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Cornwall Pension Fund Employer Newsletter - January 2026

Welcome to the January edition of our monthly newsletter.

In this issue, we begin with a reminder about the Funding Strategy Statement (FSS) consultation, there are only a few days left to share your feedback on the proposed approach. We also provide a reminder about our new Member Self Service portal, which has now replaced My Pension Online.

We are pleased to confirm the dates for our upcoming bi-annual employer meetings, we look forward to welcoming you to these events.

In addition, we have included some important information on strain costs and associated invoices. If you are interested in understanding this topic further, please reach out to your contacts at the Fund

Finally, we look at the processing of new starters within submissions and consider when it is appropriate to include them - helping to ensure accurate and timely pension records.

Thank you for taking the time to read, and we hope you find this edition useful and informative.

Read more here

Kind regards,

Daniel Pattingale



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(please note this only applies where there is a separate role, not if additional responsibilities are added to the existing role)

- The member has been re-enrolled from opt-out status due to your auto-enrolment exercise, or the member has opted-in by choice

If there is a break in service between contracts (e.g., one role ends on 01 Jan and the next does not begin until 15 Jan), this should be processed as leaver and a new starter. This is different from a service break that occurs within an existing contract.

If you are unsure how to identify or correct new starter issues, or if you have any questions about service breaks, please contact the Employer Data team on EmployerData@cornwall.gov.uk for support.

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Employer Newsletter

January 2026



REMINDER | Funding Strategy Statement

We have released the preliminary draft of The Funding Strategy Statement (FSS) of the Cornwall Pension Fund. The FSS explains the funding objectives of the Fund. This includes:

- how the costs of the benefits provided under LGPS are met through the Fund
- the objectives in setting employer contribution rates
- the funding strategy that is adopted to meet those objectives.

The FSS is reviewed in detail every three years as part of the triennial valuation process.

Cornwall Council, as the Administering Authority of the Cornwall Pension Fund, now wishes to consult with all the participating employers of the Fund, details of the consultation were sent to all employers on the **15 December 2025**.

We would be grateful to receive any questions, comments or objections on the proposed FSS by 5pm on the **31 January 2026**.

Please access the [Valuation engagement portal](#) to provide your response on the FSS consultation.

If you wish to discuss this further, then please do not hesitate to contact our Finance, Governance & Valuation Manager at melissa.kelly@cornwall.gov.uk.

REMINDER | My Pension Online has been upgraded

Last month, we launched our new **Member Self-Service portal**, designed to give members easier access to their pension information. All members will need to register for this updated system.

- **For members who already have a My Pension Online account:** The process is quick and simple. They just need to click '**Create an account**', use the same email address linked to their existing MPO account, and confirm their email when prompted. This ensures a smooth transition.
- **New to the Fund:** Registration is simple—just click '**Create an account**' and follow the on-screen instructions.

Please encourage members to register as soon as possible so they can manage their pension details easily and securely. For more details, visit our dedicated [Member Self-Service webpage](#).

Employer meetings – March 2026

We are pleased to invite you to our upcoming bi-annual employer meetings this March. These sessions are a great opportunity to stay informed, ask questions, and share feedback.

Meeting details:

- **Dates:**
 - Thursday 5 March 2026, 10:00am - 11:00am

- Monday 9 March 2026, 10:00am - 11:00am
- Tuesday 10 March 2026, 1:00pm - 2:00pm
- **Duration:** 1 hour
- **Location:** Online via MS Teams
- **Cost:** Free of charge

To book your place, please contact Daniel Pattingale at Daniel.pattingale@cornwall.gov.uk. If there are any specific topics you would like us to cover, please let us know when reserving your spot.

Strain cost invoices

Cases of redundancy, efficiency, and flexible retirement can sometimes result in a pension strain cost for the employer. If you are considering any of these scenarios, we recommend contacting your Employer Data Officer to obtain a strain cost quote. While these costs are agreed and authorised by you at the point the member leaves employment, the Fund cannot issue an invoice until the member has returned their retirement forms, and their pension is in payment. Consequently, invoices may be delayed. We actively follow up with members; however, months are typically due to the member not responding to the Fund.

We will send a notification email to any employers whom we are aware have an outstanding strain cost payment shortly with an update.

New starters

Before creating a new starter record, please ensure it is appropriate to do so. Incorrectly setting up a new starter can place additional burden on both the Fund and your organisation.

When a new starter is created, the Fund issues a starter pack to the member, which includes a transfer window allowing them to bring benefits into the Fund. This can increase employer liabilities and may affect your contribution rates at the next valuation cycle.

Any extra work required to correct an affected member's record will be recharged to the employer.

Common issues we see include:

- **Contract changes** (e.g., part-time to full-time)
 - When a member's hours change, including moves from a casual role into a permanent role, this does not require closing the existing record and opening a new one.
- **Pay changes**
 - As with the above, a change in a member's pay does not require a record to be closed and restarted.
- **Change of role within the same organisation**
 - Even when a member changes roles but remains within the same organisation, e.g., due to a promotion, a single record can be maintained.

We would expect a new starter to be set up in the following scenarios:

- A member is new to your organisation
- A member meets the criteria for auto-enrolment
- A member is starting a new concurrent role within your organisation, e.g., they hold an existing Teaching Assistant role and will undertake an additional a Breakfast Club role