

Expression of Wish Form for Lump Sum Death Grant

Under the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) a death grant may be payable for death in service, death after retirement or if you hold deferred benefits. The death grant is payable provided you are under age 75 at the date of death.

Who can I nominate to receive my death grant?

As a member of the Local Government Pension Scheme any death grant that may become payable from the scheme can be made to, or for the benefit of, your nominee.

If at the date of your death your beneficiary is a minor (i.e. under 18 years of age), Harrow Council will be unable to make payment of any death grant due direct to the minor.

Is there any advantage in nominating somebody?

The advantages of nominating any of your relatives or dependants to receive the death grant is that the payments can be made quickly without waiting for your estate to be settled. Also, a payment to a nominee usually means that no inheritance tax needs to be paid.

Are there any disadvantages?

No, although in order to avoid inheritance tax the administering authority has discretion over who receives the payment. This means that, in theory, we do not have to pay it to the named nominee. However, this only happens in very unusual circumstances. For example, a person may have nominated their parents many years ago when they were single but at the time of death was married with children. In these circumstances the administering authority might think it reasonable that the person had forgotten to update their nomination and might make the payments to the person's estate. **Remember, you are responsible for keeping the form up to date.**

How much will the death grant be?

A summary of the amount payable as a death grant are detailed below:

1. If you are an active member.
The death grant is three times your assumed pensionable salary at your date of death.
2. If you have a deferred pension.
 - a. If you left employment after 01/04/2008.
The death grant is five times the value of your deferred annual pension as at your date of death.
 - b. If you left employment before 01/04/2008.
The death grant is the value of your deferred retirement grant at the date of death.
3. If you are in receipt of a pension.
If you are already being paid a pension then the rules are a little more complex and a death grant will normally only be paid if you die within the first five years of retirement if your pension benefits commenced prior to 1st April 2008. If your pension benefits commenced after 1st April 2008, the death grant would be payable if you died within the first ten years of your retirement.

Can I change my nomination?

Your nomination can be changed at any time by completing a new form.

What if the person I have nominated dies before I do?

If the person due to receive payment dies then you will need to complete a new form to nominate a new beneficiary.

If you have listed more than one person and any one of them dies you will also need to complete a new form.

If you have nominated a spouse and you subsequently divorce, then the nomination will no longer stand. You will then need to nominate a new beneficiary.

What will happen to my death grant if I don't complete a nomination?

The Pension's Manager will be authorised to pay the death grant to the surviving spouse, son or daughter.

Where either:-

- a) a death grant nomination has not been made and the identified next of kin is neither a spouse, son nor daughter; **or**
- b) There is uncertainty as to the appropriateness of paying the death grant to the nominated beneficiary, surviving spouse, son or daughter,

The case will be referred to Elected Members for determination.

In cases submitted, Elected Members will consider all the facts known to the Council and either:-

- a) award the death grant to the most appropriate beneficiary; **or**
- b) determine that the death grant be paid to and distributed as part of the deceased employee's estate. The Probate Office will decide who is legally entitled to the estate and will issue Grant of Probate or Letters of Administration depending on whether you have written a will or not. This process can take time and as the death grant forms part of your estate it may be liable for inheritance tax. If you haven't written a will your estate might not be distributed in the way you would wish.

Planning for your future

You can still complete the death nomination form which will speed up the process and give the advantages already detailed.

I am paying additional voluntary contributions through the In-house scheme so that my death grant is increased. Does the nomination apply to this death grant as well?

Yes, the money due will also be paid in accordance with the death grant nomination. Any other accrued funds will also be included in the nomination.

What should I do now?

If you wish to nominate somebody then you should complete the attached form and return it to:

pension@harrow.gov.uk

Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) Harrow Council London

Expression of Wish Form for Lump Sum Death Benefit

Declaration

In the event of my death I wish the administering authority, Harrow Council, to make payment of any death grant (to which entitlement may arise by virtue of my membership of the Scheme) to the beneficiary(ies) listed below:

Please use CAPITAL LETTERS

Beneficiary 1

Name:

Relationship:

Address:

Proportion (%) of death grant:

Beneficiary 2

Name:

Relationship:

Address:

Proportion (%) of death grant:

Beneficiary 3

Name:

Relationship:

Address:

Proportion (%) of death grant:

If you wish to add any further additional beneficiaries please list on the back of this form.

(Please note that your expression of wish will only be valid if the proportions listed above total 100%)

I understand that this notice replaces any previous declarations and may be cancelled or varied, in writing, at any time. I understand that although Harrow Council will make their best effort to comply with my wishes, it has absolute discretion when making payment.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Full Name: _____

Home Address: _____

Post Code: _____

Email: _____

NI Number: _____