



YOUR POLICE PENSION



2023 UPDATE

For members who retired between
1 April 2015 and 1 October 2023.

An update about your police pension

YOU'RE CURRENTLY RECEIVING A PENSION FROM THE TIME YOU SERVED WITH THE POLICE

As a result of a legal challenge to the way in which new pension schemes were introduced, from 1st October 2023, new options will be introduced which mean that you can choose the benefits that you receive from either:

-  Your LEGACY Scheme (either the PPS 1987 or PPS 2006)
-  The REFORMED Scheme (the PPS 2015)

This choice will be in relation to only the benefits you built up between 1 April 2015 and 31 March 2022 (or your retirement date, if sooner). You can find out more about the review on page 2.

You can choose whichever option is best for you.

What do you need to do?

You do not need to take any action now.



What happens next?

You will be given full details of the benefits that you can choose from in each of the schemes.

YOUR PENSION ADMINISTRATOR WILL CONTACT YOU WITH MORE INFORMATION.

This information will be provided in a personalised document called a 'remediable service statement' or 'RSS'. It will compare details such as:



The value of the pension.



Any difference in contributions.



The value of the lump sum.



Any potential pension tax implications.

Statements will start to be sent out from October 2023 with all statements being issued by 31 March 2025. If you are owed a sum of money as part of the changes, this amount will be paid including interest (initially calculated at 8% a year). In the meantime, please ensure your pension administrator has full up-to-date contact details for you. In some cases, you can update them online.

Background

PAST CHANGES TO THE POLICE PENSION SCHEME

In April 2015, a new pension scheme (called PPS 2015) was introduced. As part of the roll out of the new scheme, some members were given 'protection' and remained in their legacy scheme for a set period of time after April 2015.

This protection ran from 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2022. This time period is now known as the 'Remedy period'.

After a legal challenge, the courts determined that these protections were age discriminatory and not fair to all members of the pension scheme i.e. younger members in the scheme were missing out on additional years of benefits from the original pension schemes. The changes being introduced from 1 October 2023 aim to give all members the same choice of benefits for the 'Remedy period'. We refer to this as Remedy.

Pre-Remedy

1 APRIL 2015 – 31 MARCH 2022



You were put into a scheme based on your age and service.

You didn't have a choice.

Post-Remedy

1 APRIL 2015 – 31 MARCH 2022



You can choose the scheme that is right for you.

Everyone is individual

We appreciate that everyone has individual circumstances, which is why personalised communications will be provided in the future.

Consideration has been given to things like the payment of interest on potential missed payments as well as changes to tax circumstances.

Useful terms to know

Administrator

This is the company that looks after the day-to-day running of your pension scheme. Your administrator will be different depending on the police force that you served with.

Remedy Period

1 April 2015 to 31 March 2022. This is the time period where the government wants to ensure that all members have the same choice of benefits.

Remediable Service Statement

A personalised document that affected members will receive from their scheme administrator. This will compare the benefits in each of the schemes. Sometimes referred to as RSS.

Interest

If you owe, or are owed, a sum of money in respect of missed payments, this will be paid with interest up to the date the payment is made. For money owed to members, interest is initially calculated at 8% a year. For money owed back to the scheme, interest is calculated at the NS&I direct saver rate.

All details will be provided to you in a personalised remediable service statement which will be issued from 1 October 2023.

The regulations require these statements to be issued by 31 March 2025, however the intention is to issue statements sooner, if possible starting with those who retired on ill-health and beneficiaries of deceased members who should receive statements by March 2024.

Eligibility

Members that are eligible must:

- have been in pensionable service on or before 31 March 2012; and
- had pensionable service between 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2022; and
- not have a gap in service of 5 years or more (known as a disqualifying break).

Pensionable service does not have to have been in the police pension scheme, it could also have been in another relevant public service pension scheme. Full details can be found in section 1(5)(b) of the PSPJOA.

Reformed Scheme

The PPS 2015, which was rolled out in 2015 as part of the public sector pensions reform.

Legacy Scheme

One of the 'older' police pension schemes. This will either be PPS 1987 or PPS 2006.

Remedy

Remedy is how we refer to the process of remedying benefits within the remedy period. Remedy comes into effect from 1 October 2023 with the regulations.