

2026 No.

PUBLIC SERVICE PENSIONS, ENGLAND AND WALES

**The Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment) Regulations
2026**

Made - - - -

Laid before Parliament

Coming into force - -

1st April 2026

The Secretary of State makes these Regulations in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 1(1) and 3(1) to (3) of, and Schedule 3 to, the Public Service Pensions Act 2013 (“PSPA 2013”)(a) and [section 5 of the Pension Schemes Act 2026(b)].

In accordance with section 21(1) and (5)(c) of the PSPA 2013, the Secretary of State has consulted such persons and the representatives of such persons as appeared to the Secretary of State to be likely to be affected by these Regulations.

In accordance with section 3(5) of the PSPA 2013, these Regulations are made with the consent of the Treasury.

Citation, commencement and extent

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment) Regulations 2026.

(2) These Regulations come into force on [1st April 2026].

(3) These Regulations extend to England and Wales.

Amendment of the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013

2. The Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013(d) are amended in accordance with regulations 3 to 10 .

(a) 2013 c. 25. Section 3 was amended by section 94 of the Public Service Pensions and Judicial Offices Act 2022 (c. 7) and section 7 of the Pension Schemes Act 2026 (c. X). Schedule 3 was amended by section 100 of the Public Service Pensions and Judicial Offices Act 2022. See section 2 of and Schedule 2 to the Public Service Pensions Act 2013 as to how the power is exercisable by the Secretary of State.

(b) c. xx

(c) Section 21(5), as inserted by section 7 of the Pension Schemes Act 2026 (c. XX), provides that any consultation on the provision made under Chapter 1 of Part 1 of the Pensions Scheme Act 2026 can be satisfied by consultation carried out before that Act came into force.

(d) S.I. 2013/2356, amended by S.I. 2015/57, 2015/755, 2016/946 and 2023/522; there are other amendments not relevant to these Regulations.

Insertion of new regulation 53A

3. After regulation 53 (Scheme managers)(a) insert—

“Appointments that must be made by administering authorities

53A.—(1) Every administering authority must, by the date specified in paragraph (2), appoint an officer (“the senior LGPS officer”) who has a senior responsibility across all pension functions of the authority in accordance with guidance issued by the Secretary of State(b).

(2) The date specified in this paragraph is—

- (a) in respect of the first appointment of a senior LGPS officer, [1st October 2026];
- (b) in respect of any subsequent appointment of a senior LGPS officer, six months from the date on which the previous senior LGPS officer’s appointment ended.

(3) The senior LGPS officer must ensure that each pension fund maintained by the administering authority is appropriately managed and resourced in respect of all matters relating to the Scheme (such as administration, investment and governance), in accordance with guidance issued by the Secretary of State(c).

(4) The senior LGPS officer must not be any person who is at the same time—

- (a) an officer with responsibility for the proper administration of an authority’s financial affairs under section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 (financial administration)(d), section 73 of the Local Government Act 1985 (financial administration)(e), or section 6 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (officer responsible for financial administration of certain authorities)(f);
- (b) a head of paid service under section 4(1)(a) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (designation and reports of head of paid service)(g);
- (c) a monitoring officer under section 5(1)(a) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989(h).

(5) If an administering authority delegates its functions, or part of its functions, under these regulations to a committee or sub-committee of the authority, it must appoint an independent person as a non-voting member of that committee or sub-committee to advise on investment strategy, governance and administration.

(6) If an administering authority delegates its functions, or part of its functions, under these regulations to the senior LGPS officer, then it must appoint an independent person to support that officer.

(a) Regulation 53 was amended by S.I. 2015/57.

(b) Section 3(3)(c) of the Public Service Pensions Act 2013 (c. 25), which enables these Regulations to allow any person to exercise a discretion, and paragraph 12(a) of Schedule 3 to that Act, which enables the Secretary of State (as the responsible authority) to give guidance to administering authorities (as scheme managers) about the administration and management of the Scheme, provide the power for these Regulations to refer to guidance given by the Secretary of State from time to time.

(c) Section 3(3)(c) of the Public Service Pensions Act 2013 (c. 25), which enables these Regulations to allow any person to exercise a discretion, and paragraph 12(a) of Schedule 3 to that Act, which enables the Secretary of State (as the responsible authority) to give guidance to administering authorities (as scheme managers) about the administration and management of the Scheme, provide the power for these Regulations to refer to guidance given by the Secretary of State from time to time.

(d) 1972 c. 70. Section 151 was renumbered by regulation 5(2) of S.I. 2021/1349 (W. 348) and amended by regulation 5(3) of S.I. 2021/1349 (W. 348).

(e) 1985 c. 51. Section 73 was amended by paragraph 61(2) and (3) of Schedule 6 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 (c. 20), paragraph 8 of Schedule 5 to the Cities and Local Government Devolution Act 2016 (c. 1) and paragraph 77 of Schedule 4 to the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023 (c. 55).

(f) 1989 c. 42.

(g) 1989 c. 42, to which there are amendments not relevant to these Regulations.

(h) 1989 c. 42, to which there are amendments not relevant to these Regulations.

(7) If an administering authority is required to appoint an independent person under paragraph (5) or (6), it must make the appointment—

- (a) by the date specified in paragraph (8), and
- (b) in accordance with guidance issued by the Secretary of State^(a).

(8) The date specified in this paragraph is—

- (a) in respect of the first appointment of an independent person, [1st October 2026];
- (b) in respect of any subsequent appointment of an independent person, six months from the date on which the previous independent person's appointment ended.

(9) Nothing in this regulation affects the responsibilities of an authority's officer under section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972, section 73 of the Local Government Act 1985 or section 6 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.”;

Revocation of regulation 55

4. Omit regulation 55 (administering authorities: governance compliance statement)^(b).

Insertion of new regulations 55A and 55B

5. Before regulation 56 (accounts and audit) insert —

“Administering authorities: governance strategy, training strategy and conflicts of interest policy

55A.—(1) An administering authority must prepare —

- (a) a governance strategy,
- (b) a training strategy, and
- (c) a conflicts of interest policy.

(2) A governance strategy is a document setting out—

- (a) whether the authority delegates its functions, or part of its functions, under these Regulations to a committee, a sub-committee or the senior LGPS officer of the authority;
- (b) if the authority does so—
 - (i) the terms, structure, and operational procedures of the delegation,
 - (ii) the frequency of any committee or sub-committee meetings,
 - (iii) whether such a committee or sub-committee includes representatives of Scheme employers or members and—
 - (aa) if so, whether those representatives have voting rights, or
 - (bb) if not, how the views of Scheme employers and members will be represented in the governance of the fund, and
 - (iv) how the authority will ensure that it has appointed an independent person in accordance with regulation 53A,

(a) Section 3(3)(c) of the Public Service Pensions Act 2013 (c. 25), which enables these Regulations to allow any person to exercise a discretion, and paragraph 12(a) of Schedule 3 to that Act, which enables the Secretary of State (as the responsible authority) to give guidance to administering authorities (as scheme managers) about the administration and management of the Scheme, provide the power for these Regulations to refer to guidance given by the Secretary of State from time to time.

(b) Regulation 55 was amended by S.I. 2015/57.

- (c) the extent to which a delegation, or the absence of a delegation, complies with guidance given by the Secretary of State^(a) and, to the extent that it does not so comply, the reasons for not complying, and
- (d) details of the terms, structure, and operational procedures relating to the local pension board established under regulation 106 (local pension boards: establishment)^(b).

(3) A training strategy is a document setting out how the authority will ensure that any persons to whom regulation 55B(1) or (2) (administering authorities: knowledge and understanding requirement for relevant persons) applies will meet the knowledge and understanding requirement in paragraph (3) of that regulation.

(4) A conflicts of interest policy is a document setting out the authority's approach to identifying, monitoring and managing actual, potential and perceived conflicts of interest in relation to the Scheme.

(5) For the purposes of paragraph (4), conflicts of interest include—

- (a) individual conflicts relating to members of a committee or sub-committee, or any officer, of the authority,
- (b) conflicts between the authority's role as administering authority and its role in any other capacity, and
- (c) conflicts relating to—
 - (i) the authority's participation in an asset pool company, or
 - (ii) any other administering authority participating in that asset pool company.

(6) An administering may publish any two or more of the documents under paragraph (1) combined in a single document or publish them separately.

(7) An administering authority must review and, if appropriate update its governance strategy, training strategy, and conflicts of interest policy—

- (a) at least once in each valuation period, and
- (b) without delay after any significant change to any of the matters specified in paragraphs (2) to (5).

(8) Before preparing or updating a governance strategy, training strategy, or conflicts of interest policy, an administering authority must consult such persons as it considers appropriate.

(9) An administering authority must publish updated versions of its governance strategy, training strategy, and conflicts of interest policy, where updates are made to any of them.

(10) In preparing, reviewing, updating and publishing any document under this regulation, an administering authority must act in accordance with guidance issued by the Secretary of State^(c).

(11) In this regulation—

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- (a) Section 3(3)(c) of the Public Service Pensions Act 2013 (c. 25), which enables these Regulations to allow any person to exercise a discretion, and paragraph 12(a) of Schedule 3 to that Act, which enables the Secretary of State (as the responsible authority) to give guidance to administering authorities (as scheme managers) about the administration and management of the Scheme, provide the power for these Regulations to refer to guidance given by the Secretary of State from time to time.
 - (b) Regulation 106 was inserted by S.I. 2015/57.
 - (c) Section 3(3)(c) of the Public Service Pensions Act 2013 (c. 25), which enables these Regulations to allow any person to exercise a discretion, and paragraph 12(a) of Schedule 3 to that Act, which enables the Secretary of State (as the responsible authority) to give guidance to administering authorities (as scheme managers) about the administration and management of the Scheme, provide the power for these Regulations to refer to guidance given by the Secretary of State from time to time.

“asset pool company” has the meaning given in [section 1(9)(a) of the Pension Schemes Act 2026];

“publishing” includes publishing on the internet.

Administering authorities: knowledge and understanding requirement for relevant persons

55B.—(1) This paragraph applies to any person who is—

- (a) a member of a committee,
- (b) a member of a sub-committee, or
- (c) an officer

to whom an administering authority has delegated its functions, or part of its functions, under these Regulations.

(2) This paragraph applies to any person who is a senior LGPS officer.

(3) A person to whom paragraph (1) or (2) applies must within a reasonable period after being appointed—

- (a) be conversant with—
 - (i) the rules of the Scheme, and
 - (ii) any document recording policy about the administration of the Scheme which is for the time being adopted in relation to the Scheme;
- (b) have knowledge and understanding of the law relating to pensions.

(4) The degree of knowledge and understanding required by paragraph (3) is that appropriate for the purposes of enabling that person to properly exercise their functions that have been delegated by the administering authority in accordance with guidance issued by the Secretary of State^(a).”.

Amendment to regulation 57

6. In regulation 57(1) (pension fund annual report)—

- (a) in the opening words, for “contains” substitute “includes the text of or a link to”;
- (b) in sub-paragraph (e), for “the statement under regulation 55 (governance compliance statement)” substitute “the documents under regulation 55A (governance strategy, training strategy and conflicts of interest policy)”.

Amendment to regulation 58

7. In regulation 58(4)(b) (funding strategy statement), for sub-paragraph (a) substitute—

“(a) guidance given by the Secretary of State^(c); and”.

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- (a) Section 3(3)(c) of the Public Service Pensions Act 2013 (c. 25), which enables these Regulations to allow any person to exercise a discretion, and paragraph 12(a) of Schedule 3 to that Act, which enables the Secretary of State (as the responsible authority) to give guidance to administering authorities (as scheme managers) about the administration and management of the Scheme, provide the power for these Regulations to refer to guidance given by the Secretary of State from time to time.
 - (b) Regulation 58(4) was amended by S.I. 2015/755 and 2016/946.
 - (c) Section 3(3)(c) of the Public Service Pensions Act 2013 (c. 25), which enables these Regulations to allow any person to exercise a discretion, and paragraph 12(a) of Schedule 3 to that Act, which enables the Secretary of State (as the responsible authority) to give guidance to administering authorities (as scheme managers) about the administration and management of the Scheme, provide the power for these Regulations to refer to guidance given by the Secretary of State from time to time.

Amendment to regulation 59

8. In regulation 59 (pension administration strategy)—

- (a) in paragraph (1)—
 - (i) for “may” substitute “must”;
 - (ii) omit “such of”;
 - (iii) omit “as it considers appropriate”;
 - (iv) omit the words from “and” to the end;
- (b) omit paragraph (2)(f);
- (c) for paragraph (3) substitute—

“(3) An administering authority must review and, if appropriate, revise its pension administration strategy—

 - (a) at least once in each valuation period, and
 - (b) without delay after any material change in its policies in relation to any of the matters contained in the strategy.”;
- (d) after paragraph (6), insert—

“(6A) In preparing, updating and publishing its pensions administration strategy an administering authority must act in accordance with guidance issued by the Secretary of State(a).”.

Insertion of new regulation 117

9. After regulation 116 (Scheme advisory board: additional functions)(b) insert—

“Independent Governance Reviews

117.—(1) An administering authority must arrange for governance reviews(c) to be carried out in accordance with this regulation.

(2) The Secretary of State may, by written direction, require an administering authority to arrange for a suitable person to carry out an ad hoc governance review(d) at the authority’s expense.

(3) The period of review(e) in respect of a governance review under paragraph (2) is the period specified by the Secretary of State in the written direction.

(4) An administering authority must, if it is not required to arrange for an ad hoc governance review to be carried out before then, arrange for a suitable person to carry out a first periodic governance review(f) by 31st March 2028 at the authority’s expense.

(5) The period of review in respect of a governance review under paragraph (4) is the period between—

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- (a) Section 3(3)(c) of the Public Service Pensions Act 2013 (c. 25), which enables these Regulations to allow any person to exercise a discretion, and paragraph 12(a) of Schedule 3 to that Act, which enables the Secretary of State (as the responsible authority) to give guidance to administering authorities (as scheme managers) about the administration and management of the Scheme, provide the power for these Regulations to refer to guidance given by the Secretary of State from time to time.
 - (b) Regulation 116 was inserted by S.I. 2015/57 and amended by S.I. 2023/522.
 - (c) See [section 5(2)(a) of the Pension Schemes Act 2026] for the definition of “governance review”.
 - (d) See [section 5(2)(c) of the Pension Schemes Act 2026] for the definition of “ad hoc governance review”.
 - (e) See [section 5(2)(a) of the Pension Schemes Act 2026] for the definition of “period of review”.
 - (f) See [section 5(2)(b) of the Pension Schemes Act 2026] for the definition of “periodic governance review”.

- (a) the date on which that first periodic governance review is arranged, and
 - (b) [1st April 2025].
- (6) An administering authority must arrange for a suitable person to carry out a further periodic governance review by the date in paragraph (7) at the authority's expense.
- (7) The date in this paragraph is the end of the valuation period following the valuation period in which the most recent governance review was arranged under—
- (a) paragraph (2),
 - (b) paragraph (4), or
 - (c) paragraph (6).
- (8) The period of review in respect of a governance review under paragraph (6) is the period between—
- (a) the date on which that further periodic governance review is arranged, and
 - (b) the date on which the most recent governance review was arranged under paragraph (2), paragraph (4) or paragraph (6).
- (9) The cost of arranging a governance review under paragraph (2), paragraph (4) or paragraph (6) must be treated by the authority as an expense occurred in administering the pension fund for the purposes of [regulation 4(5) of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2016^(a)/regulation 4(5) of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Pooling, Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2026^(b)].
- (10) For the purposes of paragraph (2), paragraph (4) and paragraph (6), a “suitable person” is any person who—
- (a) is independent of both the Secretary of State and the administering authority, and
 - (b) in the reasonable opinion of the administering authority has sufficient knowledge and understanding of the rules of the Scheme to enable them to properly conduct the review.
- (11) A person carrying out a governance review under paragraph (2), paragraph (4) or paragraph (6) must—
- (a) do so in accordance with guidance issued by the Secretary of State about the carrying out of such reviews^(c), and
 - (b) as soon as practicable after completing the review—
 - (i) prepare a report on the review, and
 - (ii) send a copy of the report to the Secretary of State and to the administering authority.
- (12) An administering authority must, as soon as practicable after receiving a copy of a report under paragraph (11)(b)(ii), publish that report.

^(a) S.I. 2016/946, to which there are amendments not relevant to these Regulations.

^(b) S.I. 2026/XXXX.

^(c) Section 3(3)(c) of the Public Service Pensions Act 2013 (c. 25), which enables these Regulations to allow any person to exercise a discretion, and [Section 5(1)(b) of the Pension Schemes Act 2026], which authorises the Secretary of State to make regulations for or in connection with the issuing of guidance by the Secretary of State to persons carrying out governance reviews about the carrying out of such reviews., provide the power for these Regulations to refer to guidance given by the Secretary of State from time to time.

(13) In arranging and publishing the report of a governance review under this Regulation, an administering authority must act in accordance with guidance issued by the Secretary of State(a).”.

Amendments to Schedule 1

10. In Schedule 1 (interpretation)—

(a) after the definition of “Scheme year” insert—

““senior LGPS officer” has the meaning given in regulation 53A(1);”;

(b) at the end insert—

““valuation period” means the period between each valuation date under regulation 62 (actuarial valuation of pension funds).”.

We consent to the making of these Regulations

[Signature 1]

[Signature 2]

Two of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury

Signed by authority of the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government

[Signature]

Minister of State

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

(a) Section 3(3)(c) of the Public Service Pensions Act 2013 (c. 25), which enables these Regulations to allow any person to exercise a discretion, and paragraph 12(a) of Schedule 3 to that Act, which enables the Secretary of State (as the responsible authority) to give guidance to administering authorities (as scheme managers) about the administration and management of the Scheme, provide the power for these Regulations to refer to guidance given by the Secretary of State from time to time.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

These Regulations amend the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013 (S.I. 2013/2356, “the 2013 Regulations”), which established the Local Government Pension Scheme for England and Wales (“LGPS”) and required certain local authorities to maintain a pension fund (“administering authorities”). These regulations make changes in respect of the governance requirements which apply to LGPS administering authorities.

Regulation 3 inserts a new regulation 53A into the 2013 Regulations, which introduces new requirements for administering authorities to appoint an officer with overall delegated responsibility for the scheme, and to appoint an independent person to support any committee, sub-committee or officer who is delegated functions under the 2013 Regulations.

Regulation 4 revokes regulation 55 of the 2013 Regulations, which requires administering authorities to produce a governance compliance statement. Regulation 5 inserts a new regulation 55A, which replaces this with a requirement for administering authorities to produce a governance strategy, a training strategy, and a conflicts of interest policy.

Regulation 5 also inserts a new regulation 55B, which sets out a new requirement for persons to whom functions have been delegated under the regulations, and the named officer appointed under regulation 53A, to meet a “knowledge and understanding” requirement similar to the one that applies to members of a local pension board under section 248A of the Pensions Act 2004 (c. 35)..

Regulation 6 amends regulation 57 of the 2013 Regulations to provide that administering authorities may now include links to the documents referred to in their annual report, rather than having to include the full text of those documents, and to reflect the changes made by regulations 4 and 5.

Regulation 7 amends regulation 58 of the 2013 Regulations to clarify that administering authorities must prepare their funding strategy administering in accordance with guidance issued by the Secretary of State rather than guidance issued by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy .

Regulation 8 amends regulation 59 of the 2013 Regulations to make it a requirement for authorities to prepare a pension administration strategy, to review that strategy at least once per valuation period or following material changes, and to require administering authorities to follow guidance published by the Secretary of State when preparing, updating, and publishing the strategy.

Regulation 9 inserts a new regulation 117 into the 2013 Regulations, which requires administering authorities to arrange for governance reviews to be carried out by an independent person.

Regulation 10 amends Schedule 1 to the 2013 Regulations to insert new definitions used by these Regulations.

No impact assessment has been produced for this instrument as no, or no significant, impact on the private or voluntary sectors is foreseen.