



Gwent Grapevine

For Pensioner Members of the Greater Gwent (Torfaen) Pension Fund

Winter 2023

Welcome from the Pensions Manager

On behalf of myself and the Pension Section, I would like to welcome you to your Winter 2023 edition of the Gwent Grapevine, our newsletter for pensioner members of the Greater Gwent (Torfaen) Pension Fund.

Highlights of this edition include:

- Information on how to sign up for My Pension Online
- Important information on the McCloud judgement

If you can think of any improvements to the service that we offer you, that you would like to see, we would welcome your feedback. Our phone number, email address and postal address are available on the last page of your Gwent Grapevine.

I hope you find it both informative and interesting.

Best Wishes

Jo Griffiths



Pay Day - December 2023

Your pension will be paid on

Friday 29th

December 2023

Pensions Increase from 8th April 2024

The Consumer Price Index in September 2023 was 6.7% and your pension will therefore increase by 6.7% on Monday 8th April 2024.

If you have been paid your pension for less than 12 months you may receive a proportion of the increase.

Payslips

We will post a payslip to you in April and May 2024 so that you can see how much your own pension has gone up by. We only post a payslip to you at any other time when the amount of pension we are paying you in that month changes by £5 or more.

Your P60 for 2023/24

We will also send you a P60 with your April 2024 payslip. This is your **official record** of the pension we have paid to you during the year, and any tax you have paid on it.

If you are signed up to use My Pension online you are able to print off your own payslips and P60s and remember we send a payslip to your My Pension Online account every month.

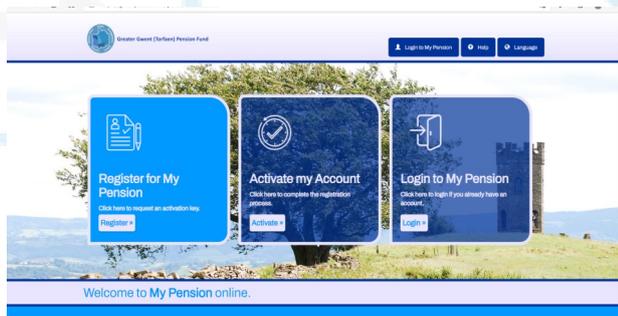
See the article on registering for My Pension Online.....

Register for My Pension Online

Go to our website www.gwentpensionfund.co.uk and click on the My Pension Online link at the top of our home page. If you are on a mobile device click on the “ ≡ ” and select My Pension Online

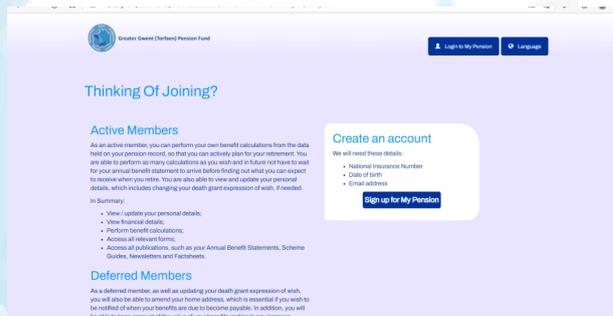
Step 1

Click on **Register for My Pension**



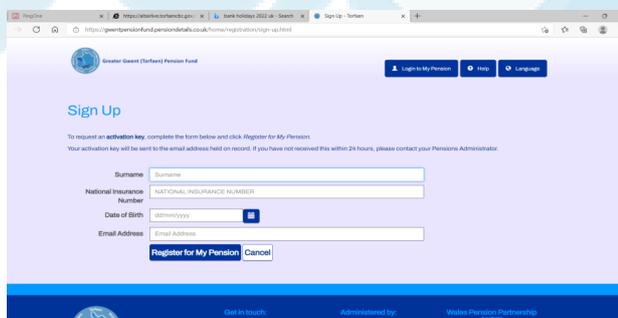
Step 2

Click on **Sign up for My Pension**



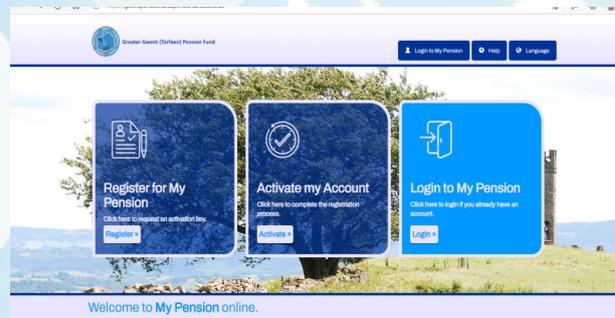
Step 3

Type in your **Surname, National Insurance Number, Date of Birth** and **Email Address** and click on **Register for My Pension**



Step 4

Click on the link in the activation email we send you or go to the My Pension Online page and click on the **Activate your account** button if we send your activation key in the post



- If the email address we have on our records is exactly the same as the one you used to register then you will receive an email from us with a link that you click on to complete your registration. **NB Please check your junk folder in case the email is sent there.**
- If we do not hold an email address on our records for you or you used a different email address to register to the one we have on our records, we will send you an activation key to complete the registration. This will be sent in the post and you should receive it within 3 - 5

days. Choose 'Activate my Account' once you have received it.

- When you activate your account the system will ask you to setup a username, password and 2 security questions once you are done you will be ready to 'Login to My Pension'

If you have any issues registering or logging in to My Pension Online. You can speak to our systems team on 01495 742299 or email them at mypensiononline@torfaen.gov.uk

McCloud Judgement and Remedy

What is McCloud?

When the Government reformed public service pension schemes in 2014 and 2015, older members were protected from the changes. In December 2018, the Courts ruled that younger members of the judges' and firefighters' pension schemes had been discriminated against because the protections did not apply to them.

This ruling is called the McCloud judgment after a member of the judges' pension scheme involved in the case.

The rules of all public service pension schemes, including the LGPS, changed from 1 October 2023 because of the ruling. The changes are known as the McCloud remedy and they remove the age discrimination found in the McCloud judgment.

In the LGPS, older members were protected by the underpin. When a protected member retired, their pension in the career average scheme was compared with the pension they would have built up in the final salary scheme. If the final salary pension would have been higher, their pension increased.

From 1 October 2023, eligible younger members are also protected by the underpin. Not all LGPS members are eligible for protection. The underpin will protect the pensions of eligible members that they built up in the remedy period. The remedy period is from 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2022. Underpin protection stopped earlier if you left the LGPS or reached your final salary normal pension age before 31 March 2022.

The McCloud Remedy does not apply to Councillor Members of the LGPS.

What will happen?

You do not need to take any action. We will work out if you are protected. If you are, when you take your pension, we will work out if it will increase because of the underpin. Any increase is known as a 'final guarantee amount'.

Not many members will get a final guarantee amount because, for most members, the pension they built up in the career average scheme is higher than they would have built up in the final salary scheme.

If you are protected and your LGPS pension is already being paid to you, we will work out if your pension will increase. We will do this as soon as we can, but reviewing all pensions in payment will take some time.

You do not need to contact us. Please be assured that we will contact anyone whose pension in payment will increase because of the McCloud remedy. We will only write to you if the new rules mean that your pension will increase.

Find out more

You can find out more about the remedy by reading the factsheet on our website at www.gwentpensionfund.co.uk/forms-and-publications/mccloud-lgps-factsheet-5-page/

AND

The McCloud pages of the national LGPS member website (England and Wales): www.lgpsmember.org/mccloud-remedy/

Keeping in Touch

Even easier to do if you register for My Pension Online....

Keep your email address up to date



If you prefer us to contact you by email we are always happy to do so.

It is really important though that you make sure you keep your email address up-to-date. If you change your email address make sure you let us know so we can still contact you or use your My Pension Online account to update your email address. We will always try to contact you by email first.

Moving Home?

We do our best to make sure we don't lose touch with our pensioners. We know that moving home is a busy time for anyone it is no surprise that sometimes people forget to tell us that they have moved.

So remember to put us on your 'To Do List' to tell us your new address either by updating your My Pension Online Account, email, letter or phone. Our contact details are on the Pension Pay Days 2024 Calendar.

If we send letters to a pensioner member and they come back to us marked as 'Not At This Address' or 'Return to Sender' then we will have to suspend the pension payments until we hear from you.

We do this to protect you and make sure



your confidential information is not sent to the wrong address putting you at risk of identify theft.

Sudoku Solution for the Pensioner Puzzler

6	5	4	9	8	7	2	1	3
9	8	3	1	5	2	4	6	7
1	7	2	3	4	6	9	5	8
5	4	6	8	3	9	1	7	2
2	1	7	4	6	5	8	3	9
8	3	9	2	7	1	5	4	6
4	2	5	6	9	3	7	8	1
3	9	8	7	1	4	6	2	5
7	6	1	5	2	8	3	9	4

Changing your Bank Details

You can easily change your Bank Account details by logging into your My Pension Online account. The facility is all there for you.

You can still change your details by filling in a form if you prefer and this can be found on our website under the **Forms and Publications** section or tell us if you want one sent in the post.

We can only pay your pension into an account in your name or a joint account with your name on it. If you do change the name on your account you should also let us know to make sure there are no problems when paying your pension.

Please be aware that changes made after we run our pensioner payroll will not take effect until the following month. We will always tell you if the change will not take effect until your next pension payment.

Tell Us Once

We participate in the “Tell Us Once” service that is offered when a bereavement is registered. You can find out more about this service at:

<https://www.gov.uk/after-a-death/organisations-you-need-to-contact-and-tell-us-once>

Keeping track of all your pensions

You may have built up pension savings with another employer. Make sure you keep in touch with them so they can pay your pension when it's due. If you've lost track of previous pensions, the Pensions Tracing Service can help.

Visit www.gov.uk/find-pension-contact-details or phone 0800 731 0193

Queries for Tax Codes

HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) tell us how much

tax to take from your pension through your tax code. We're unable to change your tax code unless we've been instructed to do so by HMRC. If you want to ask about your tax code or tax liability, please write to:

Pay As You Earn and Self Assessment
HM Revenue and Customs
BX9 1AS
United Kingdom

Or call: 0300 200 3300

You will need to quote your National Insurance number and quote the PAYE Reference 948/T440N



Life Certification Checks for Overseas Pensioners



From time to time it is necessary for The Greater Gwent (Torfaen) Pension Fund to verify that our records for Overseas

Pensioners are in order and to ensure pension payments should continue to be made. The Life Certification process ensures that our records are correct, acts as an anti-fraud exercise and safeguards The Greater Gwent (Torfaen) Pension Fund's assets.

The annual Life Certification process has been carried out this year in partnership with Convera formerly Western Union as we have in previous years.

A big thank you to those of you who have already completed the process for this year. If you have not yet received your letter from Convera you should contact us and let us know

Telling us you are moving overseas

If you move overseas we know it will be a busy time for you with lots to do!! However, to make sure your pension payments are not affected it is really important that you tell us if you are moving overseas.

Use your My Pension Online account to change your address or we can take your new address by telephone or email. If you need to change your pension payments to an overseas bank account use your My Pension Online contact page to get in touch and we will send you an Overseas Bank Account Form so we can set this up for you

National Fraud Initiative (NFI)

The Greater Gwent (Torfaen) Pension Fund has a duty to protect the public funds we administer. The NFI involves sharing information with other bodies responsible for auditing or administering public funds, in order to prevent fraud.

NFI operates under the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 by matching data across public sector organisations, to prevent and detect fraud.

We are required to provide information to the Wales Audit Office for data matching.

NFI operates under the '**Code of Data Matching Practice**'. You can read more information about data matching, and the Code, on the Wales Audit Office website at: <https://www.audit.wales/our-work/national-fraud-initiative>

Cyber Security

Cyber Security is the activity of protecting our devices such as smartphones, laptops, computers and computer networks from being affected by cybercrime and criminals.

This has become more important to us as a society with more reliance on devices and the internet for us to carry out day to day activities from online banking and shopping to email and social media.

It is important for us all to take the right steps and actions to secure our data and devices from being stolen or damaged by criminals.

Using Passwords - an effective way of staying in control of your data.

Stay Strong & Make it Memorable – Make your password strong, avoid using common passwords and make it easy to remember for you but difficult for others to

guess.

Keep it Safe – Use a password manager app to create strong passwords and to keep them safe.

The **National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC)** suggests using the website www.haveibeenpwned.com to see if your information has ever been made public as part of a data breach.

What is phishing?

Phishing is when criminals contact individuals by email, phone or text message posing as a legitimate company to 'con' you into revealing your personal information to them. They attempt to make emails look genuine and even clone genuine websites to gain your confidence.



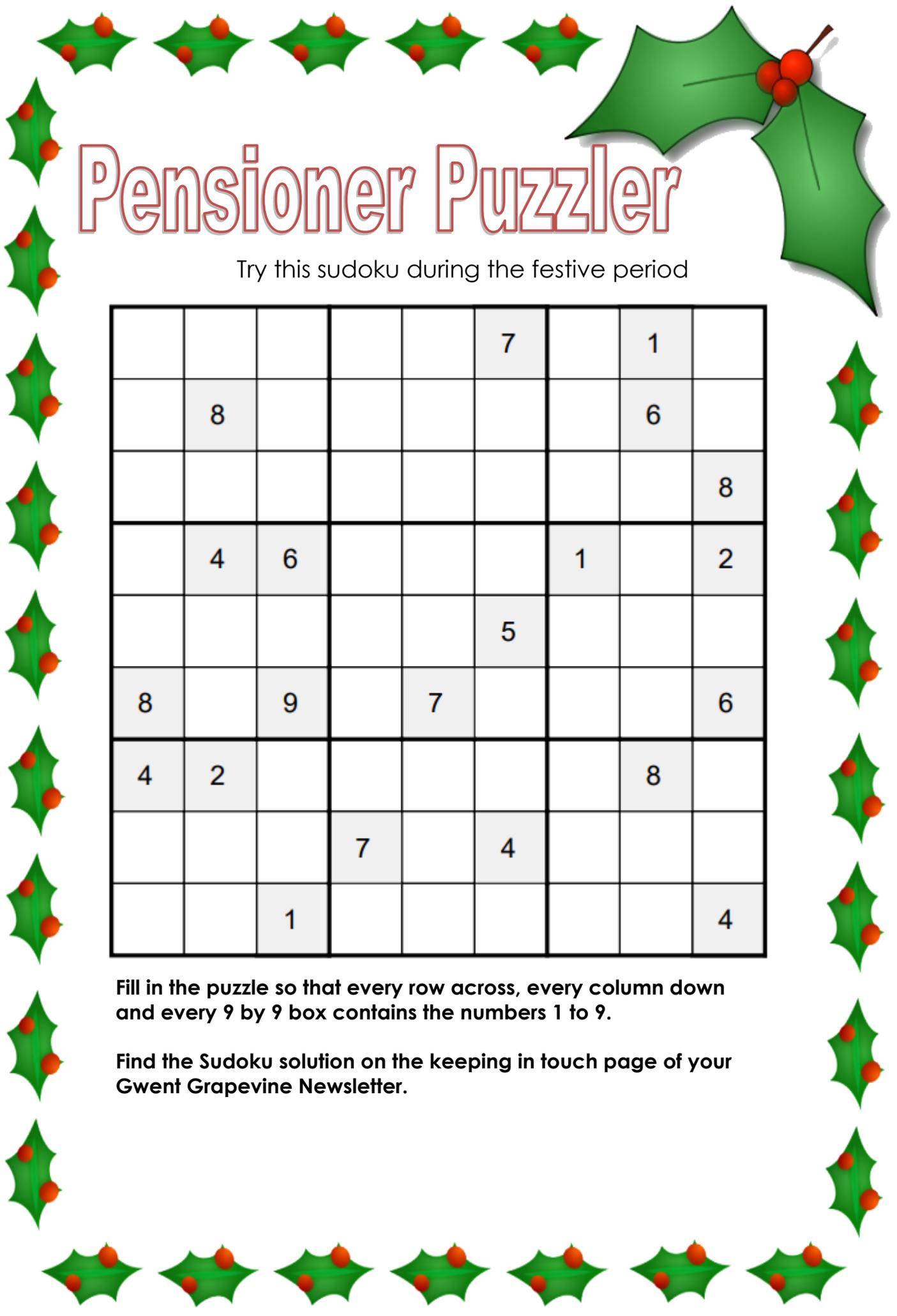
If you think you have been targeted you can visit the NCSC website www.ncsc.gov.uk/collection/phishing-scams to find out more about what to do.

Forward It...Report It!

If you receive a suspicious email, you should forward it to report@phishing.gov.uk.

For text messages and telephone calls, forward the information to 7726 (free of charge). For items via post, contact the business concerned.

If you have lost money you should report this as a crime to Action Fraud. You can visit www.actionfraud.police.uk to do this.



Pensioner Puzzler

Try this sudoku during the festive period

					7		1	
	8						6	
								8
	4	6				1		2
					5			
8		9		7				6
4	2						8	
			7		4			
		1						4

Fill in the puzzle so that every row across, every column down and every 9 by 9 box contains the numbers 1 to 9.

Find the Sudoku solution on the keeping in touch page of your Gwent Grapevine Newsletter.



Greater Gwent (Torfaen) Pension Fund 2024 Pension Pay Days

January						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

February						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

March						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

April						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

May						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

June						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

July						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

August						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

September						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

October						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

November						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

December						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Your pension pay day is the last working day of the month, highlighted in yellow on the calendar

Greater Gwent (Torfaen) Pension Fund, Civic Centre, Pontypool Torfaen, NP4 6YB

01633 647799

pensions.payroll@torfaen.gov.uk

My Pension Online Sign Up Now!



www.gwentpensionfund.co.uk

Pay As You Earn and Self Assessment HM Revenue and Customs BX9 1AS

PAYE Reference 948/T440N

0300 2003300