

# LPP

Local Pensions Partnership  
Administration

## Firefighters Spring Newsletter 2021



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“ We have worked hard to make sure we continue to provide you with the best service at a time when you might need it most. ”



## Welcome to the 2021 Spring Newsletter

It's been 12 months since my last newsletter update, and who could have foreseen what an unprecedented year it would be? The pandemic and regular lockdowns across the UK have brought great challenges for us all. At Local Pensions Partnership Administration (LPPA), we have worked hard to make sure we continue to provide you with the best service at a time when you might need it most. While working remotely from homes across the country, the team have continued to operate to the best of their abilities - from ensuring pension payments are made on time, to making sure our Helpdesk has remained open to answer your queries and concerns - while ensuring that we maintain the highest levels of service.

Despite the unexpected challenges that the past year has brought us, we have also continued to develop and evolve our services to Members. Our new website, [lppapensions.co.uk](http://lppapensions.co.uk) successfully went live last December. While offering a fresh and modern new look, the site has been designed to make it easier for you to find and understand the information you need to get the most from your pension.

We continue to run our satisfaction surveys to help keep on improving our services and provide you with the best Member experience. Your opinion matters to us, so please take some time to participate and give your feedback at the end of a call if you phone us, or if we email you a survey to complete after you have used one of our services.

Looking ahead over 2021, there are a number of exciting projects in flight across LPPA, which we hope will benefit you. We have great plans for our website to provide you with a range of engaging and informative pension content. We have also just appointed a new provider for our core pensions administration system. The new system, which will be operational from 2022 will help you to understand and manage your pension more effectively online.

This Spring 2021 Newsletter is filled with a range of content which we hope will benefit you, from recent news and developments across the scheme, to new services at LPPA that are helping our UK and overseas Members. You can also read articles to help manage your mental health and wellbeing, which is especially important during this challenging time.

It's pleasing to see that we are now starting to see some light at the end of the lockdown tunnel. With that in mind, I hope you continue to stay safe and make the best of the year ahead.

Enjoy the newsletter.

Best wishes,

**Jo Darbyshire**  
Managing Director, LPPA





## Pensions Increase 2021

The government has approved the rate of increase for all public service pensions. The increase is effective from 12 April 2021 and is 0.5 % for all pensioners in receipt of their pension from 6 April 2020 (except those under 55 who retired on grounds other than ill health). The increase is set in line with the Consumer Price Index in September 2020.

We do not have the power to pay any additional increase. Please find the increase amounts below, these are pro-rated depending on the date your pension started.

For pensions which began before 6 April 2020 the increase is 0.5 per cent. For pensions which began on or after 6 April 2020 the increases are as follows:

DATES	INCREASE
6 April 2020 – 27 April 2020	0.5 %
28 April 2020 – 27 May 2020	0.46 %
28 May 2020 – 27 June 2020	0.42 %
28 June 2020 – 27 July 2020	0.38 %
28 July 2020 – 27 August 2020	0.33 %
28 August 2020 – 27 September 2020	0.29 %
28 September 2020 – 27 October 2020	0.25 %
28 October 2020 – 27 November 2020	0.21 %
28 November 2020 – 27 December 2020	0.17 %
28 December 2020 – 27 January 2021	0.13 %
28 January 2021 – 27 February 2021	0.08 %
28 February 2021 – 27 March 2021	0.04 %
28 March 2021	0 %





## Your Pension & Re-Employment

**A member who retires on a Firefighters' pension and is re-employed by a Fire and Rescue Authority or a Sponsoring Employer will need to declare the re-employment with LPPA.**

A sponsoring employer in relation to an occupational pension scheme is any employer who participates in that scheme, i.e. they employ members of the scheme.

The general abatement rule is that any secondary employment salary cannot be more than the difference between salary at retirement (plus inflation) less the pension in payment (plus inflation). If there is an excess, the pension in payment will be reduced to bring the level back in line with the salary

at retirement. Any overpayment will be recovered, so it is in the member's interest to declare employment as soon as possible to avoid having to repay amounts to the pension scheme.

If you have any queries or concerns regarding abatement, re-employment and your pension please contact us detailing your Pension Paying Authority, your returning salary and your re-employing organisation.



## Age Discrimination – Court of Appeal Ruling

In 2018 the Court of Appeal ruled that following the introduction of the Career Average Revalued Earnings (CARE) pension for fire fighters and the judiciary the 'transitional protection' offered to some members as part of the reform gave rise to unlawful discrimination. The Government released a consultation on the elements required to apply the necessary remedy. It is anticipated that Fire specific regulations will be introduced in the next 18 months which may involve a change to a number of members pensions who have retired since 2015.

We will be contacting those affected once the amended regulations have been released, there is no need for members to contact LPPA, once the amended regulations have been released we will notify the affected members who have retired since 2015 with an element of CARE benefits informing them of the different options.



## Beneficiaries Pension

If you are receiving a beneficiary's pension in respect of a late scheme member, there are certain events about which you should keep us informed:

### Widow/widower/civil partner pensions under the 1992 regulations and/or under the Injury regulations.

Under the 1992 Firefighters' Pension Scheme regulations and/or injury regulations, the survivor pension payable to a spouse/civil partner will normally cease upon the survivor marrying or entering into a civil partnership. If you are receiving a spouses'/civil partner's pension, it is important that you inform us of your intention to marry/enter into a civil partnership to avoid an overpayment of your pension.

You will need to send us a copy of your new marriage/civil partnership certificate once available so we can make sure you are paid up to the required date.

### Children's Pensions

Pensions paid to eligible children of late fire fighters are reviewed periodically. Once the child has reached seventeen, reviews will take place from time to time. However, you should keep us informed of any changes to the child's situation in between these reviews to avoid overpayments. A child's pension will cease when they reach twenty-three years of age.

Things you should inform us of:

- The child ceases full-time education;
- The child commences paid employment;
- The child marries or enters into a civil partnership;
- The child is no longer in your care;
- There is a change in educational establishment or course; or
- The child receives any remuneration in respect of training.

If you have any queries regarding this, please contact us through the '[Contact LPPA](#)' form on our website or alternatively call our Helpdesk on 0300 323 0260, we will be happy to help you.



## Injury Pension and State Disablement Benefits

If you retired on an injury pension due to an accident, illness, injury or related condition attributable to your duties you must tell us of any Disablement Benefit, Reduced Earnings Allowance, Employment Support Allowance or Incapacity/Sickness benefits you receive for us to make an informed calculation of your benefits in payment. You should also inform us if there are any changes to your benefits such as an increase.

Any benefit you are paid by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), Jobcentre Plus (JCP), or any related departments should be declared to us. In the most part, the only deductible benefits are those which are paid for the accident, injury or a related condition on which you were retired. If in doubt, it is

important you declare all benefits and we will investigate which are deductible.

Please send us the notification you received from DWP or JCP. If the DWP or related departments cannot provide you with written confirmation, please write to us detailing what has happened and we will contact them on your behalf.

As a recipient of an injury pension you will be contacted periodically by us to confirm details of your benefit entitlements. Please reply to any requests as soon as possible to avoid any delay in the payment of your pension. Any changes or delays may cause recoverable overpayments.

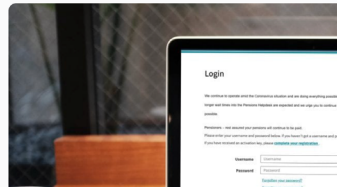
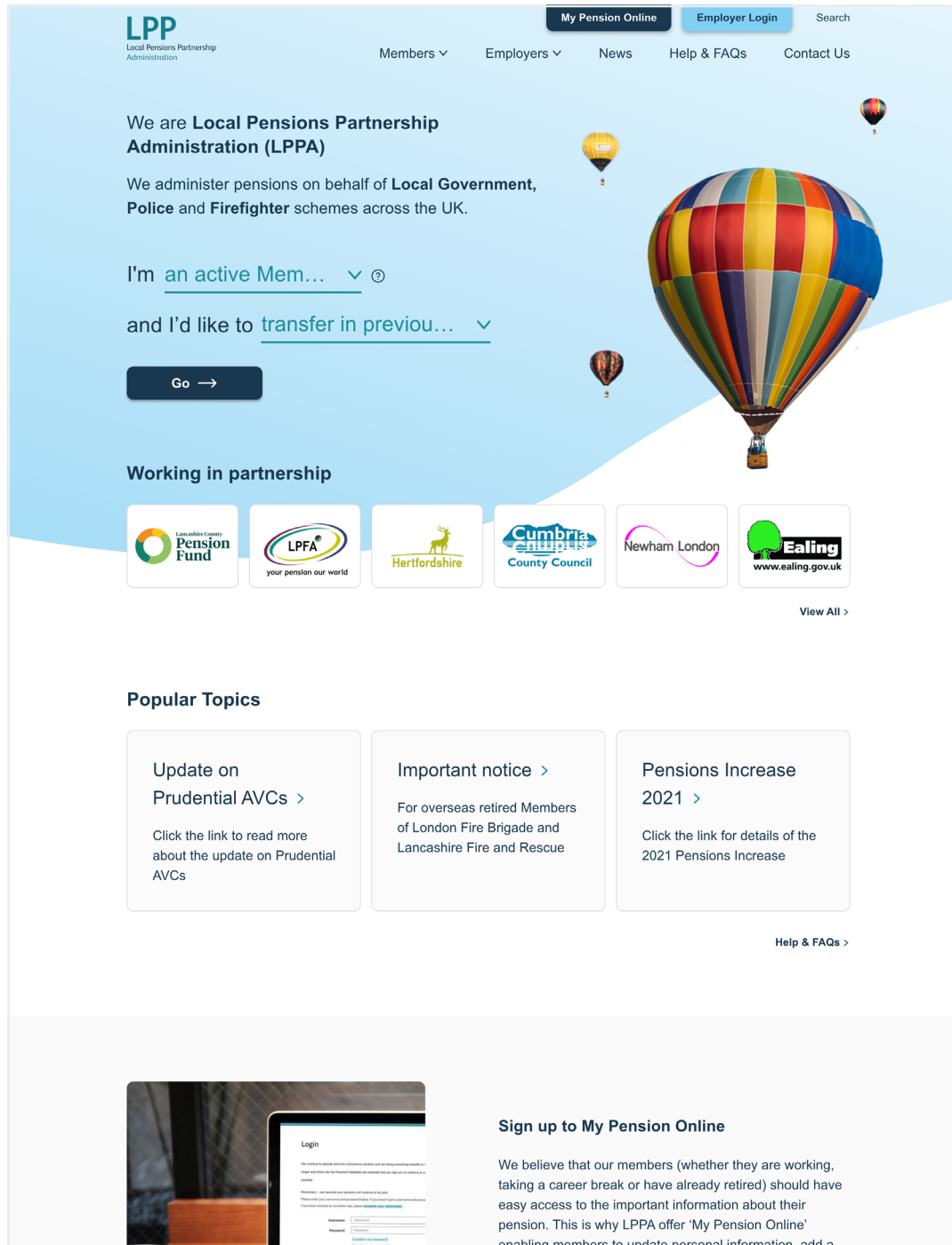
# The Launch of our New Website

We are delighted to tell our Members about our brand-new pension website, [lpppensions.co.uk](http://lpppensions.co.uk). The new site replaces the previous Your Pension and Your Pension Service websites – marking the start of an exciting new chapter for us. The site aims to become the go-to place for you to get the information you want when it comes to pensions – whether you want to build knowledge, get some help and guidance, or solve a query.

## Taking the complication out of pensions

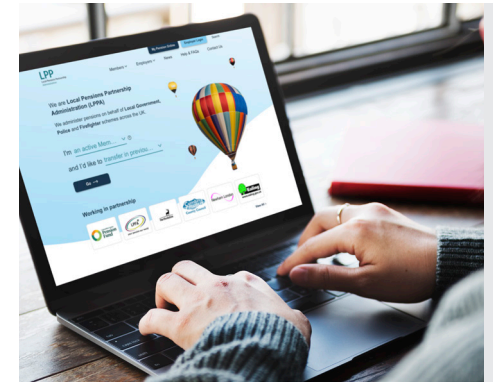
At LPPA, we want to make it easier for you to find, access and understand the information you need. Aiming to take the complication out of pensions, the new website is a valuable knowledge hub that improves how we communicate with you, while developing opportunities for you to self-serve.

Offering a contemporary look and feel, the site has also been designed to be more user-friendly and informative. This aims to help you get answers to pension queries quickly, while providing you with the best possible online experience. As a Member, the new website also gives you direct access to our essential service, My Pension Online.



## Sign up to My Pension Online

We believe that our members (whether they are working, taking a career break or have already retired) should have easy access to the important information about their pension. This is why LPPA offer 'My Pension Online' enabling members to update personal information, add a



## What else to expect from the new website

It gives you important information in a jargon-free and easily understandable way to help you better understand what you need to know about your pension. It offers a modern look and feel and has been designed to be more user-friendly, so it's easier to find what you're looking for.

You can browse and enjoy the site whether you're using a laptop, tablet or smartphone.

We hope you like the website and that it becomes your go-to place when it comes to your pension.





## Overseas Members Encouraged to Contact their Banks following BREXIT

**Local Pensions Partnership Administration (LPPA) is encouraging Members who are living overseas to check with their UK banks and building societies to make sure their accounts won't be closed, as a result of the Brexit transition period.**

Following Brexit at the end of 2020, thousands of UK expats who are living in Europe, have been hit by many banks deciding to close their accounts.

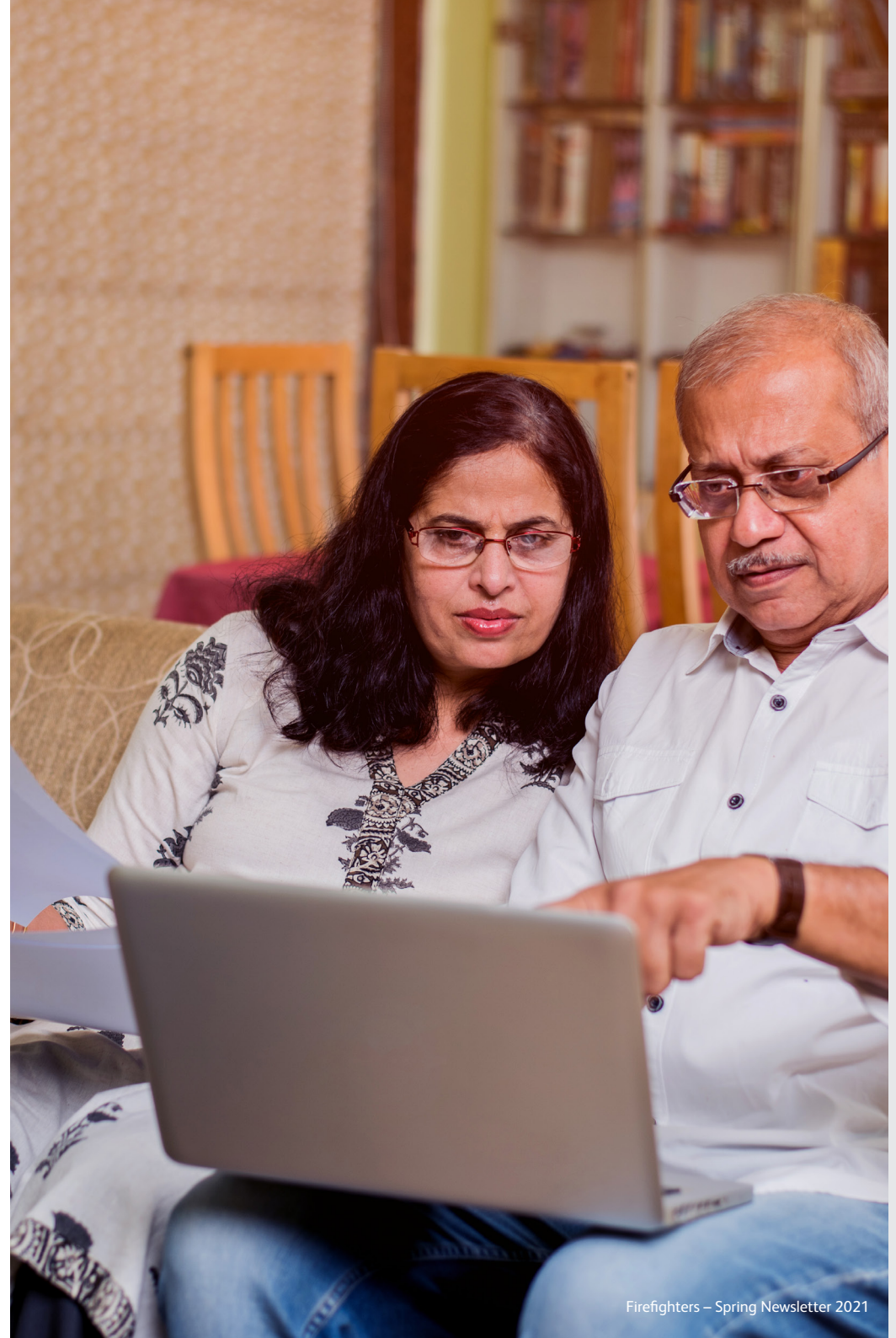
A number of UK banks, building societies and credit card firms have since made the decision to close the bank accounts of their British customers who are living across Europe. This includes Barclays, Lloyds and Nationwide Building Society. Customers most affected include those living in Belgium, Italy and Portugal, as well as Estonia and Slovakia.

Meanwhile, it's been reported that European banks have increased the cost of sending money overseas from British bank accounts.



Janet Morville-Smith, Head of Risk and Compliance at LPPA, said: "We feel that it's important to keep our overseas Members informed about what is happening in the UK, especially during this transition period. We would therefore like to encourage all our Members living abroad to contact their UK banks to make sure their accounts are safe and won't be closed. Also, if you are a UK Member who knows another pension Member, or family member or friend that does live abroad, please pass that message on.

“ *Banks should be contacting all their customers about this and offering help, support and guidance about what they should do when it comes to moving and revamping their finances. However, there are those banks that may not have the most up-to-date contact details of their customers, especially those who have moved abroad. So our message is this: contact your bank, and don't wait to be contacted.* ”





## Preventing Fraud and Better Serving our Overseas Members

Helping to prevent fraud is an important part of what we do at LPPA. This includes taking part in the National Fraud Initiative, which has been set up by the Government and is carried out under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

As part of the Initiative, we carry out regular checks to ensure our records are up to date. This is in relation to Members who may have passed away and do not have next of kin who can inform us. We also sometimes need to provide key payroll data and identifiers, such as contact details, to teams at the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC). They are responsible for auditing and administering public funds to help prevent and detect fraud.

With this in mind, if any of your personal details change, it is important that you notify us as soon as possible. If you are claiming benefits, it's also important that you notify your benefits office of any changes to your details. If you are claiming any type of benefit when you're retired, such as housing benefit, you will also need to declare that you are drawing a pension. This is because your pension's value may affect your entitlement to benefits. Failure to do this may lead to an overpayment of benefits and be considered a form of fraud.

### Better serving our overseas Members online

The checks we carry out on our UK Members, unfortunately, don't cover those Members living overseas. Instead, we contact them each year and ask them to complete a declaration of life form, often referred to as 'Pensioners Existence'. We do this not only to protect public funds, but also so we can contact any beneficiaries who may be due payments under pension scheme rules. If you are an overseas Member, it is therefore important that you respond to our requests in a timely manner, so we can continue paying your pension without any issues.

The Pensioner Existence process involves completing an Overseas Pension Certificate. To better serve our overseas Members and ensure they continue to receive their pension payments without disruption, we have this year made some significant improvements to this process.

This involves creating a way for our Members to complete and submit the Overseas Pensions Certificate online, via our new LPPA website.

### Providing a simpler, quicker and safer process

By allowing our Members to complete the certificate online, we have provided a much quicker, easier and safer process for them to get this key information to us. As a result, there's now:

- **No need to post** – As Members no longer need to post their completed certificate to us, there is no cost to them and no potential postal delays in us receiving the form. More importantly and during the challenging time of the pandemic, this provides a safer process as there is no need for a Member to leave their home to return the form to us.
- **No need for a witness** – Previously, the certificate had to be signed in the presence of a witness. But due to the current climate, we felt that this was difficult for our Members. Instead, with the online form, we just ask them to provide some of their personal details and attach a copy of a recent utility bill or bank statement, which they can simply upload to the form.
- **Added security** – Unlike sending documents through the post, the online certificate comes directly to LPPA with an extra layer of security and no risk of interception.

We're pleased to say that the new digital certificate saw great success when it was launched earlier this year, with hundreds of our overseas Members completing and submitting the form online and in good time. The development shows how we are continuously looking at new ways to better serve and protect our Members both in the UK and abroad.







## P60s and Pay Advices

Your electronic P60 should be available for you to view on our online member portal, My Pension Online, before 30 April 2021.

If you have opted out of our electronic communications, you will receive your P60 by post, no later than 31 May 2021. Electronic pay advices will be available online for all pension payments, while paper pay advices will only be issued when there is a variance in net pay.

You do not normally need to have a paper copy of your P60, unless you submit a self-assessment tax return.

We are committed to electronic communications so we can provide you with the most efficient service.

To sign in or register with My Pension Online, please visit our website [www.lppapensions.co.uk](http://www.lppapensions.co.uk). Once logged in, you can find your P60 in the portal's My Payments section.



# Top Tips to Manage your Mental Health & Wellbeing at Home



**Managing your mental health and wellbeing is so important, especially during today's challenging times. But when advice is given to stay at home, achieving this can feel quite difficult. Thankfully, there are things you can do in your home that can help, as this article explains.**

## Carry out light activities

Regularly doing light activities, such as dusting, vacuuming and other chores around the house, can help keep your body moving and give your mind focus. Even making the bed, or just going up and down stairs throughout the day, can help. You can find more information about this on the [NHS website](#).



## Make time for mindfulness

Mindfulness is about focusing the mind and living in the present moment. Good mindfulness techniques encourage you to close off your thoughts and pay close attention to your senses instead, such as sight, sound, touch and taste. This could involve closely observing the wildlife in your garden, carefully colouring in a drawing, or just slowly sipping a hot cup of coffee. You can learn more about mindfulness on the [website for charity Mind](#).

## Learn something new

Learning about a new subject is a good way to help keep your brain active and give you some fulfilment, while allowing you to build new skills and discover interests you never knew you had. There are many free short courses you can do online, such as on e-learning sites like FutureLearn: [www.futurelearn.com](http://www.futurelearn.com). They can open you up to a whole range of interesting subjects, from creative arts and literature to nature and the environment, science and medicine to IT and language, all in the comfort of your own home.



# Other ways to manage your mental health during a lockdown

- **Limit your intake of news**  
Constantly watching the daily news can increase worry and anxiety, as it is out of our control. Instead, schedule a short period of time during the day to catch up on it.
- **Follow a daily routine**  
Structuring your day can give each day a sense of order and help you feel in control.
- **Diarise your activities**  
Making a note of the things you do each day can help you recognise your achievements and reinforce positive thoughts.

You can learn more about these tips and others on the [Mind website](#).



## The Fire Fighters Charity

The Fire Fighter's Charity helps by providing several services to retired personnel, support staff, fire fighters and their dependants.

### Rehabilitation

Residential therapy programmes, run by dedicated professionals. Physical treatment for a wide range of conditions and injuries and child and family focussed therapy programmes for families with children that have long-term disabilities and conditions.

### Recuperation

Recover from illness, injury or surgery and peaceful environments aiding emotional and physical recovery.



### Beneficiary Support Services

They can help with bereavement, drug and alcohol issues, mental health support and disability issues. The Charity keeps up to date with the constant changes within the UK Welfare Benefit System, as well as the work other organisations are doing to help people in need.

Call on 0800 389 8820 all calls are confidential; the phone line is open from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday, where you can speak to a member of the team.

To find out more about the Charity and how you can support them please visit:

[www.firefighterscharity.org.uk](http://www.firefighterscharity.org.uk)







## Applying for Power of Attorney

As time goes by, you might find that you could benefit from a bit of support from your relatives or friends to help you with your financial affairs. This is where a Power of Attorney can help. It is a legal document that lets you appoint one or more people to help you make decisions or to make decisions on your behalf.

It's also important to have a Power of Attorney if you want one of your loved ones to let us know about things like changes to your personal details, such as if you changed address or moved bank. This is because we need evidence of either a Power of Attorney or Court of Protection order to update such information from someone other than yourself.

Without a Power of Attorney in place your loved ones will have to apply for one through the court which can be a costly and lengthy process.

For more information on how to set up a power of attorney, please visit: [www.gov.uk/power-of-attorney](http://www.gov.uk/power-of-attorney)

### Already have a Power of Attorney?

Did you know, if you applied to register a Power of Attorney from 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2017, you can get part of your application fee refunded? This is because it is now cheaper to process a Power of Attorney than it was before. For more information, please visit:

[www.gov.uk/power-of-attorney-refund](http://www.gov.uk/power-of-attorney-refund)

## Ensuring your Details are up to Date

At LPPA, we always aim to provide you with the best possible service when it comes to managing your pension. One way you can help us achieve this is by ensuring the personal details you provide us with are up to date, as this article explains.

### Providing the best Member service

By making sure your details are up to date, such as your email address and phone number, we can provide you with the best service as a pension Member. This includes:

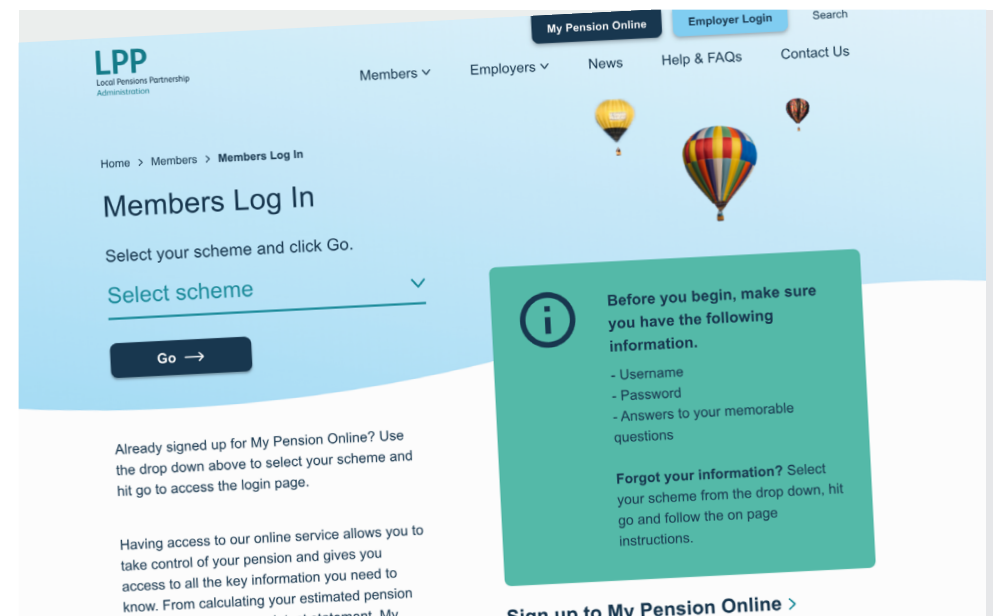
Keeping you informed – We can speak to you directly about important information you need to know about your pension, such as information about Pay days and when your P60 is available. We can also contact you to explain things clearly and answer any queries you might have.

### Update your details with My Pension Online

The quickest and easiest way to keep your details up to date is by using our Member service, My Pension Online. Once logged in, you can check and update your personal details on the My Details section.

To log in or register for My Pension Online, please visit the web page:

[www.lppapensions.co.uk/members/members-log-in](http://www.lppapensions.co.uk/members/members-log-in)







## Offering support after the loss of a loved one

Losing a loved one is never easy and having to deal with their pension can add unnecessary stress at an already difficult time. Whether dealing with the death of a spouse, partner, family member or close friend, who is a Fire pension scheme Member, we're here to offer any help and support we can through the process.

### Helping friends and families through the bereavement process

At LPPA, we aim to support friends or family members where we can through a bereavement. From when we are first notified about a death, to arranging any eligible payments for you, we strive to make the process as simple and stress-free as possible.

The quickest and easiest way to let us know about the death of a Fire pension scheme Member is to first complete our simple online Fire and Police Bereavement Notification form. The form can be accessed on our website by visiting the page, letting us know about the loss of a loved one:

[www.lppapensions.co.uk/members/general-pensions-information/death-of-a-member](http://www.lppapensions.co.uk/members/general-pensions-information/death-of-a-member).

### Getting in touch with us

There are also many ways to get in touch with us if help or support is needed through the pension and bereavement process. Our dedicated Helpdesk team is available by calling 0300 323 0260. Alternatively we can be contacted through our simple website contact form, which can be accessed on the web page: [www.lppapensions.co.uk/contact/contact-lppa](http://www.lppapensions.co.uk/contact/contact-lppa). Or, if you prefer, you can write to us at our address.

## Getting in touch with my pension administrator...

If you are dealing with the estate of someone who receives a pension that we administer, you should tell us as soon as possible. This will ensure any dependants benefits are paid promptly.

Please provide us with the following information:

- Name, address, and date of death
- National Insurance number
- Marital status at time of death
- Name, address and email of next of kin
- Relationship of next of kin
- Details of any dependant children.
- Name and address of the person dealing with the estate

You can contact us by visiting the Contact LPPA page on our website, [www.lppapensions.co.uk/contact/contact-lppa](http://www.lppapensions.co.uk/contact/contact-lppa).

On the page, you can also upload a completed Bereavement Notification form, which you can find here: [www.lppapensions.co.uk/members/general-pensions-information/death-of-a-member](http://www.lppapensions.co.uk/members/general-pensions-information/death-of-a-member)

To contact us, please visit: [www.lppapensions.co.uk/contact/contact-lppa](http://www.lppapensions.co.uk/contact/contact-lppa)

Phone: 0300 323 0260



# Contact Us



To contact us, please visit:

[www.lppapensions.co.uk/contact/contact-lppa](http://www.lppapensions.co.uk/contact/contact-lppa)

Phone: **0300 323 0260**

*Please note: if you send us any correspondence by tracked mail you may receive a notice from Royal Mail saying they were unable to deliver the item. This is only because our mail is being sorted off site due to Covid-19. Rest assured we will still receive your mail so there is no need to call us we will action your mail in the usual manner.*

## Useful links & contacts

### Pensions Service (State Pension Enquiries)

Tel: 0345 60 60 625

[www.gov.uk/contact-pension-service](http://www.gov.uk/contact-pension-service)

### Tax Help

If you would like advice from Tax Help, they offer free independent and confidential tax advice to pensioners on incomes below £20,000 a year, they can be contacted on:

Helpline: 01308 488066

Email: [taxvol@taxvol.org.uk](mailto:taxvol@taxvol.org.uk)

[www.taxvol.org.uk](http://www.taxvol.org.uk)

## COVID-19 information:

NHS: [www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19)

GOV.UK: [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

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