



Scottish Public
Pensions Agency
Buidheann Peinnseanan
Poblach na h-Alba

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30 January 2026

Dear Andy,

The Local Government Pension Scheme (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2026

As you are aware, SPPA recently consulted on amendments to the Local Government Pension Scheme (Scotland) Regulations 2018 (the 2018 regulations). I was grateful for the Scheme Advisory Board's response.

The main purpose of the proposed amendments is to align the Scottish LGPS with some of the proposed changes in the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) 'Access and Fairness' consultation that 2018 regulations have not previously addressed. The consultation also included proposed amendments to update the 2018 regulations to reflect changes to primary legislation on Neonatal Care Leave, deliver an approach to the gender pensions gap, and to remove age restrictions on death grant payments.

On considering the responses to our consultation, we have identified several technical changes that will need further legal consideration to ensure the regulations meet the policy intent. We are also mindful that MHCLG is yet to fully conclude on its "Access and Fairness" consultation, and has not finalised regulatory changes. You will also be aware that we intend to consult further on some proposed changes including those to the Normal Minimum Pension Age (NMPA), after the Scottish Parliament election in May 2026.

Whilst we have considered the option of proceeding with some of the amendments in the consultation draft regulations, on balance we have decided it would be sensible to proceed with the full suite of proposals in one instrument. We therefore anticipate a new parliamentary laying date for the amendments in summer 2026, rather than proceeding as originally anticipated before parliament dissolves in March.



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This will also provide sufficient time to finalise consistent policy positions and develop important supporting guidance. We will aim to complete our response to the 2025 consultation in February, and will inform you when this has been published, but I hope you find this information helpful in the meantime.

We will also inform administering authorities of the new timescales for legislation via the membership of the Scottish Pensions Liaison Group.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Iain Coltman', is written over a light grey rectangular background.

Iain Coltman
Head of Policy