

**Action Points from LGA Bulletin 196 (published on mid-April 2020)**

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<p><b>LGA's &amp; Scheme Advisory Board's (SAB's) dedicated COVID-19 web pages</b></p> <p>The webpages contain the latest news and resources on the impact of COVID-19 on the LGPS and its members – these can be found at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>LGPS administrators</b> - <a href="https://www.lgpsregs.org/news/covid-19-news-2020.php">https://www.lgpsregs.org/news/covid-19-news-2020.php</a></li> <li>• <b>SAB</b> - <a href="https://www.lgpsboard.org/index.php/structure-reform/covid19">https://www.lgpsboard.org/index.php/structure-reform/covid19</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Resources include FAQs for both Scheme members and administering authorities.</b></p> <p><b>Technical team note – the FAQ for administering authorities is already being actioned by Capita.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Operations</b> – for information</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You may wish to provide a link to this webpage on the pensions webpage of the Barnet website</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As &amp; when</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For information</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>
<p><b>Confirmation that the 'McCloud' remedy will apply to all public service pension schemes</b></p> <p>This point is to merely reiterate that LGPS members that qualify for the McCloud remedy will <b>not</b> need to make a claim for the remedy to apply to them; it will be applied <b>automatically</b> (once it's decided what the remedy will be and who the affected members are); <b>this point is being reiterated because the LGA are continuing to receive reports of claims companies actively encouraging members to lodge costly claims, which simply isn't necessary.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Operations</b> – for information</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You may wish to consider incorporating this information into the next newsletter</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Before the next newsletter is published</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For information</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>

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<p><b>Simon Clarke MP - New minister responsible for the LGPS</b></p> <p>Mr Clarke was appointed Minister of State at MHCLG on 13 February 2020, replacing the previous Minister, Luke Hall.</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• for information</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Regulations on virtual council meetings published</b></p> <p>Regulations enabling councils to hold electronic and digital meetings using virtual locations such as internet locations, web addresses or conference call telephone numbers came into force on 4 April 2020.</p> <p>See regulations <a href="#">5 and 6 of the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020</a>.</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For information</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For information</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>
<p><b>HM Treasury Spring Budget 2020 – changes to annual &amp; lifetime allowances</b></p> <p>Following the Spring budget announcements on 11 March 2020, the following changes apply to the annual &amp; lifetime allowances from 6 April 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tapered annual allowance</b> - the 'threshold income' and 'adjusted income' have now increased to £200,000 and £240,000 respectively; in the case of the 'threshold income' increase (meaning that a person's taxable earnings, after the deduction of pension contributions, will need to exceed £200,000 for the tapered annual allowance to potentially apply), the tapered annual allowance can only apply to those employees with a considerable additional taxable income (as local government salaries alone won't exceed the 'threshold income').</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Operations</b> – for information</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You may wish to consider incorporating this information into the next newsletter</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Before the next newsletter is published</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For information</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Lifetime allowance</b> – has now increased to £1,730,100 (£100 more than expected).</li> </ul> <p>The above information is covered in more detail in HMRC's <a href="#">Pensions Schemes Newsletter 118</a>. A <a href="#">separate note</a>, concerning the impact of the changes to the tapered annual allowance, has also been published.</p> <p><b>Technical team note</b> – Capita's technical team have already notified pension funds of the changes to the annual &amp; lifetime allowances</p>						
<p><b>Pensions schemes newsletters</b></p> <p>On 28 February 2020 and 26 March 2020, <a href="#">HMRC published pensions schemes newsletters 117 and 118</a> respectively. Topics of interest include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guidance from the Regulator on pension scams</li> <li>• Spring Budget 2020</li> <li>• Temporary changes to pension to processes to help with COVID-19</li> <li>• Annual allowance calculator</li> <li>• Managing Pension Schemes service</li> <li>• GOV.UK updates</li> <li>• Moving pension recipients from one payroll to another</li> <li>• Pensions Schemes online service.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Operations</b> – for information</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For information</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For information</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>
<p><b>Tell Us Once – COVID-19 update</b></p> <p>The Tell Us Once service is continuing to operate. Where a local authority can no longer offer face to face death registrations, the requirement for a death informant to attend the register office to provide details and sign the register is removed. If an informant registers the death by telephone or email and they elect to use the TUO service, they'll be provided with a unique reference number to enable</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Operations</b> – for information</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For information</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>		

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<p>use of the service online or by telephone.</p> <p>The GOV.uk website sets out the process and confirms that, from 9 April 2020, the time limit for using the TUC service after registering a death has been extended from 28 days to 84 days.</p>						
<p><b>The Pensions Ombudsman (TPO) – newsletter COVID-19 update</b></p> <p>The latest TPO newsletter can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p>In addition, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, TPO are not processing new enquiries/complaints during the lockdown period; instead, TPO will only be investigating existing enquiries/complaints (full details of TPO's decision can be found <a href="#">here</a>).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Operations</b> – for information</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For information</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>		
<p><b>The Pensions Regulator (TPR)– COVID-19 guidance for trustees, employers, advisers &amp; administrators</b></p> <p>TPR's guidance can be found <a href="#">here</a>; information relevant to the LGPS can be found in <a href="#">LGA's guide for administrators</a>.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Operations</b> – for information</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For information</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For information</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>

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<p><b>Regulators publish warning to savers on increased threat of pension scams</b></p> <p>The Financial Conduct Authority (FCA), Money and Pensions Service (MaPS) and TPR have issued a <a href="#">joint statement</a>, warning savers against the rising threat of pension scams amid the current coronavirus crisis.</p> <p>They have urged savers not to rush decisions about their pension, pointing consumers to the support services in place, such as the Pensions Advisory Service, Pension Wise and ScamSmart.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Operations</b> – for information</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You may wish to consider incorporating this information into the next newsletter, or sending out an email to all members informing them of this</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ASAP, or before the next newsletter is published</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For information</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>
<p><b>Parental Bereavement Leave and Pay</b></p> <p>On 30 March 2020, the Parental Bereavement Leave and Pay (Consequential Amendments to Subordinate Legislation) Regulations 2020 [2020/354] were made. The regulations introduced changes to the LGPS Regulations 2013 from 6 April 2020, which mean that assumed pensionable pay (APP) will apply during an absence of this type.</p> <p>For reference the Parental Bereavement (Leave and Pay) Act 2018 provides for at least two weeks' leave for employees following the loss of a child under the age of 18 or a stillbirth after 24 weeks of pregnancy. Employees with 26 weeks' continuous service will be entitled to two weeks of paid leave at the statutory rate and other employees will be entitled to unpaid leave; further Regulations introduce parental bereavement leave and pay.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Technical</b> – prepare a short report &amp; work instruction for both the client &amp; operations teams</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You may wish to consider incorporating this information into the next newsletter</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Before the next newsletter is published</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For information</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>

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<p><b>LGA's annual update bulletin 195</b></p> <p>The annual update bulletin, which summarises the increase to all pension benefits, rates, allowances, and pension-related thresholds can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Operations</b> – for information</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For information</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For information</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>
<p><b>Technical Group meeting minutes published (date 9 March 2020)</b></p> <p>The minutes can be found <a href="#">here</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Operations</b> – for information</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For information</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For information</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>
<p><b>Current contracts let through the National LGPS Frameworks</b></p> <p>The <a href="#">Cabinet Office's Procurement Policy Note - Responding to COVID-19</a> provides that, due to exceptional circumstances and the unpredicted situation we find ourselves in, you can extend your contracts beyond the maximum date set in the framework agreement (see pages 6 and 7).</p> <p>Please note that this must be in agreement with your own procurement and legal teams.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Operations</b> – for information</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For information</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For information</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>
<p><b>GAD newsletter – Spring 2020</b></p> <p>The latest newsletter from GAD can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Operations</b> – for information</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For information</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For information</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>

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<p><b>PASA delays deadline for DB Transfers Code consultation</b></p> <p>PASA has announced that the closing date for responses to its <a href="#">DB Transfers Code of Good Practice Consultation</a> will be delayed in light of the current situation regarding COVID-19. The original deadline for responses was the end of April but this has now been postponed until 30 September 2020, with the final Code being released by the end of the year.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Operations</b> – for information</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You may wish to respond to the consultation; if so, you're welcome to seek views from Capita's Technical team</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 30 September 2020</li> </ul>		
<p><b>FCA delays changes to DB transfer rules</b></p> <p>The Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) has delayed the implementation of its proposed changes to defined benefit (DB) pension transfers by up to six months.</p> <p>The implementation of proposals to reform DB transfer advice, including plans to ban contingent charging and introduce abridged advice, had been expected 'in the first quarter of 2020' following an industry-wide consultation.</p> <p>However, FCA's website has now been updated to say 'we will publish our finalised handbook text in a policy statement in the second quarter or third quarter of 2020'.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Operations</b> – for information</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For information</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>		

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