

LGPS Update

85 Year Rule - Extension of Transitional Protections

The Department for Communities and Local Government (ex ODPM) have now confirmed that the protections given due to the removal of the 85-year rule are to be extended.

The 85-year rule is met when your age and service in the Local Government Pension Scheme total 85, e.g. if you attain 25 years service at age 60, 24 years service at age 61, etc. If you are part time, it is the calendar length of your service that counts toward the 85-year rule.

The extended protections mentioned below only apply to LGPS members who can satisfy the 85-year rule before their 65th birthday.

If you cannot satisfy the 85-year rule before your 65th birthday, these protections do not apply to you.

1. All scheme members as at 30 September 2006, who can satisfy the 85-year rule before age 65, will have the service that they accrue up to 31 March 2008 protected.
2. Further protections have been given to older workers. If you will be 60 by 31 March 2016 and satisfy the 85-year rule before age 65, all service you accrue up to 31 March 2016 will be protected and payable to you, without reductions, at your 85-year rule date.
3. If you will be 60 between 1 April 2016 and 31 March 2020, satisfy the 85-year rule before age 65 and choose to take your benefits before age 65, the service you have accrued after 31 March 2008 will be reduced. These reductions will be on a tapered basis rather than the full reductions. Please note that the Government Actuary's Department have not yet released the tapered factors that are to be used.

The benefits in respect of protected service can be taken unreduced at your 85-rule date but not before age 60.

For more information call 01296 383755 or email pensions@buckscc.gov.uk