

Important changes to Transfer Values from 1 April 2016

The Scheme's Actuary regularly reviews the factors used to work out some of your pension options. From 1 April 2016 the factors used to calculate the Scheme's transfer values will be updated. These changes are likely to mean a decrease in transfer values for members close to, at, or over Normal Retirement Age and an increase for younger members. The size of the increase or decrease will depend on your age as well as financial market conditions at the time any calculation is run for you.

Members considering transferring their benefits from the Scheme to another pension arrangement may wish to bear this information in mind when deciding the timing of any potential transfer. You should, however, always take independent financial advice before making any decisions regarding your pension benefits. Where the transfer value of your main Scheme pension is £30,000 or more legislation requires you to provide evidence that you have taken appropriate financial advice before any transfer can proceed.

Is my transfer value guaranteed?

If you have left the Scheme but your benefits are not yet in payment or if you are an active member who has provided notice of the date you will be leaving the Scheme, for example you may be retiring or opting out, transfer quotations are usually guaranteed for three months.

If you decide to transfer your Scheme benefits to another arrangement and we receive all the required documentation to pay out the transfer value before the guarantee expires, including evidence of financial advice where applicable, we will automatically re-assess the transfer value at the payment date and pay out the higher of the new amount or the original amount quoted in our letter to you. If any guarantee period lapses, any subsequent transfer value may be higher, or lower, than any transfer value quoted previously.

If a guarantee applies this will be quoted in the paperwork you receive from us and the guarantee period will be defined. Please read your paperwork carefully and call the pensions team if you need assistance.

Please note: A guarantee period does not apply to transfer values quoted for active members unless the member has provided formal notice of the date they will be leaving the Scheme.