

# news

2015

*For Pensioners of the Scheme*



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# YOUR PENSION SCHEME

## Pension Payment Dates

The table below shows the dates on which your pension will be paid each month.

| 2015      |                            |
|-----------|----------------------------|
| November  | Monday 30 <sup>th</sup>    |
| December  | Monday 21 <sup>st</sup>    |
| 2016      |                            |
| January   | Friday 29 <sup>th</sup>    |
| February  | Monday 29 <sup>th</sup>    |
| March     | Thursday 31 <sup>st</sup>  |
| April     | Friday 29 <sup>th</sup>    |
| May       | Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup>   |
| June      | Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup>  |
| July      | Friday 29 <sup>th</sup>    |
| August    | Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup> |
| September | Friday 30 <sup>th</sup>    |
| October   | Monday 31 <sup>st</sup>    |
| November  | Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> |
| December  | Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> |

## Online Communications

*Save Paper –  
Choose the greener option*

We are changing the way we communicate with you. We want to be more environmentally friendly, reduce costs and continue to meet member demand, so we are encouraging you to register your email address with us. We can then send you non-personalised communications, such as this annual newsletter and general Scheme information, by email rather than post.

To register or update your email address please visit our website [www.nilgosc.org.uk/emailcapture.aspx](http://www.nilgosc.org.uk/emailcapture.aspx) and provide us with your:

- Full name
- Email address
- Date of birth
- National Insurance number

All personalised information such as your payslips and P60s will continue to be posted to your home address for the time being.



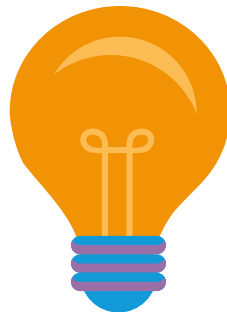


## If I decide to go back to work, will my pension be affected?

*If you get (or already have) a job with an employer who is in the Scheme, please let us know immediately and inform your new employer that you currently receive a Local Government Pension.*

For most people, returning to work with an employer in the Scheme will not have an effect on the pension you currently receive. However, the rules on additional compensation pensions are different and these pensions can be reduced or suspended when a pensioner becomes re-employed.

[If you are unsure whether your employer is in the Scheme, please visit the employers' section of our website www.nilgosc.org.uk/employers](http://www.nilgosc.org.uk/employers) where you will find a [list of employers that currently contribute to the Scheme.](#)



## Paying Tax in Retirement

*Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) informs NILGOSC of the tax codes which must be used for pensioners' payments.*



[If you have any queries on your tax code, you should contact the tax office directly on 0300 200 3300 \(0044 135 535 9022 if overseas\). NILGOSC does not have any information on why a tax code has changed and does not have the ability to change a tax code without authorisation directly from HMRC.](#)

## Annual Pensions Increase

*Each year we increase pensions in line with the Pensions Increase (Review) Order (Northern Ireland) so that your pension keeps up with the cost of living. In 2015 the increase was 1.2%.*



The increase applies to all NILGOSC pensioners apart from those who are under age 55 and retired due to redundancy or business efficiency. A few ill-health pensions also do not receive Pensions Increase until the pensioner reaches age 55.

If you went onto pension during the previous tax year (2014/15) then you will receive a percentage of the increase depending on the number of months your pension has been in payment. If you started pension on or after 22 March 2015 then you will have received no increase in April 2015.



## Changes to your Pension Scheme

*On 1 April 2015 the Scheme underwent major changes which affect how a member's pension is calculated at retirement.*

These changes will NOT affect any pension which NILGOSC is already paying to you.

## 'Freedom and Choice'

*You may have seen coverage on TV or in the papers recently about the changes to the law giving people more freedom on how and when they can take their pension. This is known as 'Freedom and Choice'.*

As you are already receiving your pension you cannot transfer it to another scheme to avail of these new options.

## Changes to State Pension

*It's not just our Pension Scheme that has changed – the State Pension is changing too.*

A new flat rate State Pension is being introduced for people who reach State Pension Age after 5 April 2016. The full amount of the new State Pension is expected to be £151.25 per week, but the Government will not set the actual amount until later this year. You will need to have 35 qualifying years on your National Insurance records to be able to get the full new State Pension.

**If you are already receiving your State Pension this change will NOT affect you. The introduction of the new State Pension will also not affect the pension that you receive from the Scheme.**

The Government has introduced a new State Pension 'top-up' facility to allow some pensioners and those close to State Pension Age to pay voluntary National Insurance contributions to increase their State Pension. The top-up facility is available to all pensioners who reach State Pension Age before the introduction of the new State Pension in April 2016. The scheme is expected to run until 5 April 2017. A calculator is available at: [www.gov.uk/state-pension-topup](http://www.gov.uk/state-pension-topup).

[More information on the new State Pension can be found at \[www.nidirect.gov.uk/state-pension\]\(http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/state-pension\).](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/state-pension)

## Keep in touch

*Please remember to add NILGOSC to the list of people who need to know if you move house, get married or if any of your personal details or circumstances change.*



The best way to do this is to download a Change of Circumstances form from the pensioners' section of our website [www.nilgosc.org.uk/keeping-us-updated](http://www.nilgosc.org.uk/keeping-us-updated) or to contact our office.

## I live with my partner but we aren't married. Can I nominate them to receive my pension when I die?

Unlike a husband, wife or registered civil partner, a cohabiting partner is not automatically entitled to a survivor's pension. If you were actively contributing to the Scheme on or after 1 April 2009, you have the option of nominating a cohabiting partner to receive a pension when you die. This option is not open to you if you ceased actively contributing to the Scheme before 1 April 2009.

If you would like your cohabiting partner to receive a pension when you die, you must have completed a valid Nomination of Cohabiting Partner Form and filed it with us before your death.

There are certain conditions which you must meet before you can nominate a cohabiting partner to receive your pension. These are shown on the Nomination of Cohabiting Partner Form which you can download from the pensioners' section of our website [www.nilgosc.org.uk/keeping-us-updated](http://www.nilgosc.org.uk/keeping-us-updated) or request from our office.

If you wish to revoke an existing nomination form you should complete a Revocation of Cohabiting Partner Nomination form which can also be downloaded from our website or we can send you a copy if you contact our office.

## Death Grant Expression of Wish Form



*A death grant is paid if you die before age 75 and have either been receiving your pension for less than 5 years (if you ceased actively contributing to the Scheme before 1 April 2009) or less than 10 years (if you ceased actively contributing to the Scheme on or after 1 April 2009).*

You can let us know who you would like to receive this lump sum by completing and returning a Death Grant Expression of Wish form which can be downloaded from the pensioners' section of our website [www.nilgosc.org.uk/keeping-us-updated](http://www.nilgosc.org.uk/keeping-us-updated) or by contacting our office. If your circumstances have changed please remember to complete a new form.

## REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2014/15

### Financial Statement

*The statement below details NILGOSC's Fund Account for 2014/15 and 2013/14.*

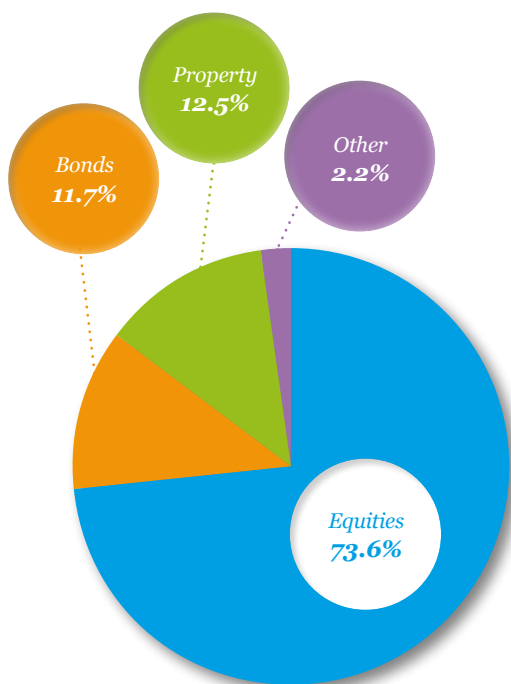
The full version of NILGOSC's financial statements is included in our Annual Report which is available on request or can be viewed on our website: [www.nilgosc.org.uk/annual-reports-and-corporate-plan](http://www.nilgosc.org.uk/annual-reports-and-corporate-plan).

|   | 2014/15<br>£,000 | 2013/14<br>£,000 |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| <b>INCOME</b>                                       |                  |                  |
| Employers' contributions                            | 173,757          | 160,470          |
| Employees' contributions                            | 57,594           | 54,021           |
| Transfers In  | 5,227            | 7,757            |
| Investment Income                                   | 89,170           | 92,107           |
|   | <b>325,748</b>   | <b>314,355</b>   |
| <b>EXPENDITURE</b>                                  |                  |                  |
| Benefits Paid                                       | (181,519)        | (176,399)        |
| Payment on account of leavers                       | (3,610)          | (2,784)          |
| Administration expenses                             | (3,267)          | (3,112)          |
| Investment management expenses                      | (13,826)         | (11,458)         |
|   | <b>(202,222)</b> | <b>(193,753)</b> |
| Net income  | <b>123,526</b>   | <b>120,602</b>   |
| <b>SUMMARY</b>                                      |                  |                  |
| Opening net assets of the Scheme                    | 5,055,506        | 4,650,721        |
| Net income  | 123,526          | 120,602          |
| Change in market value of investments               | 666,979          | 284,099          |
| Net actuarial (losses)/gains recognised in the year | (475)            | 84               |
| <b>Closing net assets of the Scheme</b>             | <b>5,845,536</b> | <b>5,055,506</b> |

## Investments

*The value of the Fund at 31 March 2015 was £5.85bn, an increase of £790m (15.6%) on the previous year.*

Over the year to 31 March 2015, the Fund achieved an overall return on the total assets of 15.1%. We have set an investment target to exceed the Consumer Price Index by 5% over a 3 and 5 year period and have exceeded this target over both time frames at 31 March 2015. The Fund is invested in a range of different assets as illustrated in the diagram below:



Investment of the Fund

As we take a long-term approach to our investments, there was no significant change to our investment strategy during 2014/15. During the year, we continued to implement the plan to reduce the allocation to UK equities and spread risk through investments in Alternative asset classes, including Infrastructure. We made our first investments in Infrastructure during 2014/15, committing £40m to Antin Infrastructure Partners Fund II in April 2014 and a further £40m to KKR Global Infrastructure Investors II in February 2015.

Demonstrating our commitment to being a responsible investor, we continued to exercise our shareholder voting rights and engage with those companies in which we invested during 2014/15. In August 2014, we became a signatory to the 2014 Global Investor Statement on Climate Change. We have also signed up to the UN Principles of Responsible Investment and were delighted to receive an 'A' grade (on a scale of A+ to E) in respect of our 2014 assessment report.

Detailed information on our investments is available in the Pension Fund section of our website at: [www.nilgosc.org.uk/pension-fund](http://www.nilgosc.org.uk/pension-fund).

Signatory of:



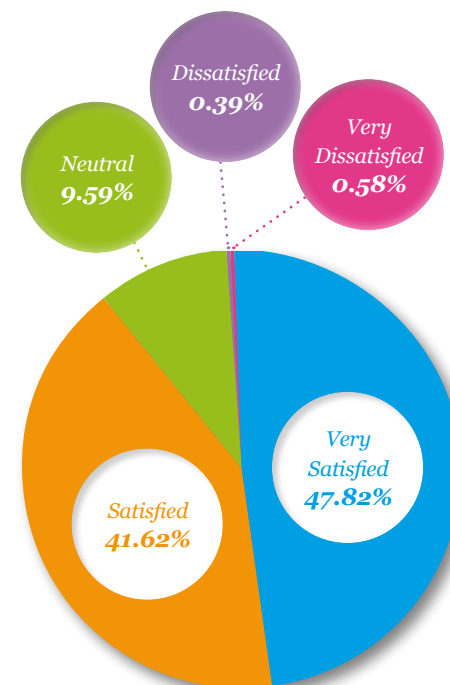
## SATISFACTION SURVEY 2015

*We pride ourselves on providing a great service to our members and are always keen to receive feedback.*

A Satisfaction Survey for the year 2014/15 was carried out in May 2015 with a key focus on:

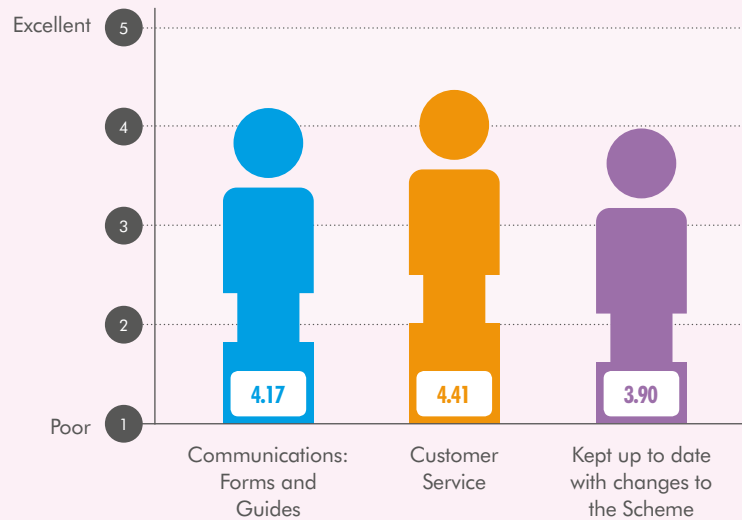
- Communications – Scheme forms and guides
- Customer service – staff knowledge, courtesy and professionalism
- Website and online communications

*We were delighted to hear that over 89% of our members were satisfied or very satisfied with the service they have received from us.*



Members' Overall Satisfaction

Satisfaction Rates by Service Area



## Get online

*In response to the feedback received on online communications, we have introduced email communications for general, non-confidential communications such as news updates and this annual newsletter.*

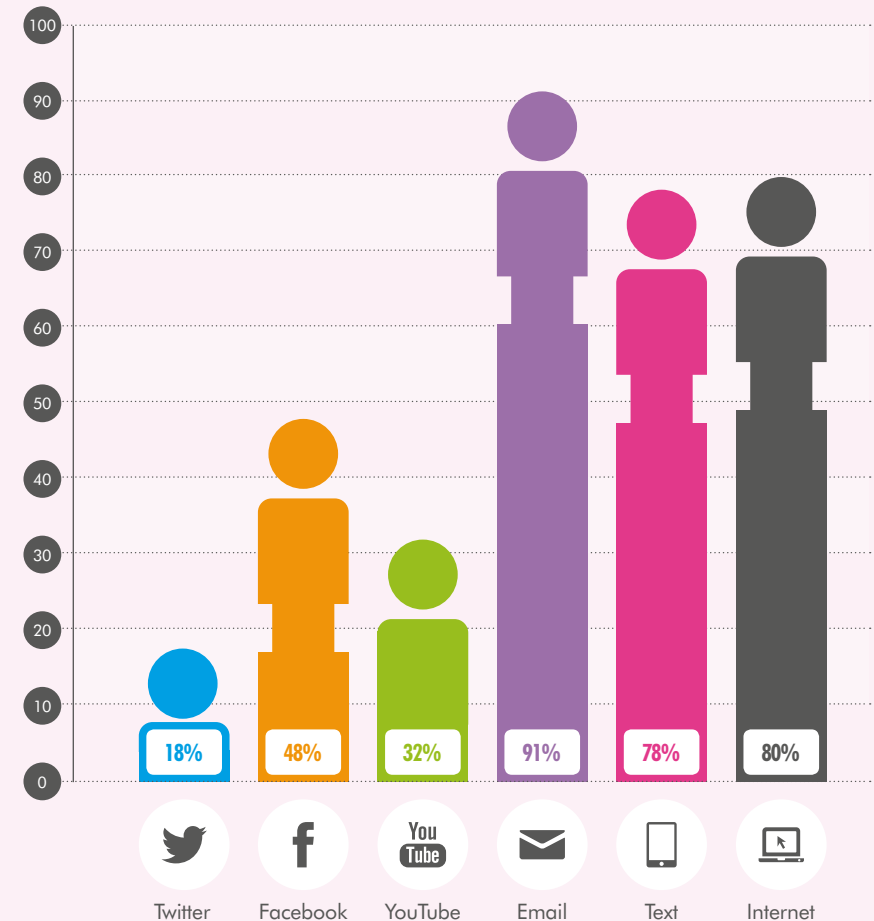
If you want to sign up for email communications visit our website:  
[www.nilgosc.org.uk/emailcapture.aspx](http://www.nilgosc.org.uk/emailcapture.aspx). For full details see page 3.



## Online communications

*The online communications section of the questionnaire identified that 91% of members use email as a means to communicate.*

Percentage of members who use social media and online communications



## DATA SHARING AND ACCESSIBILITY

### Data Protection

*We are registered with the Information Commissioner under the Data Protection Act 1998 to hold personal information which allows us to administer the pension scheme.*

Further information on how we use the personal data that we collect is available on our website at: [www.nilgosc.org.uk/data-protection](http://www.nilgosc.org.uk/data-protection).

You have the right to request a copy of the personal data we hold for you. You can do so by writing to the Data Protection Officer at NILGOSC or emailing [info@nilgosc.org.uk](mailto:info@nilgosc.org.uk).



### National Fraud Initiative

*In order to prevent and detect fraud, we may share information with other bodies responsible for auditing or administering public funds.*

We participate in the National Fraud Initiative run by the Northern Ireland Audit Office, which has statutory powers to conduct data matching exercises. As part of this initiative, we provide details of pensioners and deferred members so that the information can be compared to that held by other public bodies. This will ensure, for example, that a pension is not being paid to someone who has died or is no longer entitled.

Further information about our participation in the National Fraud Initiative is available on our website at: [www.nilgosc.org.uk/national-fraud-initiative-pensioners](http://www.nilgosc.org.uk/national-fraud-initiative-pensioners)

However, if you have any questions, please contact our Information and Compliance Manager who can also provide hard copies of information available on our website.



### Accessibility for our Members

*We are always happy to provide documents and Scheme communications in an alternative format (such as audio or large print) or an alternative language for those whose first language is not English.*

For more information and an alternative communications form, please refer to the 'Alternative Methods of Communication' booklet which can be downloaded from our website at [www.nilgosc.org.uk/equality-scheme](http://www.nilgosc.org.uk/equality-scheme) or obtained from NILGOSC.

If you would like to raise an equality issue with NILGOSC, please contact the Equality Officer on 0845 308 7345 or email [equality@nilgosc.org.uk](mailto:equality@nilgosc.org.uk).



# CONTACT DETAILS



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