

2016 Pension Review information

Your **Guaranteed Pension** is reviewed every year in line with the changes to the Retail Prices Index (RPI) each June. In the year to June 2016 the RPI increased by 1.6%. The Scheme's Guarantee ensures that Guaranteed Pensions increase in line with RPI and that the total pensions cannot fall.

From 3 October 2016, Guaranteed Pensions will increase by the change to RPI of 1.6% and the reducing bonus will fall by the same value as the Guaranteed Pension has increased.

In addition, a new bonus will be awarded which will offset the reduction in the reducing bonus. This will be added to the 2015 bonus.

The overall impact of the above is that your total pension will increase by the 1.6% increase on your Guaranteed Pension.

Your Payslip

Details of how your pension is made up can be found on your payslip. Your total pension includes previous bonuses. The terms for the different elements of your pension **that appear on your payslip** are below and overleaf. Your payslip may detail these elements of pension:

Guaranteed Pension – your Guaranteed Pension means those benefits under the Scheme which are covered by the Government guarantee. These include benefits earned before the date of privatisation, in 1994, plus cost of living increases given since then.

If you receive an element of Guaranteed Minimum Pension (GMP) it will be included in the guaranteed figure on your payslip.

Reducing Bonus – these are the bonuses granted to members before 2012 which will continue to reduce until they are eroded by inflation over the long term.

Protected Bonus – this bonus is applicable to some members who are entitled to the Value for Money Guarantee. This bonus is protected and cannot reduce.

Bonus 2012 – the bonus awarded in Autumn 2012.

Bonus 2014 – the bonus awarded in April 2014

Bonus 2015 – the total bonus awarded in 2015 and 2016 to offset the decrease in the Reducing Bonus in those years.

Members who receive a guaranteed pension that consists of GMP only elements do not receive a 2012, 2014 bonus or 2015 bonus.

Guaranteed Minimum Pension (GMP)

The following applies if you retired or left the MPS after 5 April 1978.

As a member of the MPS you paid a lower rate of National Insurance contributions and did not earn a pension in the State Earnings Related Pension Scheme (SERPS). The MPS must provide a minimum level of pension equivalent to the pension you would have earned had you remained in SERPS. This minimum level is called the Guaranteed Minimum Pension (GMP).

For any GMP earned in relation to MPS membership after 5 April 1988, the Scheme will pay an annual increase in line with the increase in the Consumer Price Index up to a maximum of 3%. That increase begins following the member's reaching GMP Age and is paid in April each year.

If you receive benefits from the State

If you receive Housing Benefit, Council Tax rebates, Income Support, Pension Credit or any other benefits from the State, we would advise you to confirm your rate of MPS pension to your local authority, or the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).

Important reminders

If you change address, bank or building society details you must tell MPS straight away. If we lose contact with you, we may have to suspend your pension. Please send us any change of details in writing.

In the event of your death

Please tell your next of kin or other representative that in the event of your death they must inform MPS without delay. **The DWP will not inform MPS in the event of your death.**

You are entitled to payment of your pension up to and including the date of your death. Nobody else is entitled to receive your pension payments made after that date and any overpayment must be repaid. If your pension is paid into your joint account, it is important that the other account holder knows this.

If your pension is paid directly to a bank or building society account we will ask them to refund any overpaid amount. We will advise your next of kin or personal representative, and notify them if there is any balance of pension or other payment due.

In the event of your death we need to be notified promptly. In some circumstances, a surviving spouse or dependant may be eligible for pension benefits.

Child Allowance

If the payment you receive from MPS is for a child, you must inform MPS immediately when the child ceases full time education or training, or if there are any other changes in circumstances, which may affect payment of the allowance. Any overpayment will have to be repaid.

Discretionary Pensions

If you are receiving a discretionary pension from the MPS as a result of serious ill health (SIH), please remember, as explained when your SIH benefits were awarded, these benefits are not guaranteed and may in the future have to be reduced over time as the result of a future deficit.

If your SIH benefit was awarded after February 2002, and since then you have commenced work, or you have been informed that you are fit for work by a medical practitioner, you must inform MPS immediately. Entitlement to your SIH benefit ceases from the date your employment commenced or the date confirmation of your fitness for work is received.

Pension Payments

If you are paid **four-weekly**, your next payment will be 14 October 2016.

If you receive your pension on a **quarterly basis** your next payment will be on 28 October 2016.

If you receive your pension on an **annual basis** your next payment will be on 28 October 2016.

You will receive a payslip just before your next payday. Those pensioners who receive State Benefits can show the payslip to their local authority or Benefits Agency to confirm the rate of MPS pension.

Aside from the October pay date pension payslips will only be produced for pensioners where the net pension payable varies by more than £5 per payment period. If you would like any further information please contact the administration office.

What to do if things go wrong

Please telephone or write with details of your concern. If you telephone we will try to give you an answer straight away. If we cannot do so at the time we will tell you why and explain what we have to do next. We will contact you again within 2 working days to bring you up to date with the situation.

If you write to us we will try to give you a full reply within two working days. However sometimes we are unable to do so because, for example, we may have to contact another organisation. In this case we will send you an interim reply. This will explain what we are doing, tell you who is handling your enquiry, and when we will expect to be able to send you a full reply.

What to do if you are not satisfied

If you are not satisfied with the way we have handled your enquiry, please contact us again. We will then give you details of the Scheme's Internal Dispute Resolution Procedure.

Contacting MPS

When you telephone

If you have a question about your pension or need to tell us about a change in your circumstances, such as a new address, please call us. Please note if your pension is paid by cheque or giro cheque we will need written confirmation of your change of address.

When calling please make sure you have either your **member number or National Insurance number** ready. The Communication Centre is open from 8.30am to 6.00pm Monday to Friday.

Please call **0345 606 4444**

If you are phoning from overseas
Please call **(44) 121 415 0289**

Calls may be monitored for quality and training purposes.

If you choose to write to us

Our address for any correspondence about payment of your pension is:

Mineworkers' Pension Scheme, Sutherland House, Russell Way, Crawley, RH10 1UH

You may fax us on **01293 604 145**

You may also e-mail us at **miners-pensions@equiniti.com**. Please note that email enquiries will be dealt with in the same manner as other correspondence and therefore it will not be possible to provide an immediate response.

Whether you write, fax or e-mail, always quote your **full name, address, daytime telephone number, National Insurance number, date of birth and member number**.