

# MY PENSION IF I DIE

APRIL 2024

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Defined Benefit Scheme (DBS)

Church Workers Pension Fund

 THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

PENSIONS BOARD

## Contents

**3**

**My pension at a glance**

**4**

**If I die before taking my pension**

Spouse or civil partner's pension

Life cover

Nomination form

Inheritance tax

**5**

**If I die after taking my pension**

Spouse or civil partner's pension

What happens to my pension if I transfer out?

**6**

**Disputes and complaints**

**7**

**Contact us**

## My pension at a glance

This is one of four booklets that explain the Defined Benefit Scheme (DBS). DBS is a traditional defined benefit, final salary pension scheme.

<p><b>My membership</b></p>	<p>Although the DBS is usually closed to new members, your employer would have enrolled you either when you first started employment, or shortly after.</p> <p>Your employer decides whether you must contribute, and how much.</p>
<p><b>My retirement</b></p>	<p>When you retire, we will pay you a pension for life, in monthly instalments minus PAYE tax.</p> <p>You do not have to take a pension from us, there are choices you can make to suit your retirement needs.</p>
<p><b>My pension if I leave</b></p>	<p>If you leave after 2 years, we will keep your pension with us and increase it before you retire. You can transfer your pension.</p> <p>If you leave within two years, you can transfer your pension to another provider or you can choose a refund of any contributions you paid, less tax.</p>
<p><b>My pension if I die</b></p>	<p>If you die before you retire, we will pay half your pension to your spouse or civil partner.</p> <p>If you die while still an active member, we will also pay a tax-free lump sum of two times your salary.</p> <p>Your pension is guaranteed for five years. If you die within this time, we will pay the remaining amount as a lump sum to your beneficiaries.</p>

## If I die before taking my pension

### Spouse or civil partner's pension

If you die before you retire, we will pay a pension to your spouse or civil partner of half your pension. We will pay this to them for life.

If you have saved AVCs to buy extra pension, we will pay half of this to your spouse or civil partner. We may reduce this if the person is more than 10 years younger than you.

### Life cover

If you are in pensionable service, we will also pay a 'life cover' lump sum. This is usually two times your Pensionable Salary over the previous 12 months, but could be more. There is no need to provide evidence of health.

### Lump sum if you are deferred

If you have left the DBS, but not yet taken your pension, we will not pay a lump sum.

### Nominating beneficiaries

We aim to pay both lump sums to whoever you nominate. This could be family members, loved ones, or charities.

We have discretion over who receives the final amounts. We will always be guided by your wishes, but we may override this if we feel this is sensible, for example if your circumstances have changed and you did not update your nomination.

You can add your nomination on **PensionsOnline**. It is important to update your nomination if your circumstances change.

You can access **PensionsOnline** at:



[pensions.churchofengland.org](https://pensions.churchofengland.org)

Let us know if you need your registration code and we can send this to you.

### Inheritance tax

As we have discretion over who we pay these lump sums to, the amounts fall outside of inheritance tax.

## If I die after taking my pension

### Spouse or civil partner's pension

Your pension usually comes with a pension for your spouse or civil partner when you die. Whether your pension comes with this, and the amount we will pay depends on what your employer chose to provide.

If your pension does not automatically come with a spouse or civil partner's pension when you die, you can give up part of your pension when you retire to provide this. You can also give up part of your pension to increase the amount we'll pay. You need to choose this at the time you retire,

You can find out how much we will pay when you die in your Scheme Summary, or by asking us.

### 5 year guarantee period

Your pension comes with a 5 year guarantee. If you die within this time, we will pay the remaining payments as a lump sum.

### What happens to my pension if I transfer out?

If you choose to transfer your pension, when you come to retire what is paid to your beneficiaries or loved ones when you die depends on which retirement option you choose.

### What if I buy an annuity?

When you come to take your pension, you can exchange this for a guaranteed income for life, called an annuity.

You should check carefully what happens when you die before buying an annuity.

At the time you buy an annuity you will need to

decide what passes to your dependants when you die. You cannot decide this later in life.

You will have the option of a survivor's pension. This means your pension will continue to your husband, wife or civil partner after you die. You can pick the rate that it continues at.

You will also have the option of a guarantee period. If you die within this period, the remaining amount for that period is paid as a lump sum.

### What if I take my pension as cash?

If you cash in your pension, the money is in your control. What happens to it when you die depends on how much is left, and where it is, i.e. in your bank account or invested.

### What if I drawdown from my pension?

You can leave your money in your pension with another provider and take lump sums or income from it as and when you need, until your money runs out or you choose another option. You decide when and how much to take out.

If you die while drawing down, whatever is left will pass on to your dependants.

## Disputes and complaints

We make every effort to provide you with an efficient and effective service. However, if you are unhappy with our service, please contact us first and we will do our best to resolve your issue.

If you are still dissatisfied, you can contact us at:



**Chief Executive**  
**Church of England Pensions Board**  
**PO Box 2026**  
**Pershore**  
**WR10 9BW**

If we cannot resolve your issue to your satisfaction you can ask for a 'formal complaint form' under our internal dispute process. This will include the full details of our complaint process.

## Pensions Ombudsman

If you have a complaint or dispute concerning your workplace or personal pension arrangements, you can contact the Pensions Ombudsman.



**10 South Colonnade**  
**Canary Wharf**  
**London**  
**E14 4PU**



**0800 917 4487**



**[pensions-ombudsman.org.uk](mailto:pensions-ombudsman.org.uk)**

If you have general requests for information or guidance concerning your pension, head to the MoneyHelper website.



**[moneyhelper.org.uk](http://moneyhelper.org.uk)**

## Contact us

The Church of England Pensions Board is the trustee and administrator of DBS.

Our office is located at Church House, 29 Great Smith Street, SW1P 3PS.

You can also contact us at:



**Church of England Pensions Board**  
**PO Box 2026**  
**Pershore**  
**WR10 9BW**



**0207 898 1802**



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