The Methodist Homes For The Aged Final Salary Scheme

Useful Information

About the Scheme

The Methodist Homes For The Aged Final Salary Scheme (the Scheme) is a defined benefit (DB) pension scheme. It is not open to new entrants.

How are my benefits calculated?

Your pension is based on the amount of time you have been in the Scheme (service) (up to 31 March 2010) and your best year's salary in the last three years of working before you leave or retire.

Your benefits will continue to be linked to your pensionable salary until you leave MHA's employment or retire, unless the usual method of revaluing deferred pensions results in a higher figure.

In the time between leaving the Scheme and commencing your pension, if you joined the Scheme before 1 November 1998 your pension built up before 1 January 2000 will increase each year by **5%** each year. All other benefits will increase each year in line with the Retail Prices Index to a maximum of **5%** each year.

When can I retire?

The Scheme's Normal Retirement Age is 65.

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

If you joined before 1 October 1987, there is no reduction to benefits if taken between 60 and 65.

If you are a Care staff member who joined between 1 October 1987 and 30 June 1988, there is no reduction to benefits if taken between 63 and 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 age 55, you must have left the employment of MHA.

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?

If you joined the Scheme before 1 November 1998, any pension earned before 1 January 2000 will increase each year by **5%**. All other pension earned before 6 April 2005 will increase each year in line with the Consumer Prices Index to a maximum of **5%** each year. Pension earned after 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, whilst you were a member of the Methodist Homes for the Aged Final Salary Scheme, you will have 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 remainder of your pension will continue to increase as described above.

What if I am ill?

If you are in ill-health now, or become so 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?

Survivors 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 would generally be 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, would be payable.
- If you die within five years of taking your pension, the pension payments for the remainder of those five years would be paid as a lump sum.
- You can nominate one or more person or organisation for 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 whilst 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.co.uk**

Contact us

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

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