



## PRIVACY NOTICE

### **For the members and beneficiaries of the Merton Pension Fund**

This notice is for members and beneficiaries of the **Merton Pension Fund** (the “Fund”). It has been prepared by the London Borough of Merton (the “Administering Authority”, or “we”) in its capacity as the administering authority of the Fund.

When we administer the fund we are acting as the controller of your personal data and are responsible for it. We administer the Fund for you in conjunction with Wandsworth Borough Council, the Pensions Shared Service provider which acts as a joint controller in respect of your personal data. We share your personal data with Wandsworth Borough Council for the common purpose of administering the Fund and further details of how Wandsworth Borough Council will process your personal data can be found in its Privacy Notice here:

<https://pensionssharedservice.org.uk/gdpr-and-your-pension/> Your primary point of contact in relation to the Fund is Wandsworth Borough Council, however you also have the right to contact or raise requests with us (please see the contacts details provided at the end of this privacy notice).

This privacy notice is also provided at the following link:

<https://www.merton.gov.uk/legal/privacy-and-cookies/pension-privacy-notice>

### **Why we are providing this notice to you**

As the Administering Authority of the Fund we hold certain information about you (“personal data”) which we use to administer the Fund and to pay benefits from it. This notice is designed to give you information about the data we hold about you, how we use it, your rights in relation to it and the safeguards that are in place to protect it.

### **The technical bit**

The Administering Authority holds personal data about you in its capacity as data controller for the proper handling of all matters relating to the Fund, including its administration and management. This includes the need to process your data to contact you, to calculate, secure and pay your benefits, for statistical and financial modelling and for reference purposes (for example, when we assess how much money is needed to provide members’ benefits and how that money should be invested), and to manage liabilities and administer the Fund generally. Further information about how we use your personal data is provided below.

The legal basis for our use of your personal data will generally be one or more of the following:

- a) we need to process your personal data to satisfy our legal obligations as the Administering Authority of the Fund; and/or
- b) we need to process your personal data to carry out a task in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority in our capacity as a public body; and/or
- c) we need to process your personal data for the legitimate interests of administering and managing the Fund and liabilities under it, calculating, securing and paying benefits and performing our obligations and exercising any rights, duties and discretions the Administering Authority has in relation to the Fund; and/or
- d) because we need to process your personal data to meet our contractual obligations to you in relation to the Fund (for example, under an agreement that you will pay additional voluntary contributions to the Fund), or to take steps, at your request, before entering into a contract.

### **What personal data we hold, and how we obtain it**

The types of personal data we hold and process about you can include:

- Contact details, including name, address, telephone numbers and email address.
- Identifying details, including date of birth, national insurance number and employee and membership numbers.
- Information that is used to calculate and assess eligibility for benefits, for example, length of service or membership and salary information.
- Financial information relevant to the calculation or payment of benefits, for example, bank account and tax details.
- Information about your family, dependents or personal circumstances, for example, marital status and information relevant to the distribution and allocation of benefits payable on death.
- Information about your health, for example, to assess eligibility for benefits payable on ill health, or where your health is relevant to a claim for benefits following the death of a member of the Fund.
- Information about a criminal conviction if this has resulted in you owing money to your employer or the Fund and the employer or Fund may be reimbursed from your benefits.

We obtain some of this personal data directly from you. We may also obtain data (for example, salary information) from your current or past employer(s) or companies that succeeded them in business, from a member of the Fund (where you are or could be a beneficiary of the Fund as a consequence of that person's membership of the Fund) and from a variety of other sources including public databases (such as the Register of Births, Deaths and Marriages), our advisers and government or regulatory bodies, including those in the list of organisations that we may share your personal data with set out below.

Where we obtain information concerning certain "special categories" of particularly sensitive data, such as health information, extra protections apply under the data protection legislation. We will only process your personal data falling within one of the special categories with your consent, unless we can lawfully process this data for another reason permitted by that legislation. You have the right to withdraw your consent to the processing at any time by notifying the Administering Authority in writing. However, if you do not give consent, or subsequently withdraw it, the Administering Authority may not be able to process the relevant information to make decisions based on it, including decisions regarding the payment of your benefits.

Where you have provided us with personal data about other individuals, such as family members, dependants or potential beneficiaries under the Fund, please ensure that those individuals are aware of the information contained within this notice.

### **How we will use your personal data**

We will use this data to deal with all matters relating to the Fund, including its administration and management. This can include the processing of your personal data for all or any of the following purposes:

- to contact you.
- to assess eligibility for, calculate and provide you (and, if you are a member of the Fund, your beneficiaries upon your death) with benefits.
- to identify your potential or actual benefit options and, where relevant, implement those options.
- to allow alternative ways of delivering your benefits, for example, through the use of insurance products and transfers to or mergers with other pension arrangements.
- for statistical and financial modelling and reference purposes (for example, when we assess how much money is needed to provide members' benefits and how that money should be invested).
- to comply with our legal and regulatory obligations as the administering authority of the Fund.
- to address queries from members and other beneficiaries and to respond to any actual or potential disputes concerning the Fund.
- the management of the Fund's liabilities, including the entering into of insurance arrangements and selection of Fund investments.
- in connection with the sale, merger or corporate reorganisation of or transfer of a business by the employers that participate in the Fund and their group companies.

### **Organisations that we may share your personal data with**

From time to time we will share your personal data with advisers and service providers so that they can help us carry out our duties, rights and discretions in relation to the Fund. Some of those organisations will simply process your personal data on our behalf and in accordance with our instructions; they are referred to as processors. Other organisations will be responsible to you directly for their use of personal data that we share with them; they are referred to as controllers. The controllers may be obliged under the data protection legislation to provide you with additional information regarding the personal data they hold about you and how and why they process that data. Further information may be provided to you in a separate notice or may be obtained from the advisers and service providers direct, for example via their websites.

Whenever one of our advisers or service providers acts as a joint controller with us in respect of your personal data, because we jointly determine the purposes and means of processing it, we will agree with them how we are each going to meet our respective and collective obligations under the data protection legislation. The organisations that we may share your personal data with may include the following advisers and service providers:

<b>Processors</b>	<b>Controllers</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administrator – (currently London Borough of Merton)</li> <li>• Third party administrators – (currently Pensions Shared Services)</li> <li>• Accountants – (currently London Borough of Merton)</li> <li>• Communications adviser – (currently London Borough of Merton)</li> <li>• Tracing bureaus for mortality screening and locating members – (currently ATMOS)</li> <li>• Overseas payments provider to transmit payments to scheme member with non-UK accounts – (currently Western Union)</li> <li>• Printing companies and distribution services – (currently London Borough of Merton and Adare)</li> <li>• Pensions software provider – (currently Heywood Limited)</li> <li>• Suppliers of IT – (currently London Borough of Merton)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wandsworth Borough Council – (as the Pensions Shared Service)</li> <li>• Actuarial consultant – (currently Barnet Waddingham)</li> <li>• Scheme benefit consultant – (currently Barnet Waddingham)</li> <li>• Investment adviser – (currently JLT Employee Benefits)</li> <li>• Additional Voluntary Contribution providers – (currently M&amp;G Prudential)</li> <li>• Legal adviser – (currently South London Legal Partnership (SLLP))</li> <li>• Fund Actuary – (Currently Barnet Waddingham)</li> <li>• Statutory auditor – (currently Ernst and Young)</li> <li>• External auditor – (currently Mazars)</li> <li>• Internal auditor – (Currently South West London Audit Partnership (SWLAP))</li> <li>• Insurance companies in connection with ill health benefits – (currently Legal and General (L&amp;G))</li> <li>• LGPS National Insurance database – (South Yorkshire Pensions Authority)</li> <li>• Administering authorities of other LGPS funds (or their agents, such as third-party administrators) where you have been a member of another LGPS fund and the information is needed to determine the benefits to which you or your dependants are entitled</li> <li>• The Department for Work and Pensions</li> <li>• The Government Actuary's Department</li> <li>• The Cabinet Office – for the purposes of the National Fraud Initiative</li> <li>• HMRC</li> <li>• The Courts of England and Wales – for the purpose of processing pension sharing orders on divorce</li> </ul>

Where we make Fund investments or seek to provide benefits for members and beneficiaries in other ways, such as through the use of insurance, then we may also need to share personal data with providers of investments, insurers and other pension scheme operators.

From time to time we may provide some of your data to your employer and their relevant subsidiaries (and potential purchasers of their businesses) and advisers for the purposes of enabling those entities to understand the liabilities and obligations of the employer regarding the Fund. Your employer would generally be a controller of the personal data shared with it in those circumstances. For example, where your employment is engaged in providing services subject to an outsourcing arrangement, the Administering Authority may provide

information about your pension benefits to your employer and to potential bidders for that contract when it ends or is renewed.

Where requested or if we consider that it is reasonably required, we may also provide your data to government bodies and dispute resolution and law enforcement organisations, including those listed above, the Pensions Regulator, the Pensions Ombudsman and Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC). They may then use the data to carry out their functions.

The organisations referred to in the paragraphs above may use the personal data to perform their functions in relation to the Fund as well as for statistical and financial modelling (such as calculating expected average benefit costs and mortality rates) and planning, business administration and regulatory purposes. They may also pass the data to other third parties (for example, insurers may pass personal data to other insurance companies for the purpose of obtaining reinsurance), to the extent they consider the information is reasonably required for a legitimate purpose.

We do not use your personal data for marketing purposes and will not share this data with anyone for the purpose of marketing to you or any beneficiary.

### **Transferring information outside the UK**

In some cases recipients of your personal data may be outside the UK. As such, your personal data may be transferred outside the UK to a jurisdiction that may not offer an adequate level of protection as is required by the UK Government.

If this occurs, additional safeguards must be implemented with a view to protecting your personal data in accordance with applicable laws. Please use the contact details below if you want more information about the safeguards that are currently in place

### **How long we keep your personal data**

We will only keep your personal data for as long as we need to in order to fulfil the purpose(s) for which it was collected and for so long afterwards as we consider may be required to deal with any questions or complaints that we may receive about our administration of the Fund, unless we elect to retain your data for a longer period to comply with our legal and regulatory obligations. In practice, this means that your personal data will be retained for such period as you (or any beneficiary who receives benefits after your death) are entitled to benefits from the Fund and for a period of 15 years after those benefits stop being paid. For the same reason, your personal data may also need to be retained where you have received a transfer, or refund, from the Fund in respect of your benefit entitlement.

### **Your rights**

You have a right to access and obtain a copy of the personal data that the Administering Authority holds about you and to ask the Administering Authority to correct your personal data if there are any errors or it is out of date or incomplete. In certain circumstances you have the right to object to the processing of your personal data; for example, you have the right to object to processing of your personal data which is based on the public interest or legitimate interests identified in the section above headed "*The Technical Bit*", or where processing is for direct marketing purposes. In some cases you may also have a right to ask the Administering Authority to restrict the processing of your personal data until any errors are corrected, or to transfer or (in very limited circumstances) erase your personal data. You can obtain further information about these rights from the Information Commissioner's Office at: [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk) or via their telephone helpline (0303 123 1113).

If you wish to exercise any of these rights or have any queries or concerns regarding the processing of your personal data, please contact the Fund administrator as indicated below. You also have the right to lodge a complaint in relation to this privacy notice or the Administering Authority's processing activities with the Information Commissioner's Office which you can do through the website above or their telephone helpline.

As explained in the section above headed "*How we will use your personal data*", one of the reasons we collect and hold your personal data is to administer your Fund benefits. If you do not provide the information we request, or ask that the personal data we already hold is deleted or that the processing of the personal data be restricted, this may affect our ability to administer your benefits, including the payment of benefits from the Fund. In some cases it could mean the Administering Authority is unable to put your pension into payment or has to stop your pension (if already in payment).

## **Updates**

We may update this notice every three years or sooner if there are material changes to legislation. Where we do this, we will inform members of the changes and the date on which the changes take effect.

## **Contacting us**

Please contact the Fund administrator, Wandsworth Borough Council, for further information.

Pensions Shared Service  
PO Box 72351  
London  
SW18 9LQ  
[pensions@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:pensions@wandsworth.gov.uk)  
020 8871 8036

## **Data Protection Officer**

You may also contact our data protection officer Karin Lane. The contact details are: Email: [Karin.Lane@merton.gov.uk](mailto:Karin.Lane@merton.gov.uk) or Phone: 020 8545 4182 for further information.

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