



Your transition date is approaching

Our records indicate that your Tapered Protection period in the final salary arrangement is ending and that your transition date (the date you're due to move from final salary into the career average arrangement for future pension accrual) is approaching.

Please note that from 1 April 2022 there will be some changes to the Teachers' Pension Scheme.

[Please take a look at our website to find out more and if you are impacted by these changes.](#)

<Your details>

- <Members Forename>
- <Members Surname>
- <Members Date of Birth>
- <Members Teachers' Pensions Reference number>

What exactly does this mean?

The career average arrangement is a Defined Benefit pension where a fraction of pensionable earnings are banked each year and revalued annually on a compound basis. This is how your pension will be calculated from your transition date. You can find out more about career average on our [website](#).

When you transition into the career average arrangement, you'll still be entitled to the benefits you have in the final salary arrangement to be calculated with reference to your final salary at retirement, meaning that your final salary pension will continue to benefit from career progression and salary increases even when you're in the career average arrangement. This is known as the Salary Link and you'll retain this link provided you don't have a single continuous break in service exceeding five years. If you do have a break that exceeds five years, the final average salary used to calculate final salary pension benefits will use the salaries prior to the commencement of the disqualifying break. For more information on the Salary Link and how it works in practice please see our [factsheet](#).

We realise that you may not be taking your pension for some time, but we're keen to let all our members know about any changes to their pension arrangements.

What are the pension benefits in the new career average arrangement?

For every year you're a member of the Scheme, you build up (accrue) some pension. When you retire, you can apply for your pension as a regular monthly income.

In the career average arrangement, for each year you work, you'll add 1/57th of your pensionable earnings in that year to your 'pot'. So if you earn £28,500pa you'll add £500 of pension that year to your total 'pot'. Your pensionable earnings are made up of your regular salary plus any overtime and pensionable bonus that you receive.

Each year we'll revalue the pension in your 'pot' to keep it in line with changes in prices. If you're an active member of the Scheme we'll add a further 1.6% on top.

When can I retire?

The Normal Pension Age (NPA) in the career average arrangement is linked to your State Pension Age or 65, whichever is higher. Your NPA age is simply the age at which your pension becomes payable in full. You can still retire earlier than this, but your benefits will be reduced to reflect the fact that they're paid for longer. You can also choose to retire after your NPA, in which case we'll apply a late retirement enhancement.

Once you start receiving your pension it will be increased each year, in accordance with the Pension Increase announced by HM Treasury.

Can I transfer my existing final salary pension to the new arrangement?

No. There's no need. Your entitlement will continue to be calculated in the same way.

Increasing your pension

Once you've transitioned into the new arrangement, you'll be able to choose one of three Flexibilities. These are known as a Buy Out, Faster Accrual and Additional Pension.

If you'd like to take advantage of one of the flexibilities, then there are time limits for you to do so. "Buy out" is a one-off option and allows you to pay increased contributions over the course of your service in the career average arrangement to remove the standard rate of actuarial reduction that applies between age 65 and your NPA if you choose to retire early. If you want to do this, then you must do so within six months of you joining

the career average Arrangement.

Faster Accrual is something you can choose to do each year. If you want to do this in your first tax year in the new arrangement, then you must do so within a month of joining the career average arrangement. After that you must apply before the start of the Scheme year in April.

Additional Pension, as the name suggests, involves the purchase of an additional amount of annual pension. Members can purchase Additional Pension in multiples of £250 of annual pension, either through a one-off purchase or via monthly contributions. If, at the point you transition to the career average arrangement, you have not completed a monthly contribution election for Additional Pension in the final salary arrangement please don't worry. The election can continue and your employer will still deduct the contributions from your salary until the election is completed or you choose to end it early.

There are limits to the amount of extra pension that can be purchased through the flexibilities offered in each arrangement of the Scheme. Please see the updates page of our website for details of the current [limits](#).

You can also choose to take out an Additional Voluntary Contribution (AVC), which is a separate arrangement to your main pension scheme benefits. The Department for Education has an agreement with Prudential, who provide a Teachers' AVC.

You can find out more information on the flexibilities available on our website or in the active member [guide](#).

Increasing your benefits (in any way, including AVCs) could have consequences in relation to the Annual and Lifetime Allowances. Therefore, before you make your final decision it's a good idea to seek financial advice on the possible tax implications of proceeding with your application as exceeding these financial limits can create a tax charge.

Can I transfer other benefits to the Scheme?

You may be able to transfer benefits in from other pension schemes, but you must do so within 12 months of entering pensionable service or, in the case of 'Club' transfers between public service pension schemes, within 12 months of first becoming eligible in the Scheme.

Keeping up to date with your pension

The best way to keep up to date with your pension is through My Pension Online, which will allow you to:-

- View your Benefit Statement
- Change your personal details
- Apply for pension flexibilities
- View your employment history
- Nominate a beneficiary for your pension
- Nominate a beneficiary for your death grant
- Access a secure contact us facility
- Track any forms you've submitted to see their status
- Access pension benefits calculators where you can see how choices at retirement and when you retire will affect your pension.

Next steps and getting in touch

If you'd like any further information about the Scheme please take a look at our [website](#).

If you'd like to contact us, the easiest way is through your My Pension Online account where you can send us a secure direct message.

You can also contact us by:

- Secure web messaging: Open 24 hours a day, responses will be sent Monday - Friday, 9am-4:20pm (excluding bank holidays)
- WhatsApp: 07545 932848 (please note it may take up to 48 hours to receive a response and this number doesn't allow phone calls)
- Call us on 0345 606 6166, Monday - Friday between 8.30am and 6.00pm
- Write to us at:
Teachers' Pensions,
11b Lingfield Point,
Darlington,
DL1 1AX

If you've a general query or would like to join our teaching community online, please follow and get in touch with us on our social accounts.

- Facebook
- Instagram
- Twitter
- LinkedIn
- YouTube

The information contained in this guide is correct at the time of publishing but may be subject to change. If there is any difference between the legislation governing the Teachers' Pension Scheme and the information contained in this guide, the legislation will apply.

If you have a complaint

If you wish to make a complaint about the service provided by Teachers' Pensions or to dispute a decision reached in the administration of your benefits, then the best method of getting in touch is via your My Pension Online account.

Alternatively, you can contact us by telephone or in writing. Please remember to use your Teachers' Pensions Reference number and National Insurance number in all correspondence.

For details of the Scheme's internal dispute resolution procedure (IDRP) please see the 'Member complaints and appeals' section of our website. The Scheme operates a one-step IDRP, where a dispute with the administrator can be raised with the Department for Education in their capacity as the Scheme Manager. If you remain dissatisfied you can then escalate your complaint to The Pensions Ombudsman, who is an independent and impartial adjudicator.

Please note if you wish to obtain advice on applying or making a formal application then you should contact enquiries@pensions-ombudsman.org.uk. Alternatively, if you wish to raise concerns or discuss a potential complaint via the Early Resolution team, then the e-mail address to contact is helpline@pensions-ombudsman.org.uk.

The Ombudsman's details are:

Pensions Ombudsman
10 South Colonnade
Canary Wharf
London E14 4PU
0800 917 4487

At any stage during the complaint process you may wish to approach Money helper. They offer a free service.

Money helper can be contacted on: 0800 011 3797 or take a look at their website for more contact information <https://www.moneyhelper.org.uk/en/contact-us/pensions-guidance>

Please note that The Teachers' Pension Scheme is a statutory scheme. The latest set of regulations, SI 2014 No. 512, established the Teachers' Pensions Scheme 2017 and are available on the legislation.gov.uk website.

The pension scheme registry number is 10276733.