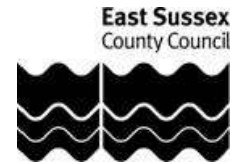


# Firefighters' Pension Scheme



## Increases to Annual Pension and Compensation payments from 6 April 2020

Increases to public sector pensions are based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the previous September. Please see below for information as to when this will be paid to you.

The following questions and answers will enable you to decide whether your pension has qualified for an increase this year and if so the percentage rate of that increase.

### Does my pension qualify for an increase?

Your pension has qualified for an increase this year if it "began" on or before 21 March 2020 and: -

- (a) You have attained the age of 55 years,
- OR (b) Your pension is a spouse's / civil partner's / nominated cohabiting partner's pension
- OR (c) Your pension is an ill health pension
- OR (d) The pension is a child's pension payable in respect of a child under the age of 18, or who is in full time education or training, or who is incapacitated by reason of ill health

### From what date is my pension increased?

Provided that one of the above conditions applies, your pension increases from 6 April 2020. (This does not apply if your Firefighter "pension" is a gratuity or an annual sum by way of compensation.)

#### Please note

Members of the 1992 Firefighter's scheme are paid in advance therefore the increase will come into effect in the payment received at the end of March.

Members of the New Firefighter's Scheme are paid in arrears therefore the increase comes into effect in the payment received at the end of April.

### By how much is my pension increased?

**If your pension 'began' on or before 21 April 2019 then the full increase of 1.7% applies.**

**In certain circumstances your pension will not increase by the full 1.7%.**

1. If you reached your State Pension Age before 6 April 2016 and your pension includes any Guaranteed Minimum Pension that was accrued before 6 April 1988, this element of your pension will not increase. The increase on this part of your pension will be paid with your state pension.
2. If your pension 'began' on or after 22 April 2019 a smaller, part-year increase will apply. Your pension 'began' the day after the end of the period of scheme membership in which the pension was built up. If you are a retired employee, your pension 'began' the day after your scheme membership ended. If you are in receipt of a dependant's pension, your pension 'began' on the day after the last day of scheme membership of your late partner or parent.
3. In exceptional cases a pension may have been based on pensionable pay for a period ending on a date earlier than the last day of scheme membership. If this is the case, the date your pension 'began' will be an earlier date. If you are in receipt of two or more pensions, each pension may have a different beginning date.

## **April Pension payment**

**IMPORTANT:** If your pension has been increased, the instalment due for April has been calculated to include 5 days at the former rate and 25 days at the new rate.

## **Your pension and income tax**

If appropriate, Income Tax is deducted from your pension/allowance in accordance with instructions from HM Revenue and Customs. If you believe that your Income Tax liability has been wrongly assessed at any time you should address any enquiry to: -

Pay As You Earn, H.M. Revenue and Customs, BX9 1AS  
(Telephone: 0300 200 3300)

Quoting the County Council reference of 334/EZ61724 and your payroll reference number and National Insurance number, which are shown at the top of your pay advice slips.

## **Notifying changes of address and bank / building society details**

**In order to maintain the timely payment of your pension, please provide all changes of address and bank/building society details as soon as possible IN WRITING (with your signature) to the Pensions Team.** Please include your payroll reference number in any correspondence.

## **IMPORTANT: Re-employed pensioners**

**Your pension may be subject to reduction or suspension if you are re-employed in a post that is subject to the same pension scheme provisions. If you enter such an employment you MUST IMMEDIATELY inform the Pensions Team. Failure to do this may result in an overpayment, which the County Council will take steps to recover.**

## **National Fraud Initiative**

Please note that key pension data may be provided to bodies responsible for auditing and administering public funds for the purposes of preventing and detecting fraud. We will also carry out existence checking to verify continued entitlement to pension payments.

## **Your Data**

East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service is committed to protecting your personal information when you use our services. Our privacy notice which is provided at the following link: <https://www.esfrs.org/about-us/privacy-notice/> explains how we use information about you in relation to your pension scheme and how we protect your privacy. The processing of personal information is governed by the General Data Protection Regulation 2016 (the "GDPR") and Data Protection Act (DPA) 2018.

## GDPR Overview

All EU (including UK) organisations must comply with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) from 25 May 2018. Prior to this date, UK organisations were governed by the Data Protection Act (DPA). The GDPR builds on the existing DPA in order to respond to advances in technology, making accountabilities for Data Protection clearer, provide greater rights to 'data subjects' (individuals who organisations hold personal information for) and increase the size of fines that can be levied in the event of a personal information breach.

Legislation sets out the data protection principles which are that personal information shall be:

- processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner;
- collected for specified, explicit and legitimate purposes and not further processed in a manner that is incompatible with those purposes;
- adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary in relation to the purposes for which they are processed;
- accurate and, where necessary, kept up to date;
- kept in a form which permits identification of data subjects for no longer than is necessary for the purposes for which the personal information is processed; and
- processed in a manner that ensures appropriate security of the personal information, including protection against unauthorised or unlawful processing and against accidental loss, destruction or damage, using appropriate technical or organisational measures.

The [Information Commissioner's Office \(ICO\)](http://www.ico.org.uk) is the UK's independent body set up to uphold information rights in the public interest, promoting openness by public bodies and information privacy for individuals. You can obtain further information about these rights from the ICO at: [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk) or via its telephone helpline: 0303 123 1113.

Please contact our Scheme Administrators (Orbis Business Services) on telephone: 0300 200 1031 or by email: [ESCC.pensions@sesharedservices.org.uk](mailto:ESCC.pensions@sesharedservices.org.uk) if you would like a copy of the full privacy notice sent to you by email or post instead.

### Contact information

Write to:	ESCC Pensions, Business Operations South, East F, County Hall, St Anne's Crescent, Lewes, BN7 1UE
Phone	General enquiries: 0300 200 1031
Email	<a href="mailto:ESCC.pensions@sesharedservices.org.uk">ESCC.pensions@sesharedservices.org.uk</a>

**WE CANNOT ACCEPT CHANGES OF ADDRESS AND BANK DETAILS BY TELEPHONE OR E-MAIL**