



**Steel City**  
Schools Partnership

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION  
SCHEME REGULATIONS 2014**

**EMPLOYER DISCRETIONS  
POLICY STATEMENT**

# Discretions of the Employing Authority

COMPULSORY DISCRETIONS		
Main Purpose of Regulation	Regulation	Discretion Exercised
Funding of Additional Pension through a Shared Cost Additional Pension Contribution - Where an active Scheme member wishes to purchase extra annual pension up to the maximum by making Additional Pension Contributions (APCs), the employer may choose to (voluntarily) contribute towards the cost of purchasing that extra pension via a Shared Cost Additional Pension Contribution (SCAPC).	Regulation 16 (2)(e) and/or 16 (4)(d)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will voluntary contribute to the costs of purchasing extra pension via a Shared Cost Additional Pension Contribution (SCAPC) in exceptional circumstances where we consider it is in its financial or operational interests to do so. Each case to contribute to a SCAPC (and a decision on the amount to be contributed) will be considered on the merits of the financial and / or operational business case put forward.</li> <li>Will only voluntarily contribute towards the cost of purchasing extra pension via a Shared Cost Additional Pension Contribution (SCAPC) where an active scheme member returns from a period of authorised leave of absence, and the member does not, within 30 days of returning because the member had not been made aware of that deadline.</li> </ul>
Flexible Retirement - This regulation allows the employer to consent to the early release of all, or part, of a member's LGPS benefits provided they have also consented to the reduction of hours worked or grade in which the member is employed. The member must be aged 55 or over.	Flexible retirement, Regulation 30 (6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will not agree to flexible retirement except in circumstances where we consider it is in its financial or operational interests to do so. Each case will be considered on the merits of the financial and / or operational business case put forward. Will set out whether, in addition to any pre-1 April 2008 benefits, the member will be permitted, as part of the flexible retirement agreement, to take <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>all, some or none of their 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2014 benefits, and /or</li> <li>all, some or none of their post 31 March 2014 benefits.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Where flexible retirement is being considered, there must be a minimum permanent reduction in hours of, 40%, e.g. the equivalent of the hours for two working days</li> </ul>

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Waiving of actuarial reduction - This regulation allows the employer to consent to the early release of all, or part, of a member's LGPS benefits provided they have also consented to the reduction of hours worked or grade in which the member is employed. The member must be aged 55 or over.	Regulation 30 (8)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where members choose to voluntarily draw their benefits on or after age 55 and before Normal Pension Age we will not agree to waive in whole or in part any actuarial reduction that would otherwise be applied to their benefits except in circumstances where we consider it is in its financial or operational interests to do so or there are compelling compassionate reasons for doing so. Each case: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>will be considered on the merits of the financial and / or operational business case put forward, or</li> <li>will be considered on the merits of the compassionate case put forward, and</li> <li>will require the approval including, where the reduction is only to be waived in part, approval for the amount of reduction to be waived.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Switching on the 85-year rule for members voluntarily drawing benefits on or after age 55 and before age 60 - Whilst the 85-year rule does not automatically apply in full if the employee decides to voluntarily draw benefits on or after age 55 and before age 60, this regulation allows the employer to switch the rule back on.  If the employer switches on the 85-year rule they will pick up any strain on Fund cost.	Schedule 2 of the Transitional Regulations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will not agree to apply the 85-year rule where members choose to voluntarily draw their benefits on or after age 55 and before age 60 except in circumstances where we consider it is in its financial or operational interests to do so. Each case will be considered on the merits of the financial and / or operational business case put forward.</li> </ul>
The power of employing authority to award additional pension - this	Regulation 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will not make use of the discretion to grant extra annual pension to an active scheme member or, within 6 months of</li> </ul>

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Main Purpose of Regulation	Regulation	Discretion Exercised
regulation allows an employer to resolve to award a member an amount of additional pension, up to the LGPS maximum, to an active scheme member or within 6 months of leaving to a member whose employment was terminated on the grounds of redundancy or business efficiency.		leaving, to a member who is dismissed by reason of redundancy or business efficiency or whose employment is terminated by mutual consent on the grounds of business efficiency except in exceptional circumstances where we consider it is in its financial or operational interests to do so. Each case will be considered on the merits of the financial and / or operational business case put forward.

Date Revised	Date Approved	Summary of Changes	Author
26.09.2025		New policy	M Somerville