

The Leonard Cheshire Disability Group Pension Scheme

Useful information

About the Scheme

The Leonard Cheshire Disability Group Pension Scheme (“the Scheme”) is a defined benefit (DB) pension scheme. It is not open to new entrants.

This document is a guide to the benefits provided by the Scheme. If there is a difference between this document and the Trust Deed and Rules (as amended from time to time) or other overriding legislative requirements, the Trust Deed and Rules and/or legislation will prevail.

How are my benefits calculated?

Your pension is based on the amount of time you have been an active member of the Scheme and the lower of the last year’s salary or your average salary in the last three years of membership (before you leave or retire). This pension is increased by the rise in the Retail Prices Index six months prior to leaving.

In the time between leaving the Scheme and starting to take your pension, the part of your pension earned before 1 October 2001 will increase each year by **5%**. The part of your pension earned from 1 October 2001 will increase each year in line with the Retail Prices Index to a maximum of **5%** per year.

When can I retire?

The Scheme’s normal retirement age is 65.

You can take your pension at any time between the ages of 55 and 75. If you take your pension before you turn 65, it will normally be reduced to reflect early retirement.

The part of your pension earned before 1 October 2001 will be paid at an unreduced rate if it is taken after the age of 60. The part of your pension earned from 1 October 2001 but before 1 April 2011 will be paid at an unreduced rate if it is taken after the age of 62 years 6 months. However, the part of your pension earned after 1 April 2011 will be reduced if you retire before you turn 65.

If you take your benefits after the normal retirement age, your pension will be increased for late payment.

If you joined the Scheme before 6 April 2006, you have a 'protected pension age' of 50. If you take your benefits before the age of 55, you must have left the employment of Leonard Cheshire Disability Group.

What will I receive when I retire?

When you retire, you can take your benefits as a pension or take a tax-free lump sum and a lower pension.

Depending on the size of your pension, you may have the option to take everything as a one-off taxable lump sum. We will let you know if this is available to you when we provide your retirement quotation.

You can also transfer your benefits to another scheme.

Please contact us if you need further information or any quotations.

How will my pension be paid?

All pensions are paid direct to your bank account and are paid in advance every three months on 6 April, July, October and January. Any tax payable is deducted from your payment as instructed by HMRC.

Will my pension increase?

Any pension earned before 6 April 2005 will increase each year in line with the Consumer Prices Index to a maximum of **5%** each year. Any pension earned from 6 April 2005 will increase each year in line with the Consumer Prices Index to a maximum of **2.5%** each year.

Contracted-out members only

If you were contracted-out of the additional State Pension before 6 April 1997, while a member of the Leonard Cheshire Disability Group Pension Scheme, you accrued a Guaranteed Minimum Pension (GMP). The GMP part of your pension will increase in line with inflation to a maximum of **3%** each year.

The rest of your pension will continue to increase as described above.

What if I am ill?

If you are in ill-health now, or become ill in the future and you are unable to work, you could apply for an ill-health pension.

Please note: payment of your pension on these grounds would be subject to medical evidence. Please contact us for further information.

What will happen to my pension when I die?

Survivor's pension

- A pension is payable to your survivor for the rest of their life. This pension is **50%** of the value of the pension you would have received, or are already receiving, at the date of your death.
- The survivor's pension is generally paid to your spouse or partner. If your nomination is not your spouse or partner and you wish to check if they are eligible, please contact us.

Lump sum

- If you die before taking your benefits, a lump sum equal to the contributions you paid into the Scheme, plus interest, is payable.
- If you die within five years of taking your pension, the pension payments for the rest of those five years will be paid as a lump sum.
- You can nominate one or more people or organisations to receive the lump sum.
- The lump sum death benefits are payable at the discretion of the Trustee. Under current legislation, this means that they do not form part of your estate for inheritance tax purposes. You can help the Trustee by completing a Nomination Form, detailing the beneficiaries you would like to be considered.

What about additional voluntary contributions (AVCs)?

If you have paid AVCs while a member of the Scheme, you will receive a statement of these benefits separate to your main scheme benefits.

Further details of your AVCs can be found by visiting your scheme page on the TPT website:

www.tpt.org.uk

Contact us

Our scheme specific contact details can be found at: www.tpt.org.uk/contact-us/members. For general enquiries, please contact us using the details below.