

LGPC Bulletin 274 – Annual update 2026

This bulletin sets out the rates and bands that apply from April 2026 for various purposes. Please email steven.moseley@local.gov.uk with any comments about the contents of this bulletin. You can find LGPC contacts at the end of this document.

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Employee contribution rates – England and Wales

The table below shows the pay ranges and corresponding employee contribution rates that apply to the LGPS in England and Wales from 1 April 2026.

Table 1: Employee contribution bands England and Wales 2026/27

Band	Actual pensionable pay for an employment	Main section contribution rate for that employment	50/50 section contribution rate for that employment
1	Up to £18,400	5.50%	2.75%
2	£18,401 to £29,000	5.80%	2.90%
3	£29,001 to £47,300	6.50%	3.25%
4	£47,301 to £59,800	6.80%	3.40%
5	£59,801 to £84,000	8.50%	4.25%
6	£84,001 to £119,100	9.90%	4.95%
7	£119,101 to £140,400	10.50%	5.25%
8	£140,401 to £210,700	11.40%	5.70%
9	£210,701 or more	12.50%	6.25%

Employers must determine the employee contribution rate for each employee from 1 April 2026 and inform payroll. The process for allocating contribution rates may have been automated on the payroll system. Employers must ignore any reduction in pensionable pay due to sickness, child related leave, reserve forces service leave or other absence from work when setting the employee contribution rate.

An employer may decide to change an employee's contribution rate during a Scheme year if their pay changes. You can read more about allocating an employee to a contribution rate each April and when their pay changes in section 10 of the HR guide and section 5.1 of the payroll guide. You can find both guides on the [Employer guides and documents](http://www.lgpsregs.org) page of www.lgpsregs.org.

Employee average contribution rates – Scotland

Employers must determine the contribution rate for each of their employees and councillors. When doing so, the employer must have regard to statutory guidance. In an annex to the guidance, the Scottish Public Pensions Agency (SPPA) sets out the average contribution rates.

SPPA has published the statutory guidance for 2026/27. The guidance accompanies [SPPA Circular 2/2026](#). The average rates are shown in table 2 below.

Table 2: Average contribution rates Scotland 2026/27

Contribution rate	Actual pay minimum £	Actual pay maximum £
5.5%	£0	£29,338
5.6%	£29,339	£31,171
5.7%	£31,172	£33,250
5.8%	£33,251	£35,283
5.9%	£35,284	£36,666
6.0%	£36,667	£38,163
6.1%	£38,164	£39,787
6.2%	£39,788	£41,555
6.3%	£41,556	£43,488
6.4%	£43,489	£45,609
6.5%	£45,610	£47,898
6.6%	£47,899	£49,578
6.7%	£49,579	£51,381
6.8%	£51,382	£53,320
6.9%	£53,321	£55,411
7.0%	£55,412	£57,673
7.1%	£57,674	£60,127
7.2%	£60,128	£62,800
7.3%	£62,801	£64,688
7.4%	£64,689	£66,109
7.5%	£66,110	£67,595
7.6%	£67,596	£69,149
7.7%	£69,150	£70,776
7.8%	£70,777	£72,481
7.9%	£72,482	£74,271
8.0%	£74,272	£76,151
8.1%	£76,152	£78,129
8.2%	£78,130	£80,213
8.3%	£80,214	£82,410
8.4%	£82,411	£84,732

Contribution rate	Actual pay minimum £	Actual pay maximum £
8.5%	£84,733	£87,188
8.6%	£87,189	£89,791
8.7%	£89,792	£92,553
8.8%	£92,554	£95,492
8.9%	£95,493	£98,622
9.0%	£98,623	£101,966
9.1%	£101,967	£105,543
9.2%	£105,544	£109,381
9.3%	£109,382	£113,509
9.4%	£113,510	£117,960
9.5%	£117,961	£122,775
9.6%	£122,776	£128,000
9.7%	£128,001	£133,688
9.8%	£133,689	£139,906
9.9%	£139,907	£146,731
10.0%	£146,732	£154,256
10.1%	£154,257	£162,594
10.2%	£162,595	£171,885
10.3%	£171,886	£182,303
10.4%	£182,304	£194,064
10.5%	£194,065	£207,448
10.6%	£207,449	£222,814
10.7%	£222,815	£240,640
10.8%	£240,641	£261,565
10.9%	£261,566	£286,476
11.0%	£286,477	£316,631
11.1%	£316,632	£353,882
11.2%	£353,883	and above*

*Contribution rates will increase beyond 11.2% of pay for higher salaries, but SPPA was not asked to provide bands above 11.2%.

For members in the 50/50 section, divide the appropriate rate by two.

Employers must determine the average contribution rate for each employee (including for councillors) from 1 April 2026 and inform payroll. The process for

allocating contribution rates may have been automated on the payroll system. The employer must ignore any reduction in pensionable pay due to sickness, child related leave, reserve forces service leave or other absence from work when setting the employee contribution rate.

An employer must review an employee's or councillor's average contribution rate during a Scheme year if there is a permanent material change to the terms and conditions of their employment that affects their pensionable pay.

SPPA Circular 2/2026 is available on the [SPPA circulars and guidance](https://www.scotlgpsregs.org) page of www.scotlgpsregs.org. The Circular is also available on the [LGPS circulars page](https://www.pensions.gov.scot) of www.pensions.gov.scot. You can find more information in section 10 of the HR guide and section 5.1 of the payroll guide. Both guides are available on the [Employer guides and documents](https://www.scotlgpsregs.org) page of www.scotlgpsregs.org.

Additional pension limit for 2026/27 – England and Wales

Regulations 16(6) and 31(2) of the LGPS Regulations 2013 state that the additional pension limit increases on 1 April each year as if it were a pension beginning on 1 April 2013 to which the Pensions (Increase) Act 1971 applied.

The increase due on 1 April 2026 is the increase that applied on 7 April 2025, as the 2026 increase does not take effect until 6 April 2026. The additional pension limit of £8,903 that applied in 2025/26 is increased by 1.7% to £9,054 from 1 April 2026.

Additional pension limit for 2026/27 – Scotland

Regulations 16(6) and 30(2) of the LGPS (Scotland) Regulations 2018 state that the additional pension limit is increased on 1 April each year as if it were a pension beginning on 1 April 2015 to which the Pensions (Increase) Act 1971 applied. The increase due on 1 April 2026 is the increase that applied on 7 April 2025, as the 2026 increase does not take effect until 6 April 2026.

The additional pension limit under regulation 16(6) of £8,568 is increased by 1.7% to £8,713 from 1 April 2026.

The additional pension limit under regulation 30(2) of £6,591 is increased by 1.7% to £6,703 from 1 April 2026.

Annual allowance limits

There are no changes to the annual allowance limits in 2026/27:

- standard annual allowance is £60,000
- money purchase annual allowance is £10,000
- adjusted income for the tapered annual allowance is £260,000
- minimum tapered annual allowance is £10,000.

Table 3: Tapered annual allowance (AA) limits

	Definition	Limit in 2026/27
Threshold income	Broadly, taxable income	£200,000
Adjusted income	Threshold income plus pension input amount	£260,000
Minimum AA	If AA is tapered, the minimum AA that can apply	£10,000

Lump sum limits from 6 April 2026

There are no changes to the Lump Sum Allowance (LSA) or Lump Sum Death Benefits Allowance (LSDBA) in 2026/27.

Lump sum allowance (LSA)

As of 6 April 2026, members have an LSA of £268,275.

From 6 April 2024, the member uses up available LSA if they take payment of a pension commencement lump sum (PCLS) or a non-taxable uncrystallised funds pension lump sum (UFPLS).

The LSA is also reduced where the member crystallised benefits before 6 April 2024.

The LSA is increased if the member holds a valid lifetime allowance protection.

Members will have to pay tax at their marginal rate on any lump sum that exceeds their available LSA.

Lump sum and death benefit allowance (LSDBA)

The LSDBA is set at £1,073,100. It is the total amount of relevant tax-free lump sums that can be paid to or in respect of a member. From 6 April 2024, the member

uses up available LSDBA if any of the lump sums listed below are paid to or in respect of them:

- pension commencement lump sum
- non-taxable element of an UFPLS
- serious ill health lump sum
- any relevant lump sum death benefit.

The LSDBA is also reduced where the member crystallised relevant benefits before 6 April 2024.

The member's available LSDBA is increased where they hold valid lifetime allowance protection (LTA).

For more information on these allowances, see the 'Abolition of the LTA technical guide', You can find the guide on the:

- [Administrator guides and documents \(England and Wales\)](https://www.lgpsregs.org) page of www.lgpsregs.org, and
- [Administrator guides and documents \(Scotland\)](https://www.scotlgpsregs.org) page of www.scotlgpsregs.org.

Automatic enrolment earnings bands

Employers will need to know the earnings bands that apply for 2026/27 for the purposes of automatic enrolment under the Pensions Act 2008. The Government announced in its [review of the automatic enrolment earnings trigger for 2026/27](#) that the earnings trigger will remain at its current level of £10,000. This is unchanged since the 2014/15 year. The tables below show the position for the 2026/27 year.

Table 4: Automatic enrolment (AE) earnings bands 2026/27

Earnings*	Age 16-21	Age 22 to <SPA**	Age SPA** to <75
Under lower earnings threshold (£6,240)	Entitled worker	Entitled worker	Entitled worker
Between £6,240 and £10,000	Non-eligible jobholder	Non-eligible jobholder	Non-eligible jobholder
Over earnings trigger for automatic enrolment (£10,000)	Non-eligible jobholder	Eligible jobholder	Non-eligible jobholder

* Earnings: separate contracts are treated separately

** State Pension Age

Table 5: AE earnings bands per period

Pay reference period	Lower earnings threshold	Earnings trigger for automatic enrolment
Annual	£6,240.00	£10,000.00
6 months	£3,120.00	£4,998.00
3 months	£1,560.00	£2,499.00
1 month	£520.00	£833.00
4 weeks	£480.00	£768.00
2 weeks	£240.00	£384.00
1 week	£120.00	£192.00

National Insurance (NI) thresholds

The Government has published [PAYE tax and NI limits and thresholds for 2026/27](#). The limits are also set out in [The Social Security \(Contributions\) \(Rates, Limits and Thresholds Amendments, National Insurance Fund Payments and Extension of Veterans Relief\) Regulations 2026](#) [SI 2026/231].

Annual Revaluation Order

The full year increase to be applied at one second after midnight on 6 April 2026 to the career average pension earned up to 31 March 2026 is 3.8%. This is set out in [The Public Service Pensions Revaluation Order 2026](#) [SI 2026/254]. You can view the Order on the:

- [Related legislation \(England and Wales\)](#) page of www.lgpsregs.org, or
- [Related legislation \(Scotland\)](#) page of www.scotlgpsregs.org.

Annual Pensions Increase

LGPS administering authorities must increase a qualifying pension from 6 April 2026. Employers who pay their own annual compensation benefits, which relate to historical awards of compensatory added years, must also increase qualifying pensions from 6 April 2026.

The increase that applies to a pension that began (ie has a pension increase date) before 22 April 2025 is 3.8%. The percentage and part year percentage increases are detailed in [The Pensions Increase \(Review\) Order 2026](#) [SI2026/256]. You can find the Order and the multiplier tables on the:

- [Related legislation \(England and Wales\)](#) page of www.lgpsregs.org, or
 - [Related legislation \(Scotland\)](#) page of www.scotlgpsregs.org.
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Retail Prices Index (RPI) Increase

The annual increase that applies to any additional pension purchased under an Additional Regular Contributions contract that started between 1 April 2008 (2009 in Scotland) and 31 March 2012 is based on RPI in the previous September. The increase that applies on 6 April 2026 is 4.5%.

Annual GMP increase

An increase of 3% should be applied on 6 April 2026 to the post-5 April 1988 GMP element of a pension in payment. This is set out in [The Guaranteed Minimum Pensions Increase Order 2026](#) [SI2026/133].

Some members will be entitled to a further increase to the post-5 April 1988 GMP on 6 April 2026 under the Pensions Increase (Review) Order 2026 if they reached State Pension age after 5 April 2016. If the Pensions Increase date is 21 April 2025 or earlier, a further increase of 0.8% is due to bring the total increase on the post-5 April 1988 GMP to 3.8%. The increase on 6 April 2026 is 0.8% of the post-5 April 1988 GMP in payment on 5 April 2026. The same increase will apply to the post-5 April 1988 GMP on 6 April 2026 if the individual reached State Pension age before 6 April 2016 and AP is less than GMP, ie paragraphs 2 to 6 of the [HMT Direction on section 59A of the Social Security Pensions Act 1975](#) apply.

If the individual reached State Pension age after 5 April 2016, a 3.8% increase applies on 6 April 2026 under [The Pensions Increase \(Review\) Order 2026](#) [SI2026/256] to the pre-6 April 1988 GMP element of the pension in payment. A pro-rata increase will apply if the member's PI date is after 21 April 2025. The same increase would apply to the pre-6 April 1988 GMP on 6 April 2026 if the individual reached State Pension age before 6 April 2016 and AP is less than GMP, ie paragraphs 2(b) to 6 of the [HMT Direction on section 59A of the Social Security Pensions Act 1975](#) apply.

You can find a link to the 2021 HMT Direction on section 59A of the Social Security Pensions Act 1975 on the Government webpage providing [guidance on indexation of public service pensions](#). The direction is also available on the Related legislation pages of www.lgpsregs.org and www.scotlgpsregs.org.

The post 5 April 1988 GMP increase is set out in The Guaranteed Minimum Pension Increase Order 2026 [SI2026/133]. You can view the Order on the:

- [Related legislation \(England and Wales\)](#) page of www.lgpsregs.org, or
- [Related legislation \(Scotland\)](#) page of www.scotlgpsregs.org.

You can find out more about how increases are applied to pensions in payment in the technical guide titled 'Application of increases to LGPS pensions in payment' published by the LGPC. You can find the guide on the:

- [Administrator guides and documents \(England and Wales\)](#) page of www.lgpsregs.org, and
- [Administrator guides and documents \(Scotland\)](#) page of www.scotlgpsregs.org.

The Social Security Revaluation of Earnings Factors Order

The [Social Security Revaluation of Earnings Factors Order 2026](#) [SI 2026/212] comes into force on 6 April 2026. The earnings factors are used to calculate a Scheme member's GMP. The percentage increase for the tax year 2026/27 is 4.8%. The increase is based on the increase in the general level of earnings in Great Britain. You can view the Statutory Instrument on the:

- [Related legislation \(England and Wales\)](#) page of www.lgpsregs.org, or
- [Related legislation \(Scotland\)](#) page of www.scotlgpsregs.org.

Redundancy payments

[The Employment Rights \(Increase of Limits\) Order 2026](#) [SI2026/310] comes into force on 6 April 2026. It increases the maximum week's pay for calculating a statutory redundancy payment from £719 to £751 per week if the appropriate date is after 5 April 2026. In the case of entitlement to a redundancy payment by virtue of section 135(1)(a) of the Employment Rights Act 1996 (dismissal by reason of redundancy), the appropriate date means the relevant date as defined by section 145 or 153 of that Act.

Actions for administering authorities

Administering authorities may wish to update Scheme literature and guides for employees and employers to reflect the updates in this bulletin. The LGPC leaflets and guides will be updated in the coming weeks. Administering authorities may also wish to send this bulletin to Scheme employers, or direct them to the:

- [LGPC bulletins page \(England and Wales\)](#) of www.lgpsregs.org, or
 - [LGPC bulletins page \(Scotland\)](#) of www.scotlgpsregs.org.
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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.

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