

Employer Newsletter

May 2026



Employer Survey Highlights

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete our survey. Your feedback is invaluable and will help shape our training plan for the next 12 months. We are pleased to share some key highlights from the responses below.

- **Overall satisfaction:** 80% of respondents rated our service 8 out of 10 or higher.
- **Digital engagement:** All respondents use our website; however, only 70% are aware of the training resources available online.
- **Preferred learning method:** Live training sessions are the most popular format.
- **Process feedback:** Responses to the APP process were mixed, though employers generally demonstrated a stronger understanding of how to calculate final pay.
- **Key areas for improvement:**
 - Identify ways to reduce the time required for i-Connect submissions
 - Offer additional support for users submitting online returns
 - Improve employer understanding of APP and related processes
 - Develop a 'TUPE pack' to support all parties involved during a merger

If you were unable to complete the survey but would still like to provide feedback or suggest future training sessions, please contact Daniel Pattingale at Daniel.Pattingale@cornwall.gov.uk

Annual Roadshow

The Fund will be hosting our annual roadshow from June to September, providing members with the opportunity to meet a representative of the team in person. These events offer a valuable chance to:

- Discuss any questions regarding your Annual Benefit Statement
- Receive support with using Member Self-Service
- Ask about any aspect of your Pension Fund membership

Members are welcome to drop in at any time during the event.

Each event will run from **9am – 5pm**

Locations and Dates:

- 03 June 2026** - Liskeard Library, Barras St, Liskeard, PL14 6AB
- 25 June 2026** - Truro Community Library, Union Pl, Truro, TR1 1EP
- 07 July 2026** - Chi Austell, 52 Aylmer Square, Saint Austell, PL25 5LJ
- 20 July 2026** - Corn Exchange Guildhall, Church St, Helston TR13 8SZ
- 05 August 2026** - Redruth Civic Centre, Alma Place, Redruth, TR15 2AT
- 18 August 2026** - Chy Trevail, Dunmere Rd, Bodmin, PL31 2FR
- 01 September 2026** - Acorn Theatre, Parade St, Penzance, TR18 4BU
- 23 September 2026** - CSpace, The Crescent, Newquay TR7 1DT

We encourage you to check the 'News' section of our website regularly for the latest updates on dates, times, and any additional locations.

Please can this be shared with members inside your organisation

Access & Fairness Update - Qualifying Additional Pension Arrangements (QAPA) Calculator

On 5 May 2026, we contacted employers with an update on Access & Fairness, including the provision of a calculator to support cases where a member becomes eligible for a Qualifying Additional Pension Arrangement (QAPA). The calculator includes guidance on when and how it should be used, along with instructions on what action to take once it has been completed.

If you are unfamiliar with QAPA or require further information on Access & Fairness, we strongly recommend reviewing the [LGA Access & Fairness bulletin](#). These changes may have a direct impact on how LGPS benefits are administered within your organisation, particularly in relation to absences.

If you did not receive our original communication and would like a copy, please contact Daniel Pattingale at Daniel.pattingale@cornwall.gov.uk.

Employer Contribution Rates

Following the recent revaluation, **new employer contribution rates came into effect from 1 April 2026**.

You can view your updated rate in the latest valuation report on our website: <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/jobs-and-careers/cornwall-pension-fund/investments/valuation-reports> (see the table on pages 36-44)

We are aware that some employers did not apply the updated rate in their April submission. If that applies to you, please ensure:

- The correct rate is applied to your May data, and
- A correction is made for any difference in April's data

If you use a payroll provider, please ensure they have been informed of your new contribution rate.

Many employers have both a **primary and secondary rate** (which may be negative and reduce the overall rate). The combined overall rate should be used when calculating member contributions. However, when completing the **contribution schedule** for Investments, primary and secondary contributions must be **calculated and reported separately**.

If you have any questions about completing the schedule, please contact pensioninvestments@cornwall.gov.uk

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Contact:



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Employer Update

SCAPE Rate Change



Last week the Minister for Pensions announced a change to a key financial assumption used in public service pensions, known as the SCAPE discount rate.

The new SCAPE discount rate is CPI plus 2%. This is a change from CPI plus 1.7%.

What does this mean for members?

This change affects the actuarial factors we use for certain calculations. This means that some benefit figures, including retirement quotes, may change before they are finalised and put into payment.

Members will be made aware that figures provided before the new factors are implemented may differ slightly from the final amounts put into payment, and they should take this into account when they are making decisions about their LGPS benefits. This will be communicated to them as part of the retirement process.

In addition, based on national guidance, we are temporarily suspending some calculations until updated factors are issued. This includes:

- Some transfer calculations
- All Cash Equivalent Values (CEVs) for divorce purposes

This will be communicated to affected members.

What does this mean for employers?

Your employer contribution rates are set locally and are not affected by this change.

Flexible retirement cases may be affected. If the new actuarial factors are published before a member retires, then the strain costs will be recalculated accordingly.

Where benefits are not reduced (i.e. in the case of redundancy), early retirement strain costs are not affected by this change.

What is the SCAPE discount rate?

The SCAPE discount rate is a government-set assumption used to place a current value on pension benefits that will be paid in the future. It helps convert long-term pension promises into a “today’s cost” figure so that contributions can be assessed fairly.

How does this tie-in with the Cornwall Pension Fund Triennial Valuation?

The Fund’s valuation uses our actuary’s own assumptions (such as investment returns, inflation and longevity) to set employer contribution rates. The SCAPE rate is not used in these calculations, so your current contribution rates are unaffected. However, it can influence the wider pension environment over time.

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