

Local Government Pension Scheme

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 1997 which contain the rules and provisions of the Pension Scheme were amended, with effect from 1 April 2005, by the Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2004. This Scheme guide reflects the changes introduced by those amendments.

The amendments changed the normal retirement age for some members (i.e. the age at which retirement benefits may be taken in full) and the minimum retirement age. Some older, longer-serving members were given protected rights but the changes were a worsening of pension rights for many, and caused general discontent. On 18 March 2005, the Deputy Prime Minister made the following statement:

"It is my clear intention to revoke at my earliest Parliamentary opportunity, subject to statutory consultation, the Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2004 with retrospective effect: no Scheme members will be disadvantaged."

Draft revocation regulations were issued on 1 April 2005 and will have an 8-week consultation period. The guidance of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister is that it is not possible for Local Government Pension Scheme employers and administrators to anticipate revocation. The legislation containing the amendments must be applied until any revocation is made.

Consequently, some of the provisions set out in this guide may be amended with retrospective effect. All benefits processed from 1 April 2005 will be in line with the provisions set out here but they will be recorded so that they can be reviewed should the Regulations be put back to their pre 1 April 2005 position or amended retrospectively in some other way.

