

Current scheme members – Guide to survivors' pensions

The scheme continues to provide cover for your family in the event of your death, with pensions for your dependants including spouses, civil partners, eligible cohabiting partners of either opposite or same sex, and eligible children. This is an on-going pension for the rest of your spouse's, civil partner's or eligible cohabiting partner's life and is payable immediately after your death.

From April 2014, a survivor's pension will automatically be payable to an eligible cohabiting partner without the need for the scheme member to have completed a form nominating them to receive a survivor's pension.

That said, many members still do prefer to notify the Pension Section of a partner and the section is happy to record this information.

For an eligible cohabiting partner's survivor's pension to be payable, all of the following conditions must have applied for a continuous period of at least 2 years on the date of your death:

- you and your cohabiting partner are, and have been, free to marry each other or enter into a civil partnership with each other, and
- you and your cohabiting partner have been living together as if you were husband and wife, or civil partners, and
- neither you or your cohabiting partner have been living with someone else as if you/they were husband and wife or civil partners, and
- either your cohabiting partner is, and has been, financially dependent on you or you are, and have been, financially interdependent on each other.

On your death, a survivor's pension would be paid to your cohabiting partner if:

- all of the above criteria apply at the date of your death, and
- your cohabiting partner satisfies your administering authority that the above conditions had been met for a continuous period of at least 2 years immediately prior to your death.

Important Note: Cohabiting partner pensions are not applicable in the event of the death of an elected/Councillor member