

Brent Pension Fund Accounts

Pension Fund Accounts as at 31 March 2022

2020/21 £m		Notes	2021/22 £m
	Dealings with members, employers and others directly involved in the fund		
(60.9)	Contributions	7	(64.1)
(5.9)	Transfers in from other pension funds	8	(6.8)
(66.8)			(70.9)
42.3	Benefits	9	46.8
5.3	Payments to and on account of leavers	10	5.9
47.6			52.7
(19.2)	Net (additions)/withdrawals from dealings with members		(18.2)
4.2	Management expenses	11	4.3
(15.0)	Net (additions)/withdrawals including management expenses		(13.9)
	Returns on investments		
(0.7)	Investment income	12	(1.1)
(176.1)	(Profits) and losses on disposal of investments and changes in the market value of investments	13	(88.1)
(176.8)	Net return on investments		(89.2)
(191.8)	Net (increase)/decrease in the net assets available for benefits during the year		(103.1)
(839.0)	Opening net assets of the scheme		(1,030.7)
(1,030.7)	Closing net assets of the scheme		(1,133.8)

Net Assets Statement

31 March 2021 £m		Notes	31 March 2022 £m
1,032.3	Investment assets	13	1,127.7
0.0		13	0.00
1,032.3			1,127.7
1.5	Current assets	19	8.6
0.0	Non-current assets		0.0
(3.1)	Current liabilities	20	(2.5)
1,030.7	Net assets of the fund available to fund benefits at the end of the reporting period		1,133.8

The net asset statement includes all assets and liabilities of the Fund as at 31 March 2022 but excludes long-term liabilities to pay pensions and benefits in future years. The actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits is disclosed in Note 18.

Notes to the Brent Pension Fund accounts

1. Description of Fund

The Brent Pension Fund (the 'Fund') is part of the Local Government Pension Scheme, and is administered by Brent Council.

The following description of the Fund is a summary only.

a) General

The Fund is a contributory defined benefit pension scheme administered by Brent Council to provide pensions and other benefits for pensionable employees of Brent Council and a range of other scheduled and admitted bodies.

b) Membership

Membership of the LGPS is voluntary and employees are free to choose whether to join the scheme, remain in the scheme or make their own personal arrangements outside the scheme. Organisations participating in the Brent Pension Fund include:

- Scheduled bodies whose staff are automatically entitled to be members of the Fund
- Admitted bodies which are other organisations that participate in the Fund under an admission agreement between the Fund and the relevant organisation. Admitted bodies include voluntary, charitable and similar bodies or private contractors undertaking a local authority function following outsourcing to the private sector.

There were 44 employer organisations with active members within the Brent Pension Fund at 31 March 2022, listed below:

Scheduled bodies

London Borough of Brent
Alperton Community School
ARK Academy
ARK Elvin Academy
ARK Franklin Academy
Braintcroft Primary School
Capital City Academy
Claremont High School Academy
Compass Learning Partnership
Crest Academy
Furness Primary School
Gladstone Park Primary School
Kingsbury High School
Manor School
Michaela Community School
North West London Jewish Day School

Oakington Manor Primary School
 Our Lady of Grace RC Infants School
 Our Lady of Grace RC Juniors School
 Preston Manor High School
 Queens Park Community School
 Roundwood School and Community Centre
 St Andrews and St Francis School
 St Claudine's Catholic School for Girls
 St Gregory's RC High School
 St Margaret Clitherow
 Sudbury Primary School
 The Village School
 Wembley High Technology College
 Woodfield School Academy

Admitted bodies

Apleona HSG Ltd (previously Bilfinger Europa Facility Management Limited)
 Barnardos
 Caterlink
 Conway Aecom
 DB Services
 Edwards and Blake
 FM Conway
 Local Employment Access Project (LEAP)
 National Autistic Society (NAS)
 Ricoh UK
 Sudbury Neighbourhood Centre
 Taylor Shaw
 Veolia
 Veolia (Ground Maintenance)

31-Mar-21	Brent Pension Fund	31-Mar-22
41	Number of employers with active members	44
	Number of employees in scheme	
4,457	Brent Council	4,399
1,928	Other employers	1,640
6,385	Total	6,039
	Number of pensioners	
6,157	Brent Council	6,210
703	Other employers	757
6,860	Total	6,967
	Deferred pensioners	
7,025	Brent Council	7,188
1,163	Other employers	1,280
8,188	Total	8,468

The decrease in number of active employee members in the scheme is primarily due to the Data Cleanse Project work conducted by the Fund's administration provider Local Pensions Partnership (LPP), which was started in the previous financial year (2020/21) and completed in 2021/22. The objective of this project was to review, cleanse and fix any errors identified in member data. The result of this Data Cleanse can partially be seen in the increase in deferred members.

c) Funding

Benefits are funded by contributions and investment earnings. Contributions are made by active members of the Fund in accordance with the LGPS (Benefits, Membership and Contributions) Regulations 2013 and range from 5.5% to 12.5% of pensionable pay for the financial year ending 31 March 2022. Employee contributions are matched by employers' contributions which are set based on triennial actuarial funding valuations. The last such valuation was at 31 March 2019. During 2021/22, the most commonly applied employer contribution rate within the Brent Pension Fund was 35.0% of pensionable pay.

d) Benefits

Since April 2014, the scheme is a career average scheme, whereby members accrue benefits based on their pensionable pay in that year at an accrual rate 1/49th. Accrued pension is updated annually in line with the Consumer Price index.

For a summary of the scheme before April 2014 and details of a range of other benefits provided under the scheme including early retirement, disability pensions and death benefits please refer to the LGPS website: www.lgpsmember.org

2. Basis of preparation

The Statement of Accounts summarises the Fund's transactions for the 2021/22 financial year and its position at year-end as at 31 March 2022. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2021/22 issued by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) which is based upon International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), as amended for the UK public sector.

The accounts summarise the transactions of the Fund and report on the net assets available to pay pension benefits. The accounts do not take account of obligations to pay pensions and benefits which fall due after the end of the financial year. The actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits, valued on an International Accounting Standard (IAS) 19 basis, is disclosed at Note 18 of these accounts.

3. Summary of significant accounting policies

Fund Account – revenue recognition

a) Contribution income

Normal contributions, both from the members and from the employer, are accounted for on an accruals basis at the percentage rate recommended by the Fund actuary in the payroll period to which they relate.

Employers' augmentation contributions and pensions strain contributions are accounted for in the period in which the liability arises. Any amount due in year but unpaid will be classed as a current financial asset. Amounts not due until future years are classed as long-term financial assets.

b) Transfers to and from other schemes

Transfer values represent the amounts received and paid during the year for members who have either joined or left the Fund during the financial year and are calculated in accordance with the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations (see Notes 8 and 10).

Individual transfers in/out are accounted for when received/paid, which is normally when the member liability is accepted or discharged.

Transfers in from members wishing to use the proceeds of their additional voluntary contributions (see section o below) to purchase scheme benefits are accounted for on a receipts basis and are included in Transfers In (see Note 8).

Bulk (group) transfers are accounted for on an accruals basis in accordance with the terms of the transfer agreement.

c) Investment income

i) Interest income

Interest income is recognised in the Fund Account as it accrues, using the effective interest rate of the financial instrument as at the date of acquisition or origination. Income includes the amortisation of any discount or premium, transaction costs or other differences between the initial carrying amount of the instrument and its amount at maturity calculated on an effective interest rate basis.

ii) Dividend income

Dividend income is recognised on the date the shares are quoted ex-dividend. Any amount not received by the end of the reporting period is disclosed in the Net Assets Statement as a current financial asset.

iii) Distributions from pooled funds

Distributions from pooled funds are recognised at the date of issue. Any amount not received by the end of the reporting period is disclosed in the Net Assets Statement as a current financial asset.

- iv) **Movement in the net market value of investments**
Changes in the net market value of investments are recognised as income and comprise all realised and unrealised profits/losses during the year.

Fund Account – expense items

d) Benefits payable

Pensions and lump-sum benefits payable include all amounts known to be due as at the end of the financial year. Any amounts due but unpaid are disclosed in the Net Assets Statement as current liabilities.

e) Taxation

The Fund is a registered public service scheme under section 1(1) of Schedule 36 of the Finance Act 2004 and as such is exempt from UK income tax on interest received and from capital gains tax on the proceeds of investments sold. Income from overseas investments suffers withholding tax in the country of origin, unless exemption is permitted. Irrecoverable tax is accounted for as a Fund expense as it arises.

f) Administration expenses

All administration expenses are accounted for on an accruals basis. All staff costs of the pensions' administration team are charged direct to the Fund. Management, accommodation and other overheads are apportioned to the Fund in accordance with Council policy.

g) Investment management expenses

All investment management expenses are accounted for on an accruals basis. Fees of the external investment managers are agreed in the respective mandates governing their appointments. Broadly, these are based on the market value of the investments under their management and therefore increase or reduce as the value of these investments change.

The cost of obtaining investment advice from external consultants is included in investment management charges.

Net Assets Statement

h) Financial assets

Financial assets are included in the Net Assets Statement on a fair value basis as at the reporting date. A financial asset is recognised in the Net Assets Statement on the date the Fund becomes party to the contractual acquisition of the asset. From this date, any gains or losses arising from changes in the fair value of the asset are recognised by the Fund.

The values of investments as shown in the Net Assets Statement have been determined as follows:

- i) **Market-quoted investments**
The value of an investment for which there is a readily available market price is determined by the bid market price ruling on the final day of the accounting period.
- ii) **Fixed interest securities**
Fixed interest securities are recorded at net market value based on their current yields.
- iii) **Unquoted investments**
The fair value of investments for which market quotations are not readily available is determined as follows:
 - Valuations of delisted securities are based on the last sale price prior to delisting, or where subject to liquidation, the amount the Fund expects to receive on wind-up, less estimated realisation costs.
 - Securities subject to takeover offer – the value of the consideration offered under the offer, less estimated realisation costs.
 - Directly held investments include investments in limited partnerships, shares in unlisted companies, trusts and bonds. Other unquoted securities typically include pooled investments in property, infrastructure, debt securities and private equity. The valuation of these pools or directly held securities is undertaken by the investment manager or responsible entity and advised as a unit or security price. The valuation standards followed in these valuations adhere to industry guidelines or to standards set by the constituent documents of the pool or the management agreement.
 - Investments in unquoted property and infrastructure pooled funds are valued at the net asset value or a single price advised by the fund manager.
 - Investments in private equity/infrastructure funds and unquoted listed partnerships are valued based on the Fund's share of the net assets in the private equity/infrastructure fund or limited partnership using the latest financial statements published by the respective fund managers in accordance with the guidelines set out by the British Venture Capital Association.
- iv) **Limited partnerships**
Fair value is based on the net asset value ascertained from periodic valuations provided by those controlling the partnership.
- v) **Pooled investment vehicles**
Pooled investment vehicles are valued at closing bid price if both bid and offer prices are published; or if single priced, at the closing single price. In the case of pooled investment vehicles that are accumulation funds, change in market value also includes income which is reinvested in the fund, net of applicable withholding tax.

i) **Contingent Assets**

Admitted body employers in the Brent Pension Fund hold bonds to guard against possibility of being unable to meet their pension obligations. These bonds are drawn in favour of the pension fund and payment will only be triggered in the event of employer default. Contingent Assets are disclosed in Note 24.

j) **Foreign currency transactions**

Dividends, interest and purchases and sales of investments in foreign currencies have been accounted for at the spot market rates at the date of transaction. End-of-year spot market exchange

rates are used to value cash balances held in foreign currency bank accounts, market values of overseas investments and purchases and sales outstanding at the end of the reporting period.

k) Derivatives

The Fund does not use derivative financial instruments to manage its exposure to specific risks arising from its investment activities in its own name. Neither does it hold derivatives for speculative purposes.

l) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash comprises cash in hand and demand deposits.

Cash equivalents are short-term, highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and that are subject to minimal risk of changes in value.

m) Financial liabilities

The Fund recognises financial liabilities at fair value as at the reporting date. A financial liability is recognised in the Net Assets Statement on the date the Fund becomes party to the liability. From this date, any gains or losses arising from changes in the fair value of the liability are recognised by the Fund.

n) Actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits

The actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits is assessed on a triennial basis by the scheme actuary in accordance with the requirements of IAS 19 and relevant actuarial standards.

As permitted under IAS 26, the Fund has opted to disclose the actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits by way of a note to the Net Assets Statement (Note 18).

o) Additional voluntary contributions

Brent Pension Fund provides an additional voluntary contributions (AVC) scheme for its members, the assets of which are invested separately from those of the Pension Fund. The Fund has appointed Prudential as its AVC provider. AVCs are paid to the AVC provider by employers and are specifically for providing additional benefits for individual contributors. Each AVC contributor receives an annual statement showing the amount held in their account and the movements in the year.

AVCs are not included in the accounts in accordance with Section 4(1)(b) of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2016 (SI 2016/946) but are disclosed as a note only (Note 21).

4. Critical judgements in applying accounting policies

Unquoted private equity / infrastructure / private debt investments

It is important to recognise the highly subjective nature of determining the fair value of private equity investments. They are inherently based on forward-looking estimates and judgements involving many factors. Unquoted private equities; infrastructure and private debt investments are valued by the investment managers using guidelines set out by the British Venture Capital Association. The value of unquoted private equities; infrastructure and private debt investments at 31 March 2022 was £101m (£81m at 31 March 2021).

Pension fund liability

The pension fund liability is calculated every three years by the appointed actuary, with annual updates in the intervening years. The methodology used is in line with accepted guidelines and in accordance with IAS 19. Assumptions underpinning the valuations are agreed with the actuary and are summarised in Note 18. This estimate is subject to significant variances based on changes to the underlying assumptions.

5. Assumptions made about the future and other major sources of estimation uncertainty

The Statement of Accounts contains estimated figures that are based on assumptions made by the Council about the future or that are otherwise uncertain. Estimates are made taking into account historical experience, current trends and other relevant factors. However, because balances cannot be determined with certainty, actual results could be materially different from the assumptions and estimates.

The items in the Net Assets Statement at 31 March 2022 for which there is a significant risk of material adjustment in the forthcoming financial year are as follows.

Item	Uncertainties	Effect if actual results differ from assumptions
Actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits (Note 18)	Estimation of the net liability to pay pensions depends on a number of complex judgements relating to the discount rate used, the rate at which salaries are projected to increase, changes in retirement ages, mortality rates and expected returns on pension fund assets. A firm of consulting actuaries is engaged to provide the Fund with expert advice about the assumptions to be applied.	The effects on the net pension liability of changes in individual assumptions can be measured. For instance, a 0.5% increase in the discount rate assumption would result in a decrease in the pension liability of approximately £170m. A 0.5% increase in assumed earnings inflation would increase the value of liabilities by approximately £10m, and a one-year increase in assumed life expectancy would increase the liability by around 4% (c. £74m).

Private equity / infrastructure / private debt	Private equity/infrastructure/private debt investments are valued at fair value in accordance with British Venture Capital Association guidelines. These investments are not publicly listed and as such there is a degree of estimation involved in the valuation.	The total private equity/infrastructure/private debt investments in the financial statements are £101m. There is a risk that this investment may be under- or overstated in the accounts.
Effect of the war between Ukraine and Russia on investment valuations	<p>In the immediate aftermath of the invasion, there were general falls in the financial markets with sanctions and other measures being implemented by the UK government and other governments around the world.</p> <p>Given the financial sanctions imposed by governments, it is extremely difficult to trade Russian, Ukrainian and Belarusian holdings. Therefore it is difficult to obtain a market price for such holdings and many investment managers have written down exposure.</p>	The Fund's exposure to Russian, Ukrainian and Belarusian holdings consisted of a very small proportion of the Fund's overall assets. Prior to the invasion, these assets made up approximately 0.1% of the total value of the Fund.

6. Events after the Reporting Date

There have been no events since 31 March 2022, and up to the date when these accounts were authorised that require any adjustments to these accounts.

7. Contributions receivable

By category

	2020/21	2021/22
	£m	£m
Employees' contributions	9.5	9.7
Employers' contributions:		
Normal contributions	47.4	49.9
Deficit recovery contributions	1.7	1.7
Augmentation contributions	2.3	2.8
Total employers' contributions	51.4	54.4
Total	60.9	64.1

By authority

	2020/21	2021/22
	£m	£m
Administering Authority	47.8	50.7
Scheduled bodies	11.6	11.9
Admitted bodies	1.5	1.4
Total	60.9	64.1

8. Transfers in from other pension funds

	2020/21	2021/22
	£m	£m
Individual transfers	5.9	6.8
Total	5.9	6.8

*9. Benefits payable***By category**

	2020/21	2021/22
	£m	£m
Pensions	37.5	39.7
Commutation and lump sum retirement benefits	4.1	6.1
Lump sum death benefits	0.7	1.1
Total	42.3	46.8

By authority

	2020/21	2021/22
	£m	£m
Administering Authority and Scheduled bodies	42.1	46.5
Admitted bodies	0.2	0.3
Total	42.3	46.8

10. Payments to and on account of leavers

	2020/21	2021/22
	£m	£m
Refunds to members leaving service	0.3	0.2
Group transfers	0.0	0.0
Individual transfers	5.0	5.7
Total	5.3	5.9

11. Management Expenses

	2020/21	2021/22
	£m	£m
Administration costs	1.8	1.6
Investment management expenses	2.2	2.5
Oversight and Governance costs	0.2	0.2
Total	4.2	4.3

The management fees disclosed above include all investment management fees directly incurred by the Fund including those charged on pooled fund investments. Audit fees were £33k (£32.8k 2020/21).

a) Investment management expenses

	2020/21	2021/22
	£m	£m
Management fees	2.1	2.4
Custody fees	0.1	0.1
One-off transaction costs	0.0	0.0
Total	2.2	2.5

Fund Manager	2021/22 Total	Management fees	Custody fees	One-off transaction costs
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Alinda	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Capital Dynamics	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Fidelity UK Real Estate	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
LGIM	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
LCIV MAC	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
LCIV Emerging Markets	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
LCIV Baillie Gifford DGF	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0
LCIV Infrastructure Fund	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
LCIV Private Debt	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
LCIV Ruffer	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
London LGPS CIV LTD	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Blackrock	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Northern Trust (Fund Custodian)	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0
Cash	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	2.5	2.4	0.1	0.0

Fund Manager	2020/21 Total	Management fees	Custody fees	One-off transaction costs
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Alinda	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.0
Capital Dynamics	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0
LGIM	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
LCIV MAC	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
LCIV Emerging Markets	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
LCIV Baillie Gifford DGF	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0
LCIV Ruffer	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.0
Blackrock	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Northern Trust (Fund Custodian)	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0
Cash	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	2.2	2.1	0.1	0.0

12. Investment income

	2020/21	2021/22
	£m	£m
Dividend income from private equities/infrastructure	0.4	0.4
Interest income from private equities/infrastructure/private debt	0.2	0.7
Interest on cash deposits	0.1	0.0
Total	0.7	1.1

13. Investments

13a. Investments 2021/22	Market value 1 April 2021	Purchases during the year	Sales during the year	Change in market value during the year	Market value 31 March 2022
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Pooled investments	897.4	15.0	(1.7)	75.8	986.6
Pooled property investments	0.0	15.0	0.0	0.7	15.7
Private equity/infrastructure /private debt	81.1	37.8	(29.2)	11.6	101.3
	978.5	67.8	(30.9)	88.1	1,103.6
Other investment balances: Cash Deposit	53.8				24.1
Investment income due	0.0				0.0
Net investment assets	1,032.3				1,127.7

13a. Investments 2020/21	Market value 1 April 2020	Purchases during the year	Sales during the year	Change in market value during the year	Market value 31 March 2021
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Pooled investments	697.0	68.0	(57.3)	189.7	897.4
Pooled property investments	0.1	0.0	0.0	(0.2)	0.0
Private equity/infrastructure	84.3	19.2	(9.0)	(13.4)	81.1
	781.4	87.2	(66.3)	176.1	978.5
Other investment balances: Cash Deposit	53.9				53.8
Investment income due	0.0				0.0
Net investment assets	835.3				1,032.3



14b. Analysis of investments by category

	31 March 2021 £'000	31 March 2022 £'000
Pooled funds - additional analysis		
UK		
Fixed income unit trust	42.8	43.7
Unit trusts	143.1	145.1
Diversified growth funds	221.5	232.5
Overseas		
Unit trusts	490.0	565.3
Total Pooled funds	<u>897.4</u>	<u>986.6</u>
Pooled property investments	0.0	15.7
Private equity/infrastructure/private debt	<u>81.1</u>	<u>101.3</u>
Total investments	<u><u>978.5</u></u>	<u><u>1,103.6</u></u>

14c. Analysis of investments by fund manager

Market Value				
31 March 2021 £m	%	Fund manager	31 March 2022 £m	%
501.1	51.2%	Legal & General	573.9	52.0%
0.2	0.0%	London CIV	0.2	0.0%
48.8	5.0%	JP Morgan	43.8	4.0%
46.2	4.7%	Capital Dynamics	36.2	3.3%
130.7	13.4%	LCIV - Baillie Gifford	135.1	12.2%
90.8	9.3%	LCIV - Ruffer	97.4	8.8%
42.8	4.4%	LCIV - MAC (CQS)	43.7	4.0%
11.8	1.2%	LCIV - Infrastructure	21.4	1.9%
0	0.0%	LCIV - Private Debt	20.3	1.8%
23.1	2.4%	Alinda	23.4	2.1%
0	0.0%	Fidelity UK Real Estate	15.7	1.4%
0	0.0%	Blackrock Low Carbon Global Equity	15.4	1.4%
83.0	8.5%	Blackrock	77.1	7.0%
978.5	100.0%		1,103.6	100.0%

The following investments represent over 5% of the net assets of the fund. All of these companies are registered in the United Kingdom.

Security	Market value 31 March 2021	% of total fund	Market value 31 March 2022	% of total fund
L&G - Global Equities	441.2	39.1%	506.1	49.0%
L&G - UK Equities	59.9	5.3%	67.8	6.6%
Blackrock - Over 15 year Gilts	83	7.4%	77.1	7.5%
LCIV - Baillie Gifford DGF	130.7	11.6%	135.1	13.1%
LCIV - Ruffer DGF	90.8	8.1%	97.4	9.4%

d) Stock lending

The London Borough of Brent Pension Fund does not operate a Stock Lending programme.

14a. Valuation of financial instruments carried at fair value

The following table provides an analysis of the financial assets and liabilities of the pension fund grouped into Levels 1 to 3, based on the level at which the fair value is observable.

Values at 31 March 2022	Quoted market price Level 1 £m	Using observable inputs Level 2 £m	With significant unobservable inputs Level 3	Total £m
Financial assets				
Pooled investments		986.6		986.6
Pooled property investments		15.7		15.7
Private Equity/Infrastructure/Private Debt			101.3	101.3
Subtotal Financial assets at fair value through profit and loss	0.0	1,002.3	101.3	1,103.6
Cash	24.1			24.1
Investment Income due	0.0			0.0
Subtotal Loans and receivables	24.1	0.0	0.0	24.1
Total Financial assets	24.1	1,002.3	101.3	1,127.7
Financial liabilities				
Current liabilities	(2.5)			(2.5)
Subtotal Financial liabilities at amortised cost	(2.5)	0.0	0.0	(2.5)
Total Financial liabilities	(2.5)	0.0	0.0	(2.5)
Net Financial assets	21.6	1,002.3	101.3	1,125.2

Values at 31 March 2021	Quoted market price Level 1	Using observable inputs Level 2	With significant unobservable inputs Level 3	Total
	£m	£m		£m
Financial assets				
Pooled investments		897.4		897.4
Pooled property investments		0.0		0.0
Private Equity/Infrastructure/private debt			81.1	81.1
Subtotal Financial assets at fair value through profit and loss	0.0	897	81.1	978.5
Cash	53.8			53.8
Investment Income due	0.0			0.0
Subtotal Loans and receivables	53.8	0.0	0.0	53.8
Total Financial assets	53.8	897.4	81.1	1,032.3
Financial liabilities				
Current liabilities	(3.1)			(3.1)
Subtotal Financial liabilities at amortised cost	(3.1)	0.0	0.0	(3.1)
Total Financial liabilities	(3.1)	0.0	0.0	(3.1)
Net Financial assets	50.7	897.4	81.1	1,029.2

14a. Sensitivity of assets valued at Level 3

Having analysed historical data and current market trends, and consulted with our independent investment advisor, the fund has determined that the valuation methods described above are likely to be accurate to within the following ranges, and has set out below the consequent potential impact on the closing value of investments held at 31 March 2022.

	Assessed valuation range (+/-)	Value at 31 March 2022	Value on increase	Value of decrease
		£m	£m	£m
Private equity	32.6%	30.0	39.8	20.2
Infrastructure	15.2%	51.0	58.8	43.2
Private debt	12.9%	20.3	22.9	17.7

14c. Transfers between Levels 1 and 2

There were no transfers between levels 1 and 2 during the year

14d. Reconciliation of Fair Value Measurements within Level 3

	£m
Value at 31 March 2021	81.1
Transfers into Level 3	0.0
Transfers out of Level 3	0.0
Purchases	37.8
Sales	(19.9)
Issues	0.0
Settlements	0.0
Unrealised gains/losses	11.6
Realised gains/losses	(9.3)
Value at 31 March 2022	101.3

15. Classification of financial instruments

Accounting policies describe how different asset classes of financial instruments are measured, and how income and expenses, including fair value gains and losses, are recognised. The following table analyses the carrying amounts of financial assets and liabilities by category and net assets statement heading. No financial assets were reclassified during the accounting period.

16. Classification of Financial Instruments

31 March 2021			31 March 2022		
Fair value through profit and loss	Loans and receivables	Financial liabilities at amortised cost	Fair value through profit and loss	Loans and receivables	Financial liabilities at amortised cost
£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Financial assets					
897.4			986.6		
0			15.7		
81.1			101.3		
	53.8			24.1	
	1.5			8.6	
978.5	55.3	0.0	1,103.6	32.7	0.0
Financial liabilities					
		(3.1)			(2.5)
0.0	0.0	(3.1)	0.0	0.0	(2.5)
978.5	55.3	(3.1)	1,103.6	32.7	(2.5)

16a. Net gains and losses on Financial Instruments

31 March 2021		31 March 2022
£'000		£'000
176.1	Fair value through profit and loss	88.1
176.1	Total	88.1

16b. Fair Value of financial instruments and liabilities

The following table summarises the carrying values of the financial assets and financial liabilities by class of instrument compared with their fair values.

31 March 2021			31 March 2022		
Carrying Value	Fair Value		Carrying Value	Fair Value	
£'000	£'000		£'000	£'000	
		Financial assets			
		Fair value through profit and loss			
978.5	978.5		1,103.6	1,103.6	
55.3	55.3	Loans and receivables	32.7	32.7	
1,033.8	1,033.8	Total financial assets	1,136.3	1,136.3	
		Financial liabilities			
		Financial liabilities at amortised cost			
(3.1)	(3.1)		(2.5)	(2.5)	
(3.1)	(3.1)	Total financial liabilities	(2.5)	(2.5)	

The authority has not entered into any financial guarantees that are required to be accounted for as financial instruments.

16. Nature and extent of risks arising from financial instruments

Risk and risk management

The Fund's primary long-term risk is that the Fund's assets will fall short of its liabilities (i.e., promised benefits payable to members). Therefore the aim of investment risk management is to minimise the risk of an overall reduction in the value of the Fund and to maximise the opportunity for gains across the whole Fund portfolio. The Fund achieves this through asset diversification to reduce exposure to market risk (price risk, currency risk, and interest rate risk) and credit risk to an acceptable level. In addition, the Fund manages its liquidity risk to ensure there is sufficient liquidity to meet the Fund's forecast cash flows. The Pension Fund manages these investment risks as part of its overall pension fund risk management programme.

Responsibility for the Fund's risk management strategy rests with the Pension Fund Sub-Committee. Risk management policies are established to identify and analyse the risks faced by the Pension Fund's operations. Policies are reviewed regularly to reflect changes in activity and in market conditions.

a) Market risk

Market risk is the risk of loss from fluctuations in equity and commodity prices, interest and foreign exchange rates and credit spreads. The Fund is exposed to market risk from its investment activities, particularly through its equity holdings. The level of risk exposure depends on market conditions, expectations of future price and yield movements and the asset mix.

The objective of the Fund's risk management strategy is to identify, manage and control market risk exposure within acceptable parameters, whilst optimising the return on risk. In general, excessive volatility in market risk is managed through the diversification of the portfolio in terms of geographical and industry sectors and individual securities. To mitigate market risk, the Pension Fund and its investment advisers undertake appropriate monitoring of market conditions and benchmark analysis.

Other price risk

Other price risk represents the risk that the value of a financial instrument will fluctuate as a result of changes in market prices (other than those arising from interest rate risk or foreign exchange risk), whether those changes are caused by factors specific to the individual instrument or its issuer or factors affecting all such instruments in the market.

The Fund is exposed to share and derivative price risk. This arises from investments held by the Fund for which the future price is uncertain. All securities investments present a risk of loss of capital. Except for shares sold short, the maximum risk resulting from financial instruments is determined by the fair value of the financial instruments. Possible losses from shares sold short are unlimited.

The Fund's investment managers mitigate this price risk through diversification and the selection of securities and other financial instruments is monitored by the Pension Fund to ensure it is within limits specified in the Fund investment strategy.

Other price risk – sensitivity analysis

Following analysis of historical data and expected investment return movement during the financial year, in consultation with the fund's investment advisors, the council has determined that the following movements in market price risk are reasonably possible for the 2021/22 reporting period. (Based on data as at 31 March 2022 using data provided by investment advisors scenario model). The sensitivities are consistent with the assumptions contained in the investment advisors' most recent review. This analysis assumes that all other variables, in particular foreign currency exchange rates and interest rates, remain the same.

Other price risk – sensitivity analysis

	31/03/2022 Value (£m)	Potential market movements (+/-)
Asset Type		
Bonds	77.1	9.3%
Equities	633.3	21.1%

Other Pooled investments	276.2	9.7%
Pooled Property investments	15.7	16.1%
Private Equity	30	32.6%
Infrastructure	51	15.2%
Private debt	20.3	12.9%

Had the market price of the fund investments increased/decreased by 1% the change in the net assets available to pay benefits in the market price would have been as follows:

Asset Type	31/03/2022 Value (£m)	Potential value on increase (£m)	Potential value on decrease (£m)
Bonds	77.1	84.3	69.9
Equities	633.3	766.9	499.7
Other Pooled investments	276.2	303.0	249.4
Pooled Property investments	15.7	18.2	13.2
Private Equity	30.0	39.8	20.2
Infrastructure	51.0	58.8	43.2
Private debt	20.3	22.9	17.7
Total	1,103.6	1,293.9	913.3

Interest rate risk exposure asset type

The Fund invests in financial assets for the primary purpose of obtaining a return on investments. These investments are subject to interest rate risks, which represent the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates.

The Fund's interest rate risk is routinely monitored by the Pension Fund in accordance with the Fund's risk management strategy, including monitoring the exposure to interest rates and assessment of actual interest rates against the relevant benchmarks.

The Fund's direct exposure to interest rate movements as at 31 March 2021 and 31 March 2022 is set out below. These disclosures present interest rate risk based on the underlying financial assets at fair value:

	31 March 2021	31 March 2022
	£m	£m
Cash balances	53.8	24.1
UK Fixed income unit trust	42.8	43.7
Total	96.6	67.8

Asset type	Carrying amount as at 31 March 2022	+1%	-1%
-------------------	--	------------	------------

	£m		£m
Cash balances	24.1	0.2	(0.2)
UK Fixed income unit trust	43.7	0.4	(0.4)
Total	67.8	0.7	(0.7)

Asset type	Carrying amount as at 31 March 2021	+1%	-1%
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cash balances	53.8	0.5	(0.5)
UK Fixed income unit trust	42.8	0.4	(0.4)
Total	96.6	1.0	(1.0)

Currency risk

Currency risk represents the risk that the fair value of future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in foreign exchange rates. The Fund is exposed to currency risk on financial instruments that are denominated in any currency other than the functional currency of the Fund (£UK). The Fund holds both monetary and non-monetary assets denominated in currencies other than £UK.

The Fund's currency rate risk is routinely monitored by the Pension Fund in accordance with the Fund's risk management strategy, including monitoring the range of exposure to currency fluctuations.

The following table summarises the Fund's currency exposure as at 31 March 2022 and as at the previous period end:

Currency risk exposure - asset type	Asset value at 31 March 2021	Asset value at 31 March 2022
	£m	£m
Overseas unit trusts	490.0	565.3
Overseas pooled property investments	0.0	0.0
Overseas private equity/infrastructure/private debt	81.1	101.3
Total	571.1	666.6

A 1% strengthening/weakening of the pound against the various currencies in which the Fund holds investments would increase/decrease the net assets available to pay benefits as follows:

Assets exposed to currency rate risk	Asset value as at 31 March 2022	+1%	-1%
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Overseas unit trusts	565.3	5.7	(5.7)
Overseas pooled property investments	0.0	0.0	0.0

Overseas private equity/infrastructure/private debt	101.3	1.0	(1.0)
Total	666.6	6.7	(6.7)

Assets exposed to currency rate risk	Asset value as at 31 March 2021		
		+1%	-1%
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Overseas unit trusts	490.0	4.9	(4.9)
Overseas pooled property investments	0.0	0.0	0.0
Overseas private equity/infrastructure/private debt	81.1	0.8	(0.8)
Total	571.1	5.7	(5.7)

b) Credit risk

Credit risk represents the risk that the counterparty to a transaction or a financial instrument will fail to discharge an obligation and cause the Fund to incur a financial loss. The market values of investments generally reflect an assessment of credit in their pricing and consequently the risk of loss is implicitly provided for in the carrying value of the Fund's financial assets and liabilities.

In essence, the Fund's entire investment portfolio is exposed to some form of credit risk. However, the selection of high quality counterparties, brokers and financial institutions minimises credit risk that may occur through the failure to settle a transaction in a timely manner.

The Pension Fund's cash balance is held in an interest bearing instant access deposit account with NatWest plc, which is rated independently and meets Brent Council's credit criteria.

The Pension Fund believes it has managed its exposure to credit risk, and has had no experience of default or uncollectable deposits over the past five financial years. The Fund's cash holding under its treasury management arrangements at 31 March 2022 was £24.1m (31 March 2021: £53.8m). This was held with the following institutions:

Credit risk exposure

	Rating	Balances at 31 March 2021	Balances at 31 March 2022
		£m	£m
Bank deposit accounts			
NatWest	A	0.9	0.9
Northern Trust - Aviva Cash		0.1	0.1
Money Market deposits	AAA	52.8	23.1
Other short-term lending			
Local authorities		0.0	0.0

Total

53.8

24.1

b) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk represents the risk that the Fund will not be able to meet its financial obligations as they fall due. The Pension Fund therefore takes steps to ensure that it has adequate cash resources to meet its pensioner payroll costs and investment commitments.

The Pension Fund has immediate access to its cash holdings.

The Fund defines liquid assets as assets that can be converted to cash within three months. Illiquid assets are those assets which will take longer than three months to convert into cash. At 31 March 2022 the value of illiquid assets was £117.0m, which represented 10.4% (31 March 2021: £81.1m, which represented 7.9%) of the total fund assets.

Periodic cash flow forecasts are prepared to understand and manage the timing of the Fund's cash flows. The appropriate strategic level of cash balances to be held forms part of the Fund investment strategy.

All financial liabilities at 31 March 2022 are due within one year."

Liquidity Risk

	31-Mar-21	%	31-Mar-22	%
Pooled investments	897.4	86.9%	986.6	87.5%
Cash deposits	53.8	5.2%	24.1	2.1%
Investment income due	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Total liquid investments	951.2	92.1%	1,010.7	89.6%
Pooled property investments	-	0.0%	15.7	1.4%
Private Equity/ Infrastructure/private debt	81.1	7.9%	101.3	9.0%
Total illiquid investments	81.1	7.9%	117.0	10.4%
Total investments	1,032.3	100.0%	1,127.7	100.0%

d) Refinancing risk

The key risk is that the Pension Fund will be bound to replenish a significant proportion of its financial instruments at a time of unfavourable interest rates. However, the Pension Fund does not have any financial instruments that have a refinancing risk as part of its treasury management and investment strategies.

17. Funding arrangements

In line with the LGPS Regulations 2013, the Fund's actuary undertakes a funding valuation every three years for the purpose of setting employer contribution rates for the forthcoming triennial period. The last such valuation took place as at 31 March 2019. The next valuation will take place as at 31 March 2022 and results are scheduled to be released by 31 March 2023.

The key elements of the funding policy are:

- to ensure the long-term solvency of the Fund, i.e., that sufficient funds are available to meet all pension liabilities as they fall due for payment
- to ensure that employer contribution rates are as stable as possible
- to minimise the long-term cost of the Scheme by recognising the link between assets and liabilities and adopting an investment strategy that balances risk and return
- to reflect the different characteristics of employing bodies in determining contribution rates where the administering authority considers it reasonable to do so
- to use reasonable measures to reduce the risk to other employers and ultimately to the council tax payer from an employer defaulting on its pension obligations.

The aim is to achieve 100% solvency over a period of 19 years from 1 April 2019 and to provide stability in employer contribution rates by spreading any increases in rates over a period of time. Solvency is achieved when the funds held, plus future expected investment returns and future contributions are sufficient to meet expected future pension benefits payable.

At the 2019 actuarial valuation the Fund was assessed as 78% funded, which is a significant improvement to the 55% valuation at the 2016 valuation. This corresponded to a deficit of £248m (2016 valuation: £562m) at that time. As a result, a deficit recovery plan is in place which aims to achieve 100% funding over a period of 19 years from April 2019.

Contribution increases or decreases may be phased in over the three-year period beginning 31 March 2020 for both Scheme employers and admitted bodies. The most commonly applied employer contribution rate within the Brent Pension Fund is:

Year	Employers' contribution rate
2020/21	35.0%
2021/22	35.0%
2022/23	35.0%

Individual employers' rates will vary from the common contribution rate depending on the demographic and actuarial factors particular to each employer. Full details of the contribution rates payable can be found in the 2019 actuarial valuation report and the funding strategy statement on the Fund's website.

The valuation of the Fund has been undertaken using the projected unit method under which the salary increase for each member is assumed to increase until they leave active service by death, retirement or withdrawal from service. The principal assumptions were:

The main actuarial assumptions used for the March 2019 actuarial valuation were as follows:

Discount rate	4.4% p.a.
Pay increases	2.6% p.a.
Pension increases	2.3% p.a.

Mortality assumptions

Future life expectancy based on the Actuary's fund-specific mortality review was:

Mortality assumption at age 65	Male	Female
Current pensioners	22.1 years	24.3 years

Commutation assumption

It is assumed that 50% of future retirements will elect to exchange pension for additional tax free cash up to HMRC limits for service to 1 April 2008 and 75% for service from 1 April 2008.

18. Actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits

In addition to the triennial funding valuation, the Fund's Actuary also undertakes a valuation of the pension fund liabilities, on an IAS 19 basis, every year using the same base data as the funding valuation rolled forward to the current financial year, taking account of changes in membership numbers and updating assumptions to the current year. This valuation is not carried out on the same basis as that used for setting fund contribution rates and the fund accounts do not take account of liabilities to pay pensions and other benefits in the future.

In order to assess the value of the benefits on this basis, the Actuary has updated the actuarial assumptions (set out below) from those used for funding purposes (see Note 17). The Actuary has also used valued ill health and death benefits in line with IAS 19.

Calculated on an IAS19 basis, the actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits at 31 March 2022 was £1,838m (31 March 2021: £1,917m). This figure includes both vested and non-vested benefits, although the latter is assumed to have a negligible value. The Fund Accounts do not take account of liabilities to pay pensions and other benefits in the future.

The liabilities above are calculated on an IAS 19 basis and therefore differ from the results of the 2019 triennial funding valuation because IAS 19 stipulates a discount rate rather than a rate which reflects market rates.

Financial assumptions

Inflation/pensions increase rate	3.20%
Salary increase rate	3.50%
Discount rate	2.70%

Longevity assumption

The average future life expectancies at age 65 are summarised below:

	Males	Females
Current pensioners	22.1 years	24.5 years
Future pensioners*	23.2 years	26.0 years

* Future pensioners are assumed to be currently aged 45

Commutation assumption

An allowance is included for future retirements to elect to take 50% of the maximum additional tax-free cash up to HMRC limits for pre-April 2008 service and 75% of the maximum tax-free cash for post-April 2008 service.

Sensitivity Analysis

Sensitivity to the assumptions for the year ended 31 March 2022	Approximate % increase to liabilities	Approximate monetary amount (£m)
0.5% p.a. increase in the Pension Increase Rate	10%	160
0.5% p.a. increase in the Salary Increase Rate	1%	10
0.5% p.a. decrease in the discount rate	10%	170

The principal demographic assumption is the longevity assumption. For sensitivity purposes, it is estimated that a 1 year increase in life expectancy would approximately increase the liabilities by around 4% (c. £74m).

19. Assets

a) Current assets

	31 March 2021 £m	31 March 2022 £m
Debtors:		
- Contributions due – employees	0.2	0.2
- Contributions due – employers	0.7	0.9
- Sundry debtors	0.6	7.5
Total	1.5	8.6

Analysis of debtors

	31 March 2021	31 March 2022
	£m	£m
- Central government bodies	0.6	0.8
- Other local authorities	0.9	6.1
- Other entities and individuals	0.0	1.7
Total	1.5	8.6

20. Current liabilities

	31 March 2021	31 March 2022
	£m	£m
Group transfers	0.0	0.0
Sundry creditors	3.1	2.5
	3.1	2.5

Analysis of creditors

	31 March 2021	31 March 2022
	£m	£m
Central government bodies	0.0	1.0
Other entities and individuals	3.1	1.5
Total	3.1	2.5

21. Additional voluntary contributions

	Market value 31 March 2021	Market value 31 March 2022
	£m	£m
Clerical Medical	1.3	1.3
Equitable Life	0.2	0.2
Prudential	0.6	0.7
	2.1	2.2

	Contributions 31 March 2021	Contributions 31 March 2022
	£m	£m
Clerical Medical	0.0	0.0
Prudential	0.1	0.1
	0.1	0.1

*Clerical medical data is not available at the publication date.

The Pension Fund's former provider, Equitable Life, no longer accepts AVC contributions from Scheme members.

For information, Prudential has since replaced Clerical Medical as the Fund's AVC provider with effect from 1 April 2014.

In accordance with Regulation 4(1)(b) of the Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2016, the contributions paid and the assets of these investments are not included in the Fund's Accounts.

22. Related party transactions

Brent Council

The Brent Pension Fund is administered by Brent Council. Consequently, there is a strong relationship between the Council and the Pension Fund.

The Council incurred costs of £1.24m (2020/21: £1.12m) in relation to the administration of the Fund and was subsequently reimbursed by the Fund for these expenses. The Council is also the single largest employer of members of the Pension Fund and contributed £41.0m to the Fund in 2021/22 (2020/21: £37.3m).

Governance

There are no members of the Pension Fund Sub-Committee who are either in receipt of pension benefits from or active members of the Brent Pension Fund. Each member of the Pension Fund Sub-Committee is required to declare their interests at each meeting.

Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the fund are the Chief Executive, the Director of Finance (s.151 officer), the Director of Legal & HR and the Head of Finance (Pensions). The proportion of the total remuneration payable to key management personnel that is charged to the Pension Fund is set out below:

	31st March 2021	31st March 2022
	£m	£m
Short Term Benefits	0.038	0.040
Post-Employment Benefits	0.012	0.012
Termination Benefits	0.000	0.000
Total Remunerations	0.050	0.052

23. Contingent liabilities

Outstanding capital commitments (investments) at 31 March 2022 totalled £82.1m (31 March 2021 £58.4m)

	31st March 2021	31st March 2022
	£m	£m
Capital Dynamics	12.6	12.9
Alinda Fund II	2.5	2.5
Alinda Fund III	5.7	8.1
London CIV Infrastructure Fund	37.6	28.9
London CIV Private Debt Fund	n/a	29.7
Total	58.4	82.1

These commitments relate to outstanding call payments due on unquoted limited partnership funds held in the private equity and infrastructure parts of the portfolio. The amounts 'called' by these funds are irregular in both size and timing over a period of between four and six years from the date of each original commitment.

24. Contingent Assets

Contingent assets

Two non-associated admitted body employers in the Brent Pension Fund hold insurance bonds to guard against the possibility of being unable to meet their pension obligations. These bonds are drawn in favour of the Pension Fund and payment will only be triggered in the event of employer default. Both admission agreements ended during the year 2021/22.

	31st March 2021	31st March 2022
	£m	£m
Apleona HSG Limited (previously Bilfinger)	0.1	0.0
Conway Aecom	0.1	0.0
Total	0.2	0.0