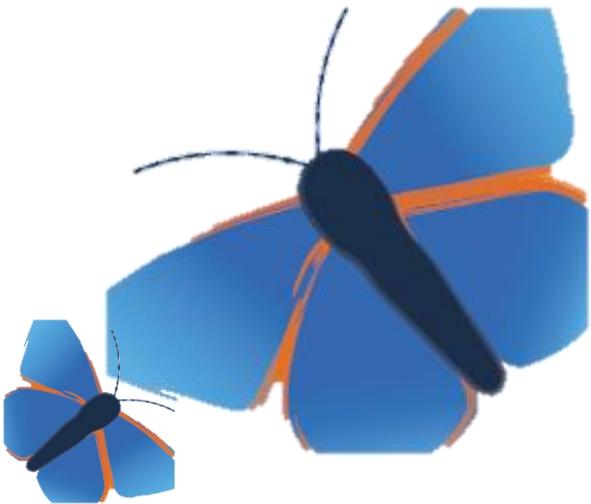


Dorset County Pension Fund - PLOG

Employers Meeting 13 June 2025

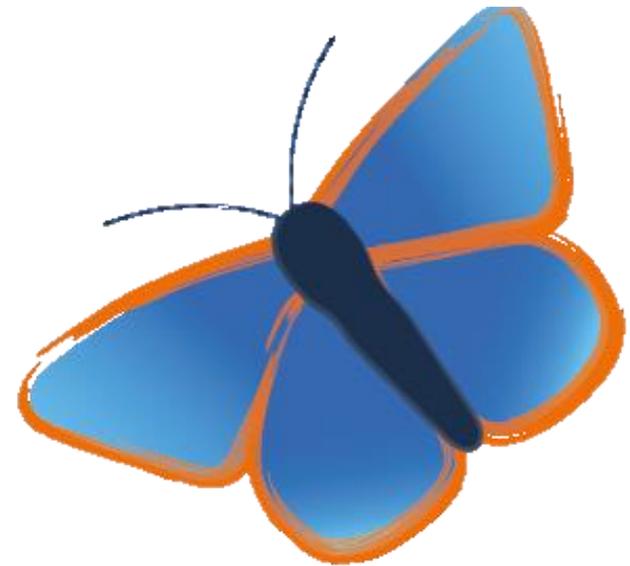


Welcome

To the Dorset County Pension Fund Employers Meeting!

TODAY

- Valuation Year
- Consultation – Access and Fairness
- Dashboard reminder
- End of Year Feedback



- Its an important financial health check
- Completed every 3 years, within each fund, by that fund's Actuary
- Looks at fund as a whole, and at individual employers
- **Assets** – how much money in fund, and how much each employer allocation is
- **Liabilities** – how much the fund needs to pay out in the future
- Is there a **surplus** (extra money), or a **deficit** (not enough!)
- Sets the contribution rates for each employer/pool for the next three years



- Actuaries use assumptions about things like;
 - How long people will live
 - Future salary increases
 - Investment returns
- They compare the value of the fund to estimated future costs
- If there is a gap, employer contributions are adjusted



- Its all about Data
- The data you provide through the year, and at year ends feeds directly into the assumptions made by the Actuary
- The Actuary also looks at our records, deferred members etc, and at pensioner data
- Checks and errors are looked at to make sure the data is as accurate as possible
- This means your contribution rates should accurately reflect your membership past and present



- It's a long process; a Valuation year is a busy year!
- End of Year processes – including the clearing of all errors, vital and timescales are tighter than in other years
- Data is checked and checked again, and then extracted and passed to the Actuary
- The Actuary analyses our data, this takes a while
- We expect provisional results in September
- Employers should know the results and their contribution rates by December
- An Employer Meeting will be scheduled soon

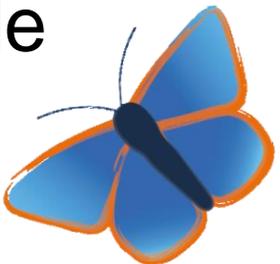


LGPS Valuation – Employer Contact

- In September we will ask you for a specific contact(s) to receive the Valuation results
- If no response, we will send to our current listed Pensions Liaison Officer
- It would help us if you do respond!



- This Valuation looks at the Dorset Fund and its employers in isolation
- Once the Valuation is complete, the data is sent to GAD (Government Actuaries Department)
- This data is reviewed and compared to other LGPS funds
- 'Section 13' Results –
 - **Compliance** – have the valuations been done correctly?
 - **Consistency** – methods and assumptions similar across funds
 - **Solvency** – does each fund have enough money?
 - **Long Term Cost Efficiency** – long term costs sustainable



- Two main mechanisms that work together
- **HM Treasury Cost Control Mechanism**
 - All Public Sector Schemes
 - Cost cap
- **Scheme Advisory Board (SAB) Cost Management** process
- Ensures LGPS remains fair and affordable
- Can result in changes to LGPS benefit structure i.e. benefit structure and/or member contribution changes



MHCLG Consultation – Amendments to LGPS

- Changes to promote ‘access and fairness’
- Big consultation, covers a lot of areas
- Closes 7 August 2025
- [Local Government Pension Scheme in England and Wales: Access and fairness - GOV.UK](#)
- Please respond – some areas impact employers
- You don’t have to comment on each question, you can just focus on the areas you know



‘Access and Fairness’ Consultation

Survivor Benefits – ensure equality of benefits paid to survivors irrespective of sex of member or survivor

- Will be back dated

Death Grants – remove age 75 maximum eligibility

- So will be 10 years for post 2008 leavers (if left employment pre April 2008, remains at balance to 5 years)
- Will be back dated for all deaths after 1 April 2014
- Where DG not paid within 2 years, some ‘administrative easement’ - no requirement to pay within 2 years

'Access and Fairness' Consultation

Gender Pensions Gap

- Mandatory reporting on pensions gender gap
- Unpaid additional Maternity, adoption and shared parental leave fully pensionable at cost met by employers
- Unpaid leave under 31 days automatically pensionable
- Align cost of buying back unpaid leave over 30 days with member's normal contribution rate
- Election to buy back lost pension over 30 days changed to 1 year (currently 30 days)

'Access and Fairness' Consultation

McCloud Remedy

- Address issues with the operation of the underpin including;
 - divorce credits
 - Deaths on 30 September 2023
 - Interest on Club Transfers

5 Year Refunds



'Access and Fairness' Consultation

Forfeiture – allows removal of benefit entitlements for those convicted of crimes that bring public service into disrepute

- Wording change to give wider use to employers of this regulation
- Remove requirement that member must have left employment because of the offence
- Abolish three-month time limit for applications
- Remove interim payment directions
- Publish guidance on making a forfeiture application



'Access and Fairness' Consultation

Opt Out Data – the Government views the number of members who opt out with concern

- systematic collection of data on numbers and why members are making this choice
- Proposal for members to fill out a government form to collect anonymous data
- Administering authorities to hold this data
- Opt Out data to be published in annual report
- New standard form, asking reasons, hours, salary, gender, age, ethnicity, marital status and dependants

Internal Dispute Resolution Procedure - IDR

- A formal complaints procedure for the LGPS
- For scheme members, prospective members, dependants or personal representative
- Set out in stages



Internal Dispute Resolution Procedure - IDRP

What complaints might members have?

- Decisions by the employer
 - Ill Health Retirement
 - Application of discretions
- Decisions made by the Administering Authority
 - Calculations of benefits to be paid
 - Application of regulations
- Other
 - Delays
 - Lack of information



Our Experience –

- Ill Health bulk of IDRP
- AVCs
- Cohabiting partner pensions
- Maladministration
- Timescales
- Transfers



Internal Dispute Resolution Procedure - IDRP

Sometimes people just like to moan!

Sometimes they just don't understand!

Sometimes we can't give them what they want!

We always try to address informally first



IDRP – FORMAL STAGE 1

- Appeal submitted to “Specified Person”
 - Within employing authority, or
 - Within the administering authority
- Guides and application forms available for this purpose
- Within 6 months of relevant date (decision)
- Formal review of initial decision/dispute
- Consider all facts, reports, background information etc
- Have the regulations and relevant policies & procedures been followed?
- Response within 2 months
 - Detailing determination/decision, or
 - Explain when decision will be provided

IDRP – FORMAL STAGE 2

Matter not resolved, further appeal made

- Stage 2 appeal must be made within 6 months of Stage 1 decision
- Looked at by the administering authority
- A formal review of case and of the decision made at Stage 1
- Response within 6 months
- Cannot replace first decision made but can instruct to reconsider

IDRP - Impartiality

- Decisions must be fair minded and impartial
- Not representing any party or interest
- No personal involvement
- Consider only what is relevant



MEMBER STILL NOT HAPPY?

Where next?

- **The Pensions Ombudsman**
- Must go through formal IDRPs process first
- They have a quick resolution team
- But on the whole, this takes a lot of time



- Largest number of appeals in LGPS
- Usually against the tier awarded, or non award
- Tier 3 biggest issue!
- Stage 1 – have procedures etc been followed?
- Please document everything, retain in case of appeal
- A further medical review may be necessary



Check to see if The Pensions Ombudsman can help you

Welcome to The Pensions Ombudsman. We are an independent organisation set up by law to deal with pension complaints. We look at the facts without taking sides and our service is free.

Check to see if we can help you with a complaint or dispute about a pension scheme provided by your employer or a pension you have set up yourself.

We can also help if you have a complaint about a decision made by the **Pension Protection Fund or the Financial Assistance Scheme**.

[See if we can help](#)



Pensions Dashboard Programme (PDP)

The PDP is a UK government initiative designed to help individuals access all their pension information in one secure online location

- People will be able to view all their pension entitlements;
 - Workplace, personal and state pensions
- Will help to find forgotten pensions
- Help with retirement planning



Pensions Dashboard Programme (PDP)

Led by the Money and Pensions Service (MaPS)

- Supported by Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), and
- The Pensions Regulator (TPR), and
- The Financial Conduct Authority

This is a big deal for the pensions industry

Systems team have been working on preparations for a while

Pensions Dashboard Programme (PDP)

- Members will log on/register for the dashboard
- They need to 'match' with data supplied in order to access figures
- We will get queries from no match or partial match
- A lot of work to be done
- Not going public for a while
- Different onboarding dates for different schemes
- Impact to us???
 - Queries – expect a lot at start
 - Financial Advisors – will be straight on it
 - Our data must be up to date and accurate



Pensions Dashboard Programme (PDP)

- Currently working with our ISP provider on test data, we plan to connect by, or before, the October 25 deadline
- We have to decide our chosen 'matching criteria'
- Processes for data upload and queries need to be established
- There is a lot of data cleansing, and testing to be done
- The GOV.UK One Login service has been confirmed as the identity verification provider for the dashboards
- Eventually commercial dashboards will appear

Pensions Dashboard Programme (PDP)

- We need to be as up to date as possible with all work areas
- Deferred Benefits and Aggregation – a real challenge for us
- Data must not be more than 12 months old
- Systems and Technical Team managers working to ensure as much done as possible, and that we remain as up to date as possible going forward
- We are looking at automation for some work areas



Any questions

