

LGPC Bulletin 263 – April 2025

This bulletin contains updates for all LGPS stakeholders. It includes important articles on:

- Pension debit GAD guidance (Scotland)
- updates to guides and factsheets (England and Wales article) (Scotland article)
- Abolition of the LTA guide – version 2.4
- annual RBCE statements
- McCloud transfer out calculators
- Rectification Regulations 2025
- Pensions dashboards
- qualifications and training update – webinar
- call for volunteers to join Code of Transparency Founders Group.

If you have any comments or articles for future bulletins, please contact query.lgps@local.gov.uk.

Index

LGPS England & Wales	3
AVC Technical Guide – version 3.1	3
Updates to guides and factsheets.....	3
LGPS Scotland.....	4
Pension debit GAD guidance – transfer date from 1 April 2015.....	4
Updates to guides and factsheets.....	5
Other news and updates	5
Abolition of the lifetime allowance guide – version 2.4.....	5

Annual RBCE statements	6
Fighting pension fraud webinar	6
McCloud remedy	7
2025/26 McCloud transfer out calculators.....	7
Rectification Regulations 2025.....	8
Pensions dashboards.....	9
Series of short films: Savers are ready for dashboards – are you?.....	9
Registration codes	9
DWP Accounting Officer assessment	10
PDP recent updates	10
Training.....	10
LGPS qualifications and training update – webinar.....	10
2026 LGPS Governance Conference – save the date	11
2025 Training Programme	11
LGPS England & Wales Scheme Advisory Board (SAB).....	12
Call for volunteers to join Code of Transparency Founders Group	12
Local audit reform consultation – Government response.....	13
Peer Support Offer working group – first meeting	13
Pension committee chairs meeting	13
Scheme Annual Report 2024 webinar	14
Statement following Government pooling decision letters.....	14
Summary note of Nigel Giffin KC’s legal advice on fiduciary duty	14
SAB website.....	15
HMRC	15
Newsletter 169	15
Pension scheme rates for 2025/26	16
TPR.....	16
TPR and PSAG use AI to uncover fraudulent websites	16
Wider landscape.....	17
Small Pots Delivery Group report.....	17

Legislation	17
Statutory Instruments	17
Useful links	17
LGPS pensions section.....	18
Raising a query	18
Team contacts	18
Further information.....	19
Copyright.....	19
Disclaimer	20

LGPS England & Wales

AVC Technical Guide – version 3.1

On 22 April 2025, we published an amended version of the AVC Technical Guide (version 3.1).

The new version includes two minor amendments, which confirm that:

- AVC plans that started before 1 April 2014 where the member left the LGPS and took payment of their main scheme benefits between 1 April 2014 and 13 May 2018 (inclusive) are “Pre-2014 AVC Plans”, regardless of whether the member deferred payment of the AVCs
- if a member flexibly retires and their AVC contract started after 12 November 2001, they can choose to take all or none of their AVC plan (rather than some, all or none).

Both clean and tracked changes versions of the guide are available on the [Administrators guides and documents](http://www.lgpsregs.org) page of www.lgpsregs.org.

Updates to guides and factsheets

On 25 April 2025, Lorraine Bennett emailed administering authorities confirming we have published updated versions of the following guides:

- Employee brief guide – version 2.6
- Retirement planning guide – version 1.7
- A member’s guide to AVCs – version 2.6.

The updates include:

- 2025/26 contribution tables
- new APC limits
- other minor changes.

The new versions, plus versions showing tracked changes, can be found on the [Administrator guides and documents](http://www.lgpsregs.org) page of www.lgpsregs.org.

We are in the process of updating the annual allowance factsheet and the HR and payroll guides. We will notify you when updated versions are published.

The guides are published in Word so administering authorities can add contact information and any other specific details.

Additional steps may be needed if the documents are converted to PDF for publication, to ensure they comply with [the Public Sector Bodies \(Websites and Mobile Applications\) \(No. 2\) Accessibility Regulations 2018](#) – for more information see [bulletin 190](#). For example, any tables will need tagging correctly.

You can find more information online about:

- how to [create accessible PDFs](#)
- [creating accessible PDFs in Adobe Acrobat](#).

Action for administering authorities

Update any local versions of the guides, factsheets and leaflets.

LGPS Scotland

Pension debit GAD guidance – transfer date from 1 April 2015

Craig Finlay, Policy Officer at the Scottish Public Pensions Agency, has issued updated GAD guidance on pension debits to administering authorities. The guidance, which was emailed on 23 April 2025, has immediate effect.

The guidance outlines the method for calculating pension debits where the cash equivalent valuation was increased due to the underpin. The method aligns with that used in LGPS England and Wales. Minor changes and corrections have also been made.

The updated guidance is available on the [Actuarial guidance](#) page of www.scotlgpsregs.org.

Action for administering authorities

Ensure your processes are in line with the updated guidance.

Updates to guides and factsheets

On 4 April 2025, William Girvan emailed administering authorities confirming we have published updated versions of the following guides:

- Employee brief guide – version 2.5
- Retirement planning guide – version 1.5
- Councillors brief guide – version 2.4.

The updates include:

- 2025/26 contribution tables
- new APC limits
- other minor changes.

The new versions, plus versions showing tracked changes, can be found on the [Administrator guides and documents](http://www.scotlgpsregs.org) page of www.scotlgpsregs.org.

The guides are published in Word so administering authorities can add contact information and any other specific details.

Additional steps may be needed if the documents are converted to PDF for publication, to ensure they comply with [the Public Sector Bodies \(Websites and Mobile Applications\) \(No. 2\) Accessibility Regulations 2018](#) – for more information see [bulletin 190](#). For example, any tables will need tagging correctly.

You can find more information online about:

- how to [create accessible PDFs](#)
- [creating accessible PDFs in Adobe Acrobat](#).

Action for administering authorities

Update any local versions of the guides.

Other news and updates

Abolition of the lifetime allowance guide – version 2.4

On 25 April 2025, Lorraine Bennett emailed administering authorities to let them know that we have published version 2.4 of the ‘Abolition of the Lifetime Allowance’

guide. The latest version incorporates changes made by the Pensions (Abolition of LTA Charges etc) (No 2) and (No 3) Regulations 2024.

The changes include a revised method for valuing crystallised rights for the purpose of paying a trivial commutation lump sum. However, there are still issues with the revised method, which have been queried with HMRC.

Both clean and tracked versions of the guide are available on the Administrator guides and documents pages of www.lgpsregs.org and www.scotlgpsregs.org.

Action for administering authorities

Review the new version of the guide.

Annual RBCE statements

In [bulletin 262](#), we mentioned that we were querying with HMRC what information should be included on the RBCE annual statement where the member was previously entitled to an annual BCE statement. HMRC has now replied stating:

“Annual RBCE statements should convert an individual’s LTA percentage used to the monetary amount of their lump sum allowance and lump sum and death benefit allowance used because the LTA has been removed from legislation. To determine this, schemes should assume the standard transitional calculation unless they are aware that the member has a transitional tax-free amount certificate in force.”

Lorraine Bennett emailed administering authorities on 25 April 2025, updating them on HMRC’s reply.

It remains the case that members who wish to apply for a transitional tax-free amount certificate must provide evidence of the total LTA percentage used. Therefore, administering authorities will still need to keep a record of this as well as converting the percentage to monetary amounts for the annual statements.

Action for administering authorities

Ensure your annual RBCE processes are in line with HMRC’s clarification.

Fighting pension fraud webinar

On 25 March 2025, the Pension Scams Action Group (PSAG) held a webinar focused on fighting pension fraud.

PSAG is a multi-agency taskforce of law enforcement, government and industry working together to tackle pension fraud. Its core members include the Department

for Work and Pensions, Financial Conduct Authority, His Majesty's Treasury, Money and Pensions Service, National Economic Crime Centre, Pension Scams Industry Group and The Pensions Regulator.

Key topics covered at the webinar:

- PSAG's strategic overview
- PSAG in action: updates on fraud prevention efforts
- replacing Action Fraud: The countdown to a new service from the City of London Police.

The event concluded with a 30-minute question and answer session.

For those who missed the live event, a [recording of the webinar](#) has been published.

McCloud remedy

2025/26 McCloud transfer out calculators

We have recently published 2025/26 versions of the McCloud non-Club and Club transfer out calculators. Lorraine Bennett emailed administering authorities on 25 April 2025 to let them know.

The calculators are available on the Administrator guides and documents pages of www.lgpsregs.org (LGPS England and Wales) and www.scotlgpsregs.org (LGPS Scotland).

The non-Club calculator includes updated pensions increase and revaluation multipliers and can be used for cases with a relevant date after 6 April 2025. You can still access the 2023/24 and 2024/25 versions of the calculator. Use the 'Subject' and 'Status' filters on the right-hand side of the guides and documents page to select 'Old' files relating to McCloud.

We have only made minor changes to the Club calculator – adding the 2025 revaluation multiplier to the table on the 'Standard' input tab. If you have made local changes to the existing version, you may prefer to update your local version instead.

Please read the 'Notes' tab thoroughly before using each calculator. Let us know if you find any errors or have any feedback.

Action for administering authorities

Ensure you are using the correct version of the calculators.

Rectification Regulations 2025

HM Treasury laid the Public Service Pension Schemes (Rectification of Unlawful Discrimination) (Tax) Regulations 2025 on 3 April 2025. The regulations came into force on 24 April 2025.

The regulations modify the existing rules to prevent adverse tax consequences when implementing the McCloud remedy.

Most of the regulations deal with changes related to unauthorised payments in 'Chapter 1 schemes' and do not apply to the LGPS. However, the following changes do:

- **Regulation 19:** the deadline for members with remediable service to apply for fixed protection 2016 or individual protection 2016 is extended. Members must apply before 6 April 2027, rather than before 6 April 2025.
- **Regulation 20(5):** administering authorities were required to recalculate previous annual allowance calculations disregarding the underpin. For more information, see the annual allowance part of section 7 of our McCloud Administrator guide, which is available on the Administrator guides and documents pages of www.lgpsregs.org or www.scotlgpsregs.org. Where a recalculation reduces the annual allowance charge and the administering authority has paid some or all of it on the member's behalf, the authority may apply to HMRC for a refund on or before 1 April 2027. Regulation 20(5) has extended this to 31 January 2031.
- **Regulation 20(6):** makes a minor amendment to regulation 31 of the Public Service Pension Schemes (Rectification of Unlawful Discrimination) (Tax) Regulations 2023 to cross reference the correct section of the Income Tax (Earnings and Pensions) Act 2003.
- **Regulation 20(8):** The deadline for members to request a valuation for individual protection 2016 from their pension scheme administrator expired on 6 April 2020. However, under regulation 39 of the Public Service Pension Schemes (Rectification of Unlawful Discrimination) (Tax) Regulations 2023, no deadline applied in relation to information calculated by reference to remediable service. Regulation 20(8) amends this, setting a deadline of 6 April 2027.

We will shortly update our McCloud Administrator guide to reflect these changes.

Action for administering authorities

Ensure your processes and communications are in line with these changes.

Pensions dashboards

Series of short films: Savers are ready for dashboards – are you?

TPR has produced a [series of compelling industry-focused short films](#) illustrating the positive impacts that pensions dashboards will have on savers. In the short films savers talk about their current pension situation and then think about how dashboards will help with retirement planning.

Please share the four-minute film with colleagues who are supporting you in getting ready for pensions dashboards. The other films are designed for social media.

The films have been launched as part of TPR's campaign to get the pensions industry dashboards ready. While most schemes are on track to connect with the dashboard on time, many still have work to do to make sure the data they hold is digitised, accessible and up to date.

In [TPR's press release for the videos](#), it reminded schemes about the five actions they should be taking to prepare for their upcoming dashboards connection date:

1. start preparing data now – make sure it is accurate, accessible and digital
2. download TPR's checklist to keep on track of dashboards preparations
3. nominate a dashboards' contact through TPR's Exchange portal to receive communications and guidance to help prepare
4. work with your administrator, AVC providers, and others supporting your scheme throughout the process
5. keep a record of decisions and preparations and maintain oversight at board meetings.

Action for administering authorities

Share the four-minute film with colleagues who are supporting you in getting ready for dashboards.

Registration codes

As part of the connection process, you will need to register your administering authority with MaPS' governance register. This will ensure the digital architecture is kept safe by only allowing regulated schemes to connect and the required security and performance standards are met.

TPR has informed us that all LGPS administering authorities will receive their registration codes by the middle of May. You will need to pass these onto your ISP provider. Instructions will be included with the letter that accompanies the codes. Further information can be found in [TPR's hot topics article on registration codes](#). The hot topics article covers what registration codes are, why they are important, how many are needed, who issues them and who to, and how to go about getting replacement or additional codes if needed.

Action for administering authorities

Share your registration codes with your ISP provider and read the hot topics article.

DWP Accounting Officer assessment

On 2 April 2025, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) published the latest assessment of the dashboard project by Oliver Morley, Accounting Officer at the Money and Pensions Service.

The assessment concludes that the project is back on a viable footing, with a strong likelihood of completing delivery on time. However, critical dependencies remain, such as industry cooperation, quality of pension data and maintaining skilled resources.

PDP recent updates

The Pensions Dashboards Programme (PDP) has recently updated the following guidance:

- [Standards](#)
- [Connecting using a third party](#)
- [Change of connection plans](#)
- [Dashboards Forum: PDP update and focus on registration codes](#).

Action for administering authorities

Please review the guidance and share with the relevant parties who are implementing dashboards for you.

Training

LGPS qualifications and training update – webinar

We will be running an LGPS qualifications and training update webinar on 5 June 2025 at 10am, lasting for an hour.

The webinar will provide updates on:

- the Level 2 Award in Pensions Essentials
- the Level 3 Certificate in LGPS Administration
- pensions administration apprenticeships
- training courses offered by the LGA
- current issues and future plans.

There will be an opportunity to ask questions.

To sign up, please complete the [registration form](#) by 4pm Wednesday 28 May 2025.

2026 LGPS Governance Conference – save the date

The LGPS Governance Conference 2026 will take place on 29 and 30 January 2026 in Cardiff.

The conference is aimed at councillors and others who attend pension committees/panels and local pension boards. Past delegates include trade union and employer representatives as well as officers who attend and support committees. It will be of particular interest to those working in governance roles in administering authorities.

If you would like to register your interest in attending either online or in person, please complete this [LGPS Governance Conference 2026 – expression of interest form](#).

2025 Training Programme

2025 training events are available to book via the [LGA events website](#). Each course page provides information on the programme, pricing and the booking link.

Bookings are processed on a first-come, first-served basis. To ensure fairness, each topic is limited to five delegates per organisation.

If you are unable to secure a place on a course or require more than five places, please email training.lgps@local.gov.uk with details of the course or courses you wish to attend, including the number of places required and your preferred format – online or in person. We will maintain a waiting list and consider running additional sessions if demand is sufficiently high.

In response to your feedback, we have split the following courses:

- **Transfers:** split into Transfers in and Transfers out
- **Retirements:** split into Intermediate Retirements and Advanced Retirements.

The following courses have places:

Employer Role training

- [Employer role: 16 July 2025 London](#)
- [Employer role: 29 July 2025 online](#)
- [Employer role: 14 August 2025 online](#)
- [Employer role: 19 August 2025 online](#)
- [Employer role: 30 September 2025 online](#)
- [Employer role: 28 October 2025 online](#)

Understanding LGPS Transfers In training

- [Transfers in: 7 May 2025 online](#)

Insight training

- [Insight: 22–25 September 2025 Eastbourne residential](#)

Intermediate Retirements training

- [Intermediate retirements: 9 July 2025 London](#)
- [Intermediate retirements: 7 August 2025 online](#) (1 place remaining)
- [Intermediate retirements: 3 September 2025 online](#)

Advanced Retirements training

- [Advanced retirements: 30 July 2025 London](#)

For more information on all available training courses, please visit [LGPS Training and Development](#). For any further enquiries, please contact us at training.lgps@local.gov.uk.

Action for administering authorities

Please share details of the employer role training with your Scheme employers.

LGPS England & Wales Scheme Advisory Board (SAB)

Call for volunteers to join Code of Transparency Founders Group

As reported in earlier bulletins, the Board is working with the National LGPS Framework team to develop a new framework to enable administering authorities to efficiently access a variety of data and analytical services to better manage investment costs, using data provided under the [Code of Transparency](#).

[The letter, included as an appendix](#), contains more information about the project and calls for volunteers to join the Founders Group. In this case, the Board will

cover the set-up costs, and it is hoped that the resulting framework would be free at the point of use.

Action for administering authorities

Please consider volunteering to become a founder for the new Code of Transparency Framework.

Local audit reform consultation – Government response

In its response to the consultation launched on 16 December 2024 on the local audit reform strategy, the Government has outlined a commitment to separating pension fund accounts from administering authority main accounts. This is a welcome proposal that the Board has recommended for some time.

The Board has established an audit working group under its Compliance and Reporting Committee to discuss the implications of this change. The group will also review the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's (MHCLG) timeline for amending the necessary legislation and developing any additional guidance on the separate preparation and publication of pension fund accounts.

Peer Support Offer working group – first meeting

As reported in bulletin 262, the first meeting of the Peer Support Offer working group took place on 7 April 2025.

The key discussion items included:

- development of a framework for the offer
- links with other areas, such as TPR's General Code and the independent biennial governance review proposed by the Government in its 'Fit for the Future' consultation
- the role of local pension boards in the process.

The Board's secretariat will arrange the second meeting of the group before the next Compliance and Reporting Committee meeting on 23 June 2025.

Pension committee chairs meeting

Board Chair, Cllr Roger Phillips, has invited pension committee chairs to an online meeting to discuss recent Government decisions on pooling and other topical LGPS matters.

The Local Government Minister, Jim McMahon MP, has also been invited and has accepted the invitation.

The Board's secretariat is aware that the meeting is scheduled shortly after the upcoming local government elections. This will mean some administering authorities will not have pension committee chairs in place yet. In such cases, it is acceptable for an officer to attend on their fund's behalf.

For any queries about the meeting, please contact sabsecretariat@local.gov.uk.

Scheme Annual Report 2024 webinar

To mark the launch of the Scheme Annual Report 2024, the Board's secretariat will host an LGPS Live webinar in conjunction with DG Publishing on 14 May 2025 at 3:30pm.

As in previous years, the report pulls together data from each of the 86 fund annual reports to give a national overview of the Scheme. This year's report includes revised and extended sections on governance, administration and training. It also features data on investments, highlighting changes in asset allocation and new tables showing progress with pooling and UK investments.

The webinar will be moderated by Jeremy Hughes, Deputy Board Secretary. Confirmed panellists are Board Chair, Cllr Roger Phillips, and the SAB's Research and Data Analyst, Sarah Tingey.

You can sign up to attend the webinar and access all previous webinars on [the LGPS Live website](#).

Statement following Government pooling decision letters

On 11 April 2025, the Board made a [statement in response to the Government's letters](#) to LGPS pools (and some administering authorities) on 9 April 2025. The letters set out the Government's decisions following discussions of the pools' proposals as part of the pensions review.

The Board was not invited to participate in reviewing the pools' proposals or shaping the Minister's decisions. However, Board Chair, Cllr Roger Phillips, has since met with senior officials from the Treasury and MHCLG to discuss the Government's decisions.

The Board's secretariat intends to set up an emergency Board meeting to discuss how it can support funds and ensure that the best interests of members and employers are at the heart of decisions being taken.

Summary note of Nigel Giffin KC's legal advice on fiduciary duty

In January 2025, the Board received [updated legal advice on fiduciary duty in the LGPS](#) from Nigel Giffin KC. At the Board's request, [a summary note](#) outlining the

Board's secretariat's understanding of the main content of the advice is now available.

The summary note represents the views of the Board's secretariat based on their current understanding of the law and policy. It should not be treated as a complete and authoritative statement of the law. Readers may wish, or need, to take their own legal advice on the interpretation of any specific legislation quoted. However, the Board and its secretariat hope the summary note will be useful for LGPS officers and others wishing to communicate the main findings with a broader audience.

SAB website

The [SAB website](#) provides information about its work. Use the links below to find out more about:

- [a summary of the last SAB meeting](#)
 - [latest news](#)
 - [SAB meeting and agenda papers](#)
 - [committee meetings and agenda papers](#)
 - [Responsible Investment Advisory Group meetings and agenda papers.](#)
-

HMRC

Newsletter 169

HMRC published [Newsletter 169](#) on 24 April 2025. This includes articles on:

- **LTA protections:** The application deadlines for fixed protection 2016 and individual protection 2016 have passed (though see [earlier article on the Rectification Regulations 2025](#)), but individuals can still report changes to their protection through the Government Gateway or in writing to HMRC.
- **LTA protection look-up service:** In late 2025, the look-up service will move to the Managing Pension Scheme service and require authentication. The updated service will allow HMRC to provide schemes with additional information when checking whether the protection / enhancement a member is relying on is valid for a higher lump sum allowance. Later this year, HMRC will be asking for help to develop this. If you would like to be involved, email pensionsuserresearchrecruitment@hmrc.gov.uk and put 'look up service' in the subject line.
- **Check your pension protection service:** Starting 6 April 2025, the service for members checking pension protection validity through personal tax accounts has been renamed to 'Check your pension protections', with planned enhancements to be introduced in late 2025.

- **QROPS:** On 6 April 2025, the conditions for schemes in the European Economic Area (EEA) to qualify as an overseas pension scheme and as a recognised overseas pension scheme were aligned with those for schemes in the rest of the world. Scheme managers of QROPS in the EEA must confirm compliance with the new conditions to HMRC by 7 May 2025, or their schemes will lose QROPS status.
- **User research:** HMRC is seeking volunteers to provide feedback on the LTA protection Look Up Service, APSS262 Overseas Transfer Form, and Pension Scheme Return; interested individuals should email pensionsuserresearchrecruitment@hmrc.gov.uk specifying their area of interest.

Action for administering authorities

Ensure your communication materials reflect the current position about whether members can still apply for individual protection 2016 or fixed protection 2016.

Pension scheme rates for 2025/26

On 6 April 2025, HMRC updated its [webpage setting out certain pension scheme rates](#). This shows the 2025/26 rates for:

- lump sum allowance
- lump sum and death benefit allowance
- annual allowance
- overseas transfer allowance
- pension related tax charges.

TPR

TPR and PSAG use AI to uncover fraudulent websites

The Pensions Regulator (TPR) and the Pension Scams Action Group (PSAG) announced in [a press released published on 9 April 2025](#) that they have developed a new tool using artificial intelligence (AI) to detect scam websites.

The tool, created using machine learning technology, has already reviewed 830 websites, taken down 29 high-risk sites, and made 94 referrals to partner agencies. This collaborative effort aims to protect savers from online harm and enhance intelligence gathering to combat pension scams.

Wider landscape

Small Pots Delivery Group report

The Small Pots Delivery Group published its report on 24 April 2025. The Group, consisting of pensions and other relevant stakeholders, was established to support the Government in developing and designing the multiple default consolidator approach to address the issue of deferred small pots.

In November 2023, the Government confirmed its intention to proceed with the multiple default consolidator approach in its response to the consultation on [‘Ending the proliferation of deferred small pots’](#). According to this approach, pension schemes would be required to transfer eligible small pots to one of several default consolidators. Members would have the option to choose their preferred consolidator scheme or opt out of consolidation altogether. These proposals are not expected to apply to LGPS benefits.

The Government plans to legislate for the multiple default consolidator approach in the upcoming Pension Schemes Bill.

For more information, see the [Government’s press release](#).

Legislation

Statutory Instruments

[Public Service Pension Schemes \(Rectification of Unlawful Discrimination\) \(Tax\) Regulations 2025 \[2025/419\]](#)

Useful links

[LGPS member website \(England and Wales\)](#)

[LGPS member website \(Scotland\)](#)

[LGPS Advisory Board website \(England and Wales\)](#)

[LGPS Advisory Board website \(Scotland\)](#)

[LGPS Regulations and Guidance website \(England and Wales\)](#)

[LGPS Regulations and Guidance website \(Scotland\)](#)

[Current LGPS job vacancies](#)

Public Sector Transfer Club

Recognised Overseas Pension Schemes that have told HMRC that they meet the conditions to be a ROPS and have asked to be included on the list.

LGPS pensions section

Raising a query

If you have a technical query, please email query.lgps@local.gov.uk and one of the team's LGPS pension advisers will get back to you. To avoid delays in receiving a response, please do not email advisers directly.

Team contacts

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Further information

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