate at the time of their death. However, these changes will not impact active members of the Scheme, as death in service benefits will remain exempt from inheritance tax.

These changes will mean that death grants payable in respect of pensioner and deferred members will be subject to inheritance tax after 6 April 2027, if paid to a beneficiary who is not a spouse or civil partner, and the value of the deceased's estate is greater than £325k. The details of the new rules are being finalised in the Finance Act 2026.



Pensions Dashboards

Most people will change jobs several times during their working life, meaning that they may have more than one pension pot. Pensions Dashboards is a UK government initiative which will enable you to see simple information about your Scheme pension as well as any other pension savings that you have (including your State Pension), online, securely and in one place. This should help you to plan for retirement, make decisions around your long-term savings, and find any lost pension pots.

The Money and Pensions Service ('MaPS') is creating a pensions dashboard for the government. NILGOSC is currently connected to the dashboard infrastructure and ready for the launch, which is expected to be toward the end of 2026. Before the dashboard can be launched, MaPS are carrying out testing throughout the UK to make sure that the dashboard is working as expected.

Test the new Pensions Dashboard (and get rewarded)

We're working with MoneyHelper – a government backed service run by the Money and Pensions Service – to invite you to test the new MoneyHelper Pensions Dashboard.

How you can make a difference

You're invited to join the MoneyHelper Research Panel. If you join, you'll be invited to take part in research to make the dashboard as helpful and easy to use as possible. Testing is in the early stages, so you may not see all your pensions in the dashboard just yet.



There are many ways you could help improve the dashboard – from conducting a short test of the service on your own and completing a survey afterwards, to attending an interview with a researcher.

To say thanks, you'll receive:

- a high street voucher worth £50 if you take part in a session with a researcher
- a £10 high street voucher for shorter tasks, like completing a survey after testing the dashboard on your own.

Once on the panel, you may be invited to take part at any stage during this phase of testing, which is expected to last up to 9 months.

You can accept or decline the research invitation at any time. We'd love you to take part and help shape this brand-new service.



To sign up to the research panel scan the QR code or visit

<https://www.moneyhelper.org.uk/en/pensions-and-retirement/pensions-dashboard/research>



Increase in normal minimum pension age

The normal minimum pension age will be increased from 55 to 57 from 6 April 2028. This is the earliest age that you can take your pension benefits (apart from ill-health). At this stage we do not know what protections, if any, will apply to members of the Scheme.

State Pension Age review

Currently the state pension age is 66, however it is now gradually rising to age 67 between 2026 and 2028. It is planned to increase again to age 68 between 2044 and 2046, however this timeframe is currently under review. You can check your state pension age at <https://www.gov.uk/state-pension-age>.



Keep your Pension Safe from Scammers

Scammers may try to pressure you into moving your pension to unsuitable or fake arrangements, often by exploiting money worries. NILGOSC has pledged to protect scheme members by following the principles of the Pension Scams Industry Group (PSIG) Code of Good Practice.

Common warning signs

Red flags include unexpected contact (including cold calls), 'free' pension reviews, offers of early cash, and promises of high returns. Sometimes the approach comes from a friend or family member who is also unknowingly being scammed.

Be wary of anyone offering pension access before age 55. This is known as pension liberation - it's usually a scam and could trigger a 55% tax charge, extra fees, and the loss of your savings.

Steps you can take to stay protected

Say no to unexpected approaches – Cold calls about pensions are illegal - the safest thing to do is hang up.

Check who you are dealing with - Check the FCA Register (<https://register.fca.org.uk/s/>) and only share details once you're confident who you're dealing with. If needed, call the Consumer Helpline on 0800 111 6768.

Take your time—don't be rushed - Pressure to act quickly is a common scam tactic, and money is rarely recoverable once transferred.

Seek independent guidance and regulated advice before making a transfer decision - MoneyHelper offers free, independent guidance (www.moneyhelper.org.uk) or call 0800 011 3797. Use an FCA-registered adviser to assess your circumstances.

Transferring out of the LGPS (NI) is a major financial decision. Your pension provides guaranteed retirement income, annual inflationary increases, and benefits for dependants. Switching to another scheme may mean losing these guarantees.

If you suspect a scam, report it:
<https://www.reportfraud.police.uk/> or call: 0300 123 2040



Your Pension



How much do I Pay into the Scheme?

The amount that you pay depends on how much you earn, but it will usually be between 5.5% and 10.5% of your pay. The Scheme has a 50/50 section which means that you can choose to pay half the contributions and build up half the amount of pension. This can be used as a short-term option if your financial circumstances are difficult, instead of opting out of the Scheme.

BAND	YEARLY PAY	YOU PAY (MAIN SECTION)	YOU PAY (50/50 SECTION)
1	£0 to £18,900	5.5%	2.75%
2	£18,901 to £29,100	5.8%	2.90%
3	£29,101 to £48,700	6.5%	3.25%
4	£48,701 to £59,300	6.8%	3.40%
5	£59,301 to £117,800	8.5%	4.25%
6	More than £117,800	10.5%	5.25%

Know your Retirement Date

As a contributing member your normal pension age is linked to your state pension age.

DATE OF BIRTH	STATE PENSION AGE
Between 6 Dec 1953 and 5 Oct 1954	Between 65 and 66
Between 6 Oct 1954 and 5 Apr 1960	66
Between 6 Apr 1960 and 5 Mar 1961	Between 66 and 67
Between 6 Mar 1961 and 5 Apr 1970	67
Between 6 Apr 1970 and 5 Apr 1978	Between 67 and 68
After 6 Apr 1978	68

State pension age is currently under review, which means that it could change in the future, depending on different factors, such as changes in life expectancy. See State Pension Age Review article on page 9 for more information.

Pension Confusion? Let's Clear It Up

There are two main types of pension schemes: Defined Contribution (DC) and Defined Benefit (DB). With a DC pension, what you get when you retire depends on how much you and your employer pay in, plus how well those savings grow with investments. The final amount isn't fixed, so it can go up or down. On the other hand, a **DB pension scheme—like the Local Government Pension Scheme (NI)**—gives you a set income when you retire, based on your earnings and how long you've been a member. This means you know in advance how much you'll receive, giving you more peace of mind about your retirement.



How Your Pension Builds Up

Even though you and your employer both pay into the Scheme regularly, those payments aren't what actually decide how much you'll get. Instead, your pension is worked out based on your average earnings while you're a member of the Scheme. If you are in the main section of the Scheme, each year $1/49$ th of your pensionable pay is added to your pension account, plus a revaluation amount so that your pension keeps up with the cost of living. This means your pension won't lose value over time.



Example

Alice earns £20,000 per year. During that year, she will build up pension savings of:

$$\text{£20,000 divided by 49} = \text{£408.16}$$

Based on this one year of membership, when she retires, she will receive £408.16 each year for the rest of her life.

Employer Contributions Explained

Every three years a valuation is carried out to make sure that the Fund has enough money to pay everyone's pensions. The amount that your employer pays into the Scheme depends on the results of this report. As of 1 April 2026, we were able to reduce the rate of employer contributions from 19% to 15.5%. It is important to note that this change does not affect the amount of pension you will receive.

Will I have enough Pension?

Everyone has different hobbies and activities they want to pursue when they retire. The Retirement Planner tool on My NILGOSC Pension Online is designed to help you figure out the amount you'll need once you retire. Hopefully, your benefits from the LGPS (NI) will get you most of the way there, but if you have a shortfall, you can increase your pension through the Scheme in the following ways:

Additional Voluntary Contributions (AVCs)

You can increase the amount you will get when you retire, including any lump sum, by paying Additional Voluntary Contributions (AVCs) with Prudential. Your contributions are deducted from your salary each month before it's taxed. This means that if you are a basic rate taxpayer, a £100 contribution will only cost you £80, as the £20 you would pay in tax goes in your AVC pot instead. You choose how your AVCs are invested, but remember investments can rise or fall.

New members can apply online, and existing members can manage their accounts at <https://workplacepensions.mandg.com/employees/public-sector-avc-schemes/local-gov>.

Existing AVC customers may also call Prudential at 0345 6000 343.

Additional Pension Contributions (APCs)

You can buy additional pension of up to £9,158 per year (2026/27) to boost your pension at retirement. Unlike AVCs these buy a set amount of annual pension rather than being invested in a fund that could go up or down.

Payments can be made by lump sum or regular contributions, with costs varying based on your age, payment period, and normal pension age. You must complete a medical with a NILGOSC doctor (at your own expense) to confirm that you are in good health before you can make your payment. You can calculate the cost of buying additional pension using the calculator on our website:

<https://nilgosc.org.uk/members/boosting-your-pension/apcs/>.



Dear Jacqueline - Answers to Commonly Asked Questions

Jacqueline Marner, Operations Manager, answers your pension questions.



Do I pay tax on my lump sum?

Usually not, one of the benefits of the Scheme is that your lump sum is tax-free. If you joined the Scheme before 1 April 2009, you will receive an automatic tax-free lump sum along with your annual pension. The government introduced two new limits to control tax relief on lump sums, however we don't expect this to impact too many of our members.

Is my pension based on the contributions paid by myself and my employer?

No, the Scheme is a defined benefit pension arrangement. This means that your benefits built up depend on the length of your service in the Scheme and your pensionable pay. Every year the pension that you have built up for that year (1/49th of your pensionable pay if you are in the Main Section) is added to your pension account. At the beginning of the next year the total amount of pension in your account receives a cost of living increase. The contributions that your employer pays ensures that there is enough money in the Fund to cover all the Scheme benefits, including annual pensions, lump sums, survivor pensions, death grants and ill-health retirement enhancements. More information on how your pension builds up can be found on page 12.

I opted out of the Scheme. Why have I been enrolled again?

The Government requires all employers to automatically enrol their workers into a workplace pension if they meet certain criteria. The LGPS (NI) is a workplace pension and most new employees automatically join the scheme when they start employment. Every three years your employer must re-enrol its eligible staff back into the pension scheme even if they have previously opted out. You can choose to opt out again at anytime, however we encourage you to consider the benefits of the Scheme and long-term pension saving before doing this.

Will the world economy affect my pension?

No, as a defined benefit scheme your pension is determined by law and is based on how many years you've been a member of the Scheme and your average pensionable pay. It is not affected by financial markets, world events or poor return on the assets invested.

What does the Rule of 85 mean?

The Rule of 85 allowed members who retired early to take their pension with certain protections if the sum of their age and length of membership equalled 85 years or more. The Rule of 85 has been removed from the Scheme, however if you were a member before 1 October 2006 you may have some early retirement protections. This is a complex rule and the protection only applies if you are over age 60. If you are between age 55 and 59 your employer can apply the Rule of 85 protections at their own cost. If you are considering early retirement and are 60 or over, please log onto your My NILGOSC Pension Online account and use the retirement calculator to see how the reductions will apply.

Can I opt out of the Scheme and take my pension benefits while I'm still working?

No - to receive your pension benefits you need to retire. If you opt out, you may receive a refund of your contributions, or your benefits will become deferred – depending on how long you have been in the Scheme.

How do I claim my pension?

The first step is to speak to your employer and agree a retirement date. Your employer will then contact NILGOSC, and we will issue you with a retirement pack, which you must complete and return to us. After you receive your last salary payment from your employer, they will send us the final paperwork. If you have an AVC, NILGOSC will request that your funds are disinvested and sent to us. We will aim to process your pension within ten working days of receipt of all required information. More information on claiming your pension can be found on page 18.



Accessing your Pension

Your normal pension age in the Scheme is the same as your State Pension age and will be shown on your annual pension benefit statement.

However, you can claim your Scheme benefits anytime between the age of 55¹ and 75, providing you have been a Scheme member for more than two years. You will not be able to claim your State Pension until you reach your State Pension age. Your Scheme pension may be paid in the following circumstances:



Early retirement at age 55¹ or over

Your Scheme benefits can be paid out as soon as you reach age 55¹ and have left your Scheme employer. As NILGOSC will be paying your benefits for a longer period of time, your benefits will be reduced. The size of this reduction depends on how early you draw them.

YEARS PAID EARLY	PENSION REDUCTION	LUMP SUM REDUCTION
1	5%	2%
2	10%	5%
3	15%	7%
4	19%	9%
5	23%	11%
6	26%	13%
7	30%	15%
8	33%	17%
9	36%	19%
10	38%	21%

If you are interested in seeing how taking your benefits early would affect your benefits, you can log on to [My NILGOSC Pension Online](#) and use the benefit calculators.

¹ See article on page 9 for increase in normal minimum pension age



Flexible retirement

From the age of 55¹, if you reduce your hours or move to a less senior position and your employer agrees, you can draw some or all of the pension benefits you have built up, helping you ease into retirement. Your benefits may be reduced as you are taking them early.



Ill-health

You may be able to have your pension paid early, without reduction, if because of your health:

- you would be permanently unable to do your current job
- you are less likely to be capable of doing any other job before normal pension age.

Your employer will refer you to NILGOSC for ill-health retirement and NILGOSC's decision will be based on a report from an independent registered medical practitioner and other available supporting medical evidence. You do not have the option to defer payment and you are not able to transfer your benefits to another pension scheme if you are entitled to an ill-health pension.



Redundancy

If you are aged 55¹ and over and you have met the two-year qualifying period, your benefits **must be paid** immediately without any reductions if you are made redundant. You do not have the option to defer payment and you are not able to transfer your benefits to another pension scheme if you are entitled to a redundancy pension.



Transfer of benefits

It may be possible to transfer your benefits to another pension scheme as long as you do so at least 12 months before your normal pension age. **Please read the scams section on page 10 before making any decisions.**

¹ See article on page 9 for increase in normal minimum pension age

Planning to Retire Soon – What Next?

If you are thinking of retiring please talk to your employer and agree the date you would like to finish. You both need to be clear what type of retirement you are taking - are you retiring at normal pension age, retiring early by your own choice or are you being made redundant?



The next steps are as follows:

1. Your employer notifies us you are retiring and provides key information. Ideally, they should do this **three months in advance**.
2. Once NILGOSC has received all of the key information from your employer, we will send you a retirement pack within **10 working days** which will include:
 - details of your pension, and if applicable, your lump sum
 - the options for increasing the size of your lump sum
 - your options if you have an AVC fund*
 - a request for information, including bank account details, a copy of your birth certificate or passport as proof of age and your decision regarding the size of any lump sum.

Until we receive the paperwork from both you and your employer we are unable to process your retirement, so please check your employer has sent all the information we need, and return your claim forms as soon as possible!

3. After you have received your last salary payment from your employer, they submit paperwork to us detailing your final pay information and confirmation that your last AVC contribution has been made (if applicable). Once this information has been received, we aim to process your pension and any lump sum you are due **within 10 working days**. Pensions are paid in arrears and normally on the last banking day of each month.

***If you have an AVC with Prudential, NILGOSC must wait until your employer tells us that the last contribution has been paid (step 3) before requesting that the fund is disinvested and sent back to us. This can take several weeks, and we cannot process your pension until we receive the funds from Prudential.**

Death Benefits

Death Grant Expression of Wish form

If you die while you are contributing to the Scheme, we will normally pay out a lump sum of three times your annual pay. This is in addition to any survivors' pensions. You can let us know who you would like to receive this lump sum via the Manage beneficiaries tile on [My NILGOSC Pension Online](#) or you can download and complete a Death Grant Expression of Wish form from our website www.nilgosc.org.uk/keep-us-updated and return it to us.

I live with my partner but we aren't married. Will my partner receive a pension when I die?

If you and your partner live together but are not married or in a civil partnership you are known as co-habiting partners. When you die, your co-habiting partner may be eligible for a pension if the conditions below are met:

- You must be able to marry or form a civil partnership with your partner.
- You and your partner must be living together as if you are a married couple or as if you are civil partners.
- Neither you nor your cohabiting partner have been living with someone else as if you are a married couple or civil partners.
- Either your partner is financially dependent on you or you rely on your joint income to support your standard of living – even if you don't contribute equally.

The first condition must apply at the date of your death. The other conditions must have applied for a continuous period of at least two years before the date you died.

It will be necessary to prove that you were living together and that the eligibility criteria have been met. We recommend that if you are co-habiting with a partner, you jointly consider how you will demonstrate financial interdependency and have taken steps to ensure you have evidence in place.



My NILGOSC Pension Online

We know that having access to your pension details when needed is important to you, so it's important to us. My NILGOSC Pension Online is simple and secure and allows you to instantly view and update your information – wherever and whenever.

How do I Register?

It's easy, all you need is an internet connection and computer, tablet or smartphone. Get online in four simple steps:

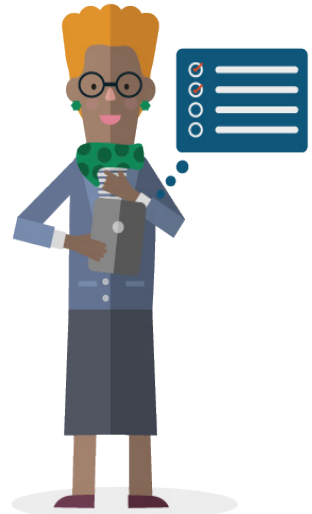
1. Scan the QR code or visit www.nilgosc.org.uk and click on 'Register' at the top of the page.
2. Click on 'I have never registered for My NILGOSC Pension Online'.
3. Confirm your surname, date of birth and National Insurance number.
4. If we already have your email address, you can complete your registration by creating a password. If we do not have your email address, you can either phone us so that we can add it to our system, or we can send an activation key to your home address which you can use to complete your registration.



What can I do?

As an active member you can use My NILGOSC Pension Online to:

- view and update your personal information and contact details
- make or alter your Expression of Wish – Death Grant nomination, so your family are taken care of should anything happen to you
- see how much your pension is currently worth



- get instant quotations to estimate the value of your pension at your chosen retirement date
- upload and view important documents
- view your annual benefit statements, including the the value of the benefits payable should you die
- view your membership history
- plan for your retirement using our retirement planner
- update your communication and accessibility preferences.



Annual Benefit Statement Online

Your annual benefit statement is now published online, unless you have specifically requested a paper version. We will notify you by email when they have been uploaded to [My NILGOSC Pension Online](#). If we do not have your email address we will write to you in August each year to let you know that your statement has been published and to request your email address.

Communication Preferences

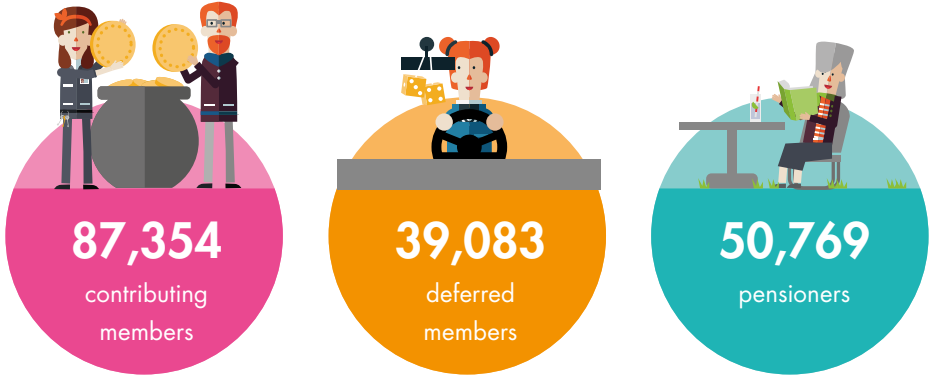
If you would prefer to continue to receive communications by post that's no problem. You can tell us by:

- visiting [My NILGOSC Pension Online](#) - you can choose your communication preference under the 'Details and settings' section by clicking on Communication preferences
- registering your preference on our website at www.nilgosc.org.uk/contact/communication-preferences
- writing to us or telephoning our office on 0345 3197 325.



Review of The Year 2025/26

The last year has been a busy one for NILGOSC with membership increasing to 183,426 members by 31 March. At that time the Scheme had:



Plus 6,220 members with a miscellaneous classification.

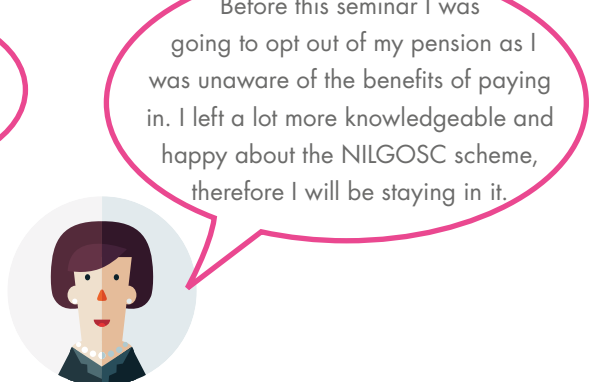
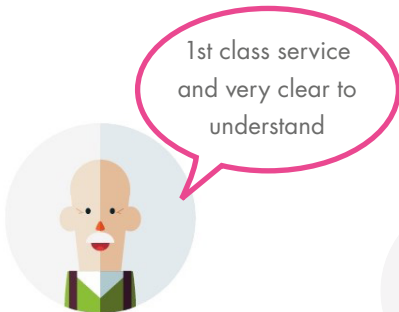
Employers

At 31 March 2026, there were 168 employers contributing to the Scheme including: 11 councils, 1 Education Authority, 1 Library Authority, 47 associated bodies, 89 schools, 9 further and higher education colleges and universities and 10 employers with restricted membership (closed to new members).

Member Satisfaction

94% of members rate customer satisfaction as good or excellent.

Here's what some of our members had to say...

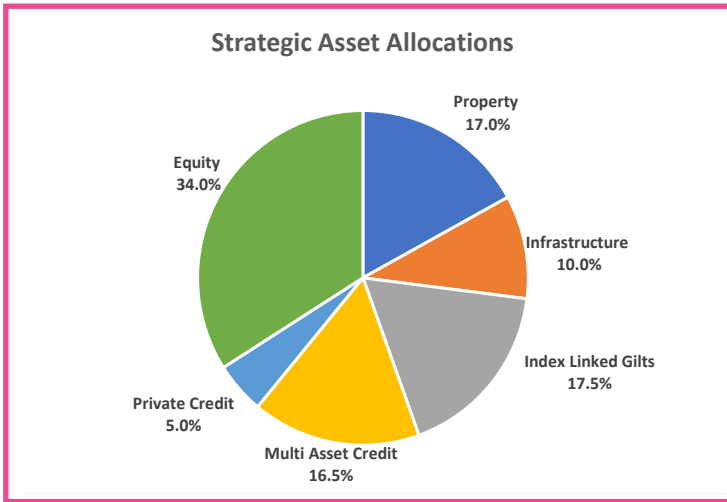


How we Invest

The Fund value continued to grow over the year, delivering a pleasing 9.14% investment return. The Fund commenced the 2025/26 financial year at £10.95 billion and ended December 2025 at almost £12 billion.

As a pension scheme with benefits payable far into the future, NILGOSC takes a longer-term approach to investment to avoid undue focus on short-term events and volatility. The Fund also reduces risk by investing across a variety of different asset classes: including equities, fixed income, property and infrastructure.

The chart below shows high-level target allocations for each of the asset classes, which are effective from 1 April 2026; although within each asset class, multiple separate strategies are used to diversify further. For example, under the banner of a 17% allocation to property, NILGOSC invests in: UK property; global property; index-linked leases; and residential property.



With a longer-term approach in mind, NILGOSC sets a target for investment returns it expects from the Fund over a three and five year period. Since 1 January 2022, the investment return target for the Fund has been the UK CPI + 3%.

It is often quoted, but past performance really is no guarantee of future returns in financial markets and our focus remains firmly on the future and achieving solid longer-term investment returns within an acceptable level of risk. With this in mind, NILGOSC undertook its latest triennial Investment Strategy Review

during 2025/26 to ensure it remained appropriate from both a risk and return perspective. We concluded that the overall investment target remains suitable to meet the long-term needs of the fund, but that this target could be achieved with reduced risk if some minor changes were made to the strategic asset allocation. This new strategic asset allocation is set out in the chart on the previous page and the proposed changes will be implemented over the coming years.

Investment Performance

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) measures the average change in price for a basket of goods and services over time, and therefore incorporates inflation growth. Despite strong performance during 2025 which was 2.8% ahead of CPI+3%, the Fund did not meet its investment target of CPI+3%, to be measured over a three and five year period. Although performance exceeded CPI+3% over three years, it did not meet the target over five years as expected, due to high levels of inflation and interest rates in earlier periods. Total investment returns to 31 December 2025 are shown below, alongside the relevant target for that period (CPI+3%):

	3 Years	5 Years
NILGOSC	9.41%	4.27%
CPI + 3.0%	6.27%	8.21%

2025 was a more resilient year for investors generally, with improved fixed income returns and strong global equity returns mainly driven by the tech sector, despite episodic periods of volatility. Over the longer term, NILGOSC's investment performance is expected to move closer to the target. NILGOSC continues to work with its investment consultant and the investment managers to monitor Fund performance and assess if steps need to be taken to address specific underperformance.

As a reminder, your NILGOSC pension is not affected by investment market returns. For further details on how the NILGOSC Fund is invested and its performance, please refer to the NILGOSC website:

www.nilgosc.org.uk/pension-fund.



Being a Responsible Investor

NILGOSC takes its responsibilities as a global investor seriously and strongly believes that environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues can affect the long-term performance of investments. Such issues should therefore be taken into account when managing investments, subject to the overriding legal duty to maximise the financial return for pension scheme members and beneficiaries.



We do this in a number of ways:

- We instruct our investment managers to include ESG considerations in their decision-making process, provided the primary financial obligation is not compromised;
- We exercise our right to vote at all company meetings in which we can;
- Our managers are instructed to engage, on NILGOSC's behalf, with companies whose ESG policies and disclosures fall short of acceptable standards;
- We work with like-minded investors across the globe to help influence governments, policy makers and corporations; and
- We only appoint investment managers and consultants who can demonstrate that they have the necessary ESG capabilities.

NILGOSC has been a signatory to the UK Stewardship Code since its first publication in 2010. In 2020, the Code was substantially revised, requiring signatories to report annually on their stewardship policies, processes, activities and outcomes. During the year, NILGOSC submitted its fourth Stewardship Report to the Financial Reporting Council (FRC). We were pleased to have continued to meet the expected standard of reporting, demonstrating continued efforts and improvements in the stewardship of the Fund's assets, and successfully remaining a signatory.

In 2024, the FRC initiated a fundamental review of the Stewardship Code, which culminated in publication of the UK Stewardship Code 2026; restructured to ensure that the Code's principles continue to drive the right stewardship outcomes for investors, while not unduly contributing to reporting burdens. NILGOSC's first submission under the 2026 Code, covering the period to 30 June 2025, will be submitted to the FRC in May 2026.

Climate Risk

Although there are many important ESG factors to consider, the changing climate arguably presents the biggest long-term, systematic risk to the value and security of pension scheme investments.

Climate change will have a significant impact on the global economy, corporations and society, whether through direct physical impacts, tighter regulations or reputational damage suffered by those who fail to adequately address the risks posed.

NILGOSC believes that active engagement is the most effective way to bring about change, both at a policy level and in respect of individual investments. NILGOSC does not exclude investment in, nor divest from, particular industries on ESG grounds alone, but instead aims to be an active investor bringing about change from within.

All of NILGOSC's active investment managers are required to include climate risk considerations in their decision-making process, provided the primary financial obligation is not compromised. Where climate change produces a financial risk for a particular investment, NILGOSC expects this to be a fundamental part of the investment decision-making process and we challenge such decisions accordingly.

NILGOSC also makes investments that are designed to passively follow an index, without such active decision making. To incorporate the consideration of climate risk into that portion of the Fund, at the beginning of 2022 the £2.8 billion passive equity holding was transferred to the Legal & General Low Carbon Transition Fund, which follows an index aimed to reduce exposure to carbon emissions over time.

Other initiatives undertaken over the year to address climate risk include:

- Supporting a number of collaborative initiatives alongside like-minded global investors, including supporting the CDP as a Capital Markets signatory and supporting their 2025 Non-Disclosure Campaign;
- Co-signing and supporting the launch of the Asset Owner Statement on Climate Stewardship and the Asset Owner Statement on Net Zero Asset Managers (NZAM); and
- Voluntarily publishing our annual Taskforce on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) aligned report, setting out the steps NILGOSC is taking to manage climate risk within its investment process.

If you are interested in our responsible investment activities, further details can be found on our website at www.nilgosc.org.uk/pension-fund/being-a-responsible-investor.

Data Sharing and Accessibility



Data Protection

NILGOSC is a data controller under UK data protection law. This means we store, hold and manage your personal data in line with statutory requirements to enable us to provide you with pension administration services.

For more information about how we hold your data, who we share it with and what rights you have to request information from NILGOSC, please refer to the Privacy Notice for Members and Scheme Beneficiaries, available on our website at: <https://nilgosc.org.uk/about-us/data-protection/>. If you would like a hard copy of this Privacy Notice, please contact us using the details on the back cover. Requests in relation to accessing your personal data or exercising any other rights under data protection legislation should be made in writing or via email to the Data Protection Officer at NILGOSC at governance@nilgosc.org.uk.

National Fraud Initiative

We participate in the National Fraud Initiative (NFI) run by the Northern Ireland Audit Office, which has statutory powers to conduct data matching exercises. As part of this initiative, we provide details of pensioners and deferred members so that the information can be compared to that held by other public bodies. This will ensure, for example, that a pension is not being paid to someone who has died or is no longer entitled.

For further information please refer to the NFI Privacy Notice available on our website at www.nilgosc.org.uk/about-us/data-protection or contact our Governance Manager at governance@nilgosc.org.uk.

Accessibility for our Members

You can request documents and Scheme communications in an alternative format or language through My NILGOSC Pension Online by clicking on Details and settings and then Communication preferences. Alternatively you can download the 'Alternative Methods of Communication' booklet from our website at www.nilgosc.org.uk/about-us/equality-scheme-reports or contact our office.

If you would like to raise an equality issue with NILGOSC, please contact the Equality Officer on **0345 3197 320** or email equality@nilgosc.org.uk.

Contact Details



NILGOSC
Templeton House
411 Holywood Road
Belfast BT4 2LP



www.nilgosc.org.uk



0345 3197 325
Typetalk (for minicom users):
18001 0345 3197 320



info@nilgosc.org.uk

NILGOSC

NORTHERN IRELAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICERS'
SUPERANNUATION COMMITTEE

