

**Members Factsheet**  
**Voluntary Early Retirement**  
**Age**  
**55 to 60**

**Issue Date June 2019**

**Can I Retire Before the Normal Retirement Age?**

Yes. You must have at least 2 years Scheme membership, which may include a transfer of previous pension rights into the Staffordshire Pension Fund. You must leave employment voluntarily, between the ages of 55 and your State Pension Age to receive your benefits, but they will be reduced to take account of your early retirement.

**How can I obtain an Estimate of my Early Retirement Benefits?**

Our website offers a self-service facility for members to view their pension record and perform individual benefit calculations securely. You can amend certain dates and use a more accurate pay figure if the one we hold is not up to date.

To access the self- service facility please click on the following link:

<https://www.staffspf.org.uk/Calculator/Self-Service-Calculator.aspx>

**What do I need to do if I decide to leave my employment and receive my pension benefits early?**

You must inform your line manager and your employer's Human Resources Department, that you wish to terminate your contract of employment and receive early payment of your LGPS Benefits.

You and your employer will agree a date that your contract of employment will be terminated. Once you know this date you should contact Pensions Services (by email or letter) to confirm this date and that you want to receive payment of benefits.



## Payment of your Pension Benefits

For the Staffordshire Pension Fund to process your pension benefits and arrange payment the following must happen:

### **Action by Employer**

- Your employer must provide Leaver Details, which includes your salary details for the current year up to the date your contract is terminated.

***Please note that due to the timing of your employer's payroll, your employer may not be in a position to submit a completed leaver form until circa 6-8 weeks after you have left employment.***

### **Action by the Staffordshire Pension Fund**

On receipt of the Leaver Details from your Employer, the Staffordshire Pension Fund will arrange the following:

If you have not told us you want to receive early payment of your benefits, we will write to you detailing the pension options i.e. the option to defer your pension to a later date, transfer out and the Freedom and Choice Option.

If you have informed us you want to receive early payment of your LGPS pension we will arrange the following

- Provide you with your pension options (you must complete the pension option forms and return to the Fund)
- Bank details form for you to complete and return to the Fund
- Lifetime Allowance Declaration – completion and return to the Fund is required by HM Treasury and Customs. This form will ask you to provide details of all other pensions (except state pensions), you are in receipt of or due to receive in the future
- Copy of your birth certificate, plus if applicable copies of your marriage, civil partnership certificates and spouse's birth certificate to be forwarded to the Fund.



- Nomination of Beneficiary Form for the lump sum death grant form to be complete and return to the Fund
- General Data Protection Regulations Consent Form to be complete and return to the Fund.

***From receipt of the completed leaver form to the Fund issuing the above documentation you should allow 10 working days.***

## **Action by You**

You must complete and sign the required forms and return to the Staffordshire Pension Fund in the envelope provided with your certificates.

## **Payment of your Monthly Pension and Lump Sum**

On receipt of your signed and completed forms together with the relevant birth certificates etc. The Fund will:

- Arrange payment of your tax-free pension lump sum into your bank / building society (please allow 13 working days from the date the Fund receives your completed forms)
- Arrange payment of your monthly pension will take place on the next available pay date, together with any arrears of pensions.
- Write to you confirming the tax-free pension lump sum paid into your bank/building society, together with information regarding payment of your monthly pension.

## Overall Timescales

As you will note from the date you leave your employment, there are several steps/ actions that need to take place before you will receive payment of your monthly pension and tax-free lump sum. **You should allow between 2 – 3 months for the process to be completed.**

Under the pension regulations, if payment of your tax-free lump sum is made more than one month after your retirement date, the Fund will pay interest of 1% per



annum above the Bank of England Base Rate calculated for each day the lump sum is delayed.

The monthly pension attracts no interest for late payment. The exception to this is if the annual pension is not paid within the first year following your retirement date.

**Please note your monthly pension is deemed to be taxable income and will be subject to tax deductions in accordance with the Her Majesty's Customs and Revenue Rules.**

### Further information

If you require further information about the areas covered by these notes, you can get in touch as follows:



[www.staffspf.org.uk](http://www.staffspf.org.uk)



[pensions.enquiries@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:pensions.enquiries@staffordshire.gov.uk)



Staffordshire Pension Fund, 2 Staffordshire Place, Tipping Street, Stafford, ST16 2DH



01785 278222

**If a copy of this information is needed in large print,  
Braille,  
another language or on cassette or disc, please contact  
Pensions Services.**

