

Action Points from LGA Bulletin 198 (published early June 2020)

Bulletin points	Action to be taken by Capita	Timescale to complete action	Action to be taken by the London Borough of Barnet Council (LBBC) team	Timescale to complete action	Action to be taken by the Barnet pension fund's Scheme employers	Timescale to complete action
<p>Covid-19 related updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Results of the SAB Covid-19 governance survey • The May LGPS employer webinars, hosted by the LGA, can be viewed online • Employer FAQ published and available online • PML industry guidance on Covid-19 issues can be downloaded 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operations – for information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HR/payroll - for information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A
<p>Extension to the furlough scheme and next steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ On 30 June 2020 the furlough scheme will close to new entrants from. • From 1 July 2020, employers can bring back employees part-time. ▪ From August 2020, employers will no longer be able reclaim employer NI and pension contributions. ▪ From September 2020, employers must fund 10% of furlough pay up to £312.50, the government will fund 70% up to £2,187.50. ▪ From October 2020, employers must fund 20 % of furlough pay up to £625, the government will fund 60% up to £1,875. • The furlough scheme will end on 31 October 2020. 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A 	<p>HR/payroll - for information</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>LGPS (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2016 statutory guidance</p> <p>In April 2020 the Supreme Court ruled that legislation doesn't permit the Secretary of State to impose the government's view on foreign and defence policy on LGPS administering authorities.</p> <p>The SAB published a summary of the full judgment on their website.</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASAP 		

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<p>2019 LGPS annual scheme report</p> <p>Highlights from the report published on 22 May 2020 are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total membership rose by 0.6% to 5.9 million • Total assets increased by 5.9% to £291 billion • Local authority returns on investment was 6.6%. This was reflective of the market conditions during the year and set against the UK Return of 6.4 %. • The LGPS maintained a positive cash-flow position overall, including investment income. • Over 1.7 million pensioners were paid. 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A 		
<p>McCloud subgroup meetings update</p> <p>Software</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After draft regulations are published, LGA, GAD, MHCLG and software suppliers will meet to discuss the proposed changes. • Software suppliers will then be able to produce development plans and timescales. <p>Data collection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft data collection template and notes to be reviewed before being presented to employers and payroll software providers. • Progress legal advice being sought on GDPR issues surrounding data collection 						

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<p>Revised GAD guidance</p> <p>Revised GAD guidance on a range of topics is now planned to be issued in autumn. Will cover some cosmetic changes as well as some calculation changes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical – issue updated guidance to operations teams when new guidance is released 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When guidance is issued 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A 		
<p>Employer NI on termination payments</p> <p>On 6 April 2020 the rules changed so that employer's class 1A National Insurance Contributions (NICs) are now payable on payments of £30,000 or more at the rate of 13.8%.</p> <p>However, no change has been made to employee NICs, which are not payable on termination payments, and income tax remains due on payments of £30,000 or more.</p>					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HR/payroll - for information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASAP
<p><u>Pension schemes newsletter 120</u></p> <p>Contained details on how to contact HMRC about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A general question not covered by the guidance – you should contact Pension Schemes Services • A question about a specific scheme or transaction that you're genuinely uncertain of – you should go through the clearance process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operations – Any questions should first be referred to the Technical team. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As and when questions arise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A 		
<p><u>Countdown Bulletin 53</u></p> <p>The online GMP Checker service provides a real time GMP amount calculated at the point of request. Where a GMP is being applied at State Pension age (SPa) you should, therefore, request the value of the GMP at SPa.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operations – please take note 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediately 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A 		

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<p>The Pensions Regulator (tPR)</p> <p>Enforcement powers The government has laid draft regulations that could see tPR being given the power to obtain communications data. This will help support the enforcement of employer automatic enrolment duties as digital footprints become increasingly significant.</p> <p><u>Updated guidance on avoiding pension scams</u> Confirms that suspicion of scam activity is not necessarily enough for an extension to be granted to the time limits applying to a statutory transfer. Also, whilst tPR can't permit a transfer to be block due to suspected scam activity, it will consider evidence that the transfer doesn't meet legal requirements when deciding whether to act due to the non-payment of a transfer.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operations – for information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A 		
<p>Electronic communication of interfund documents</p> <p>Administering authorities are requested to send all interfund documentation electronically via secure email in line with the approach recommended by the Pensions Regulator.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operations – please use 'Confidential' label when sending emails to addresses outside of Capita or the Environment Agency, as this will encrypt the data. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediately 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A 		

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