Notes for leavers

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Your preserved (deferred) pension

You're entitled to a preserved (also known as a deferred) pension, which is calculated at your date of leaving, based on your pensionable service and pensionable salary at that time.

Increases between date of leaving and pension payment date

Your preserved pension will be reviewed annually as set out in the Scheme Rules, normally in line with changes in the Retail Prices Index (RPI).

Pension payment date

Your pension is normally paid from age 60, but you can choose to defer payment up to age 75.

Your pension could be paid before age 60, if:

- You choose early retirement
- You're made redundant
- You're too unwell to work.

Early Retirement

You can choose to receive a pension, reduced for early payment, at any time from age 55.

Redundancy

Aged 40 – 45: If you were aged between 40 and 45 when you were made redundant, you can receive a reduced pension at any time from age 50. Your pension will be reduced by approximately 0.5% for each month your age at redundancy is less than age 45. If you were made redundant but don't take your pension until age 55, the pension reduction may be less favourable. If you have any questions about this, please contact the admin team at NGUKGasPension@howden-group.co.uk or on **0808 175 1336**.

Under age 40: If you were under age 40 when made redundant, your pension is payable from age 60, or from age 55 with a reduction for early payment.

Ill health

If you become permanently incapable of working due to ill health, you may apply to receive your pension immediately regardless of your age. Ill health pensions are not reduced for early payment. Payment is at the Trustees' discretion and you would need to satisfy the Trustees that your health condition meets the criteria for early payment under the Scheme Rules.

If you became terminally ill, with a life expectancy of less than 12 months, you could be given the option to surrender all of your ill health pension for a lump sum paid immediately. If this were the case, death benefits would still be paid. Please visit the website for more information on ill health retirement https://nguk.pensions.nationalgrid.com or contact the BW admin team for information on the process.

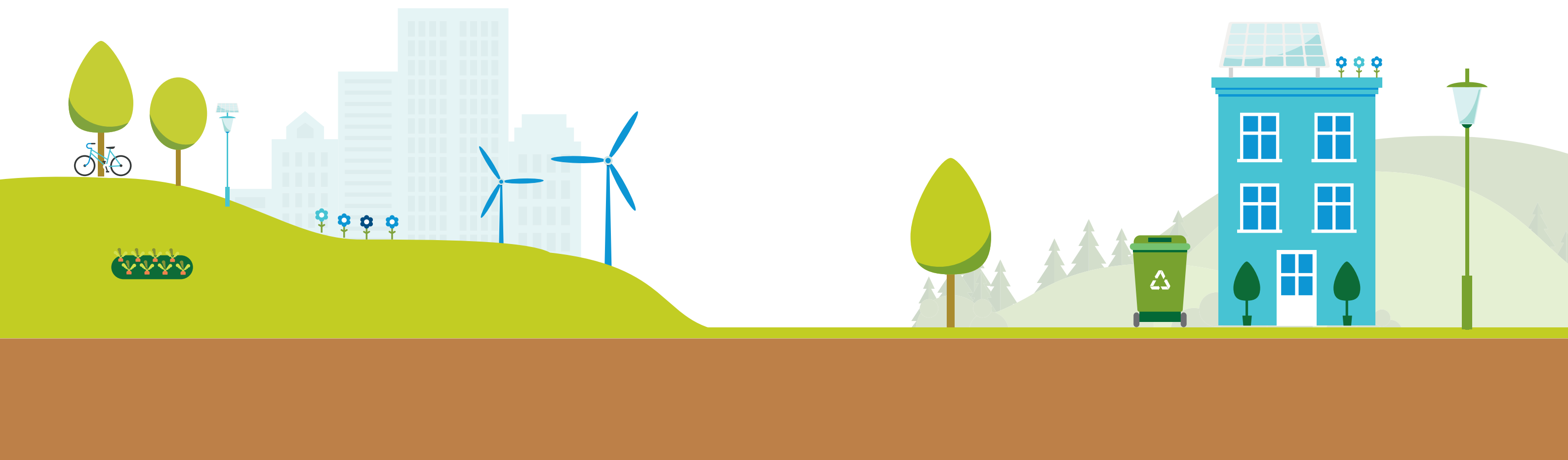
Lump sum retirement option

When your pension becomes payable you can exchange part of it for a tax-free lump sum. If you've been paying Money Purchase Additional Voluntary Contributions (MPAVCs), your MPAVC fund will be used first to provide all or part of your lump sum before giving up any pension.

Bridge the Gap

If your pension starts before State Pension age, (currently age 66 in the UK for men and women but rising to age 67 between 2026 and 2028 for those born on or after 6 April 1960), you may be able to 'Bridge the Gap' by receiving a temporary increase to your Scheme pension. This option isn't available under ill health retirement.

Taking this option would allow you to receive a larger pension from the Scheme up to the time you can start claiming your State pension, and a smaller one afterwards. There's a Bridge the Gap guide on the Scheme website that explains how this works https://nguk.pensions.nationalgrid.com/documents More information will be issued to you in the run up to your retirement.



Death benefits

Dependant's pension

A dependant's pension is payable from the date you die even if you die before your pension is paid and will automatically be paid to a spouse or civil partner.

If you don't have a spouse or civil partner, a pension may be paid to someone else subject to the Trustees' approval and as long as there was proven financial dependency or interdependency at the date of your death. This might be someone who relies on you for financial support such as a partner, a disabled child or a child with learning disabilities.

Dependant Nomination form

You can complete a Dependant Nomination form if you're not married and wish to nominate someone to receive the dependant's pension in the event of your death. Forms are available from the Scheme website at https://nguk.pensions.nationalgrid.com to complete and return to the BW admin team.

Children's pensions

Children's pensions are paid to each child under the age of 18 at the date of your death, provided they were born on or before the date you left employment. An additional amount may be paid under certain circumstances where both parents have died.

Lump sum death benefit

If you die before your pension start, a lump sum death benefit will be paid at the approval of the Trustees. The amount would be the higher of five times your annual deferred pension, or a refund of your own contributions, plus interest.

Contact us

If you have any queries about your pension, please contact the BW admin team.

Post: National Grid UK Pension Scheme
Pension Administration
Howden
Decimal Place
Chiltern Avenue
Amersham
HP6 5FG

Tel: **0808 175 1336** (Freephone number)
(+44) 1483 661 340 (International dialling)

Email: NGUKGasPension@howden-group.co.uk

Website: https://nguk.pensions.nationalgrid.com

Pension self-service: https://account.claritybw.co.uk
To view you pension figures, update your contact details and Expression of Wish form; you can also access My Retirement Planner.

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this leaflet. In the case of uncertainty or conflict between this information and the Trust Deed and Rules and current legislation, the Trust Deed and Rules and current legislation will apply.

Expression of Wish (also known as a 'Letter of Intent')

Any lump sum death benefit due will be paid by the Trustees. Under current tax legislation, the benefit doesn't form part of your estate potentially reducing any liability for inheritance tax. To help the Trustees decide who should receive this benefit, you can complete an Expression of Wish form. You can do this online at Clarity/ Pension self-service https://account.claritybw.co.uk

The death lump sum is payable while you are entitled to a deferred pension and for the first five years after payment of your Scheme pension starts. It's important to review and update your Expression of Wish form from time to time, especially if your personal circumstances change. You can change you nomination at any time and it's useful to update it every couple of years so that the Trustees can be confident it reflects your current wishes.

Alternatives to your deferred pension

Transfer of pension benefits

A pension transfer usually means giving up your retirement income for life in return for a cash value. There are pros and cons to doing this and generally you are required to take financial advice and gain approval before a transfer can take place. The steps of the transfer process and what's involved is set out on the Scheme website at https://nguk.pensions.nationalgrid.com

If you're interested in transferring and age 54 or over, please visit My Retirement Planner at https://account.claritybw.co.uk This explains the transfer process, your options and what's involved plus there's access to funded regulated financial advice for eligible members, should you need it. If you can't access My Retirement Planner, please contact the BW admin team to request a quote NGUKGasPension@howden-group.co.uk or on **0808 175 1336**.

Depending on your circumstances, legislation and the safeguarding checks now formally required by the Trustees, please be aware that it can take up to nine months for a pension transfer to complete.

Keep us updated

If you change your address or contact details please update the admin team immediately. You can do this online at Clarity/ Pensions self-service or by contacting the team.