

# NSPCC PENSION SCHEME

## SUMMARY FUNDING STATEMENT - 2023

We recommend you read this statement as it contains important information about your pension.

We are responsible for providing you with a summary funding statement from time to time to let you know about the scheme's financial security and the funding of the scheme. The information in this summary is based on the approximate assessment that was carried out as at 31 March 2023.

A full actuarial valuation is carried out at least every three years. The last full actuarial valuation was carried out with an effective date of 31 March 2021 and a summary funding statement was issued to you following its completion. In the years where a full valuation is not carried out, we are required to obtain an approximate assessment of the scheme's funding.

If you have any questions about the contents of this statement then please contact us at the address below.

### Trustees of the NSPCC Pension Scheme

c/o Mercer Limited  
Post Handling Centre  
Maclaren House  
Talbot Road  
Stretford  
Manchester  
M32 0FP

Please ensure that correspondence to Mercer is sent to the address above (and not to any other address which may appear on previous correspondence) quoting the reference "summary funding statement" along with your full name, National Insurance number and pension scheme name.

### HOW IS MY PENSION PAID FOR?

Your benefit entitlement under the scheme is calculated using a formula based on your earnings and length of active membership of the scheme. This calculation is carried out at your retirement or earlier date of leaving service and you are advised of the amount of your benefit at that time. Your pension does not come from a pot of money held in your name but comes from a larger pool of money put aside with the aim of meeting all of the scheme's future pension payments.

All contributions and investment income are held in this common fund and make up the scheme's assets. At 31 March 2023, the assets were invested with Mercer, Legal & General Investment Management, Insight and Schroders.

The assets were invested in the following proportions at 31 March 2023:

Liability Driven Investments	31%
Equities	13%
Diversified Growth (DGF)	19%
Property	8%
Alternatives	25%
Cash	4%

Further details of our investment strategy are given in the statement of investment principles, which is available at the following address:

<https://members.pensionpal.co.uk/NSPCCPENSIONS>

## HOW WELL FUNDED IS THE SCHEME?

The latest approximate assessment of the scheme showed that on 31 March 2023 the funding position was as follows:

<b>Assets</b>	£79.0m
<b>Amount needed to provide benefits earned to date (technical provisions)</b>	£102.3m
<b>Shortfall</b>	£23.3m
<b>Funding level</b>	77%

It should be noted that these figures have been calculated using the actuarial assumptions derived from the funding plan (statement of funding principles) agreed at the last full actuarial valuation. There is no requirement to update this funding plan between full valuations. Significant changes in circumstances might mean that, were a full actuarial valuation to be carried out now, different actuarial assumptions would be used that would show a significantly different position.

## CHANGE IN FUNDING POSITION

The funding level has worsened compared the last update on 31 March 2022, where the deficit was £6.7m, with a funding level of 95%, with the deficit now back to the same amount as the 31 March 2021 valuation. The main reasons behind the worsening of financial position/increase in deficit are worse than expected investment experience and higher than expected inflation. These were partially offset by increases in gilt yields, which have resulted in an decrease in the value of the past service liabilities, and contributions paid into the scheme.

## HOW WILL THE SHORTFALL BE MET?

The last full actuarial valuation also showed a shortfall of £23.3m and we have agreed

a recovery plan with the employer which aims to eliminate this shortfall by 30 September 2026. This is being achieved through payment of contributions of –

- £1,800,000 per annum payable monthly from 1 April 2022 till 30 September 2026; plus
- An additional lump sum of £11,400,000 which was paid in December 2021.

The contributions are coupled with the expectation that investment returns on the scheme's investments will partly remove the shortfall.

A recovery plan is usually only revised following each full actuarial valuation and so this recovery plan will remain in place until the next full actuarial valuation has been completed in spite of the recent increase in the shortfall. The recovery plan put in place following the next full actuarial valuation will reflect the amount of any shortfall at that time.

We have agreed a funding plan with the employer that aims to make sure there is enough money in the scheme to pay for pensions now and in the future. The amount of money that the employer pays into the scheme may go up or down following regular funding checks by the actuary (known as actuarial valuations), which are carried out at least every three years. Following each full actuarial valuation, we come to an agreement with the employer on future contributions, which allow for making good any shortfall over an agreed timescale. These matters are documented in the statement of funding principles, recovery plan and schedule of contributions. A copy of these documents is available on request.

We have not made any payments to the employer since the last summary funding statement was produced.

Under the provisions of the Pensions Act 2004, the Pensions Regulator has the authority to:

- Change the rate at which members earn benefits.
- Instruct a pension scheme on how to value members' benefits.
- Set a deadline for making good the shortfall.
- Set the future level of contributions.

Such a course of action is rare and has not occurred for this pension scheme.

### WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF THE SCHEME STARTED TO WIND UP?

Please be reassured that it is a legal requirement to provide this information and does not imply that the employer has any intention to wind up the scheme.

The valuation as at 31 March 2021 showed that the assets could not have paid for the full benefits of all members to be provided by an insurance company if the scheme had wound up at that date, with the funding level on this basis being 59%. The shortfall on this basis was £87m.

Please be reassured that providing this information does not imply that the employer has any intention to wind up the scheme.

If the scheme were to terminate, the law requires the employer to pay sufficient money to the trustees so that we can purchase the full benefits built up in the scheme with an insurance company. It may be, however, that the employer would not be able to pay this full amount. If the employer became insolvent, the Pension Protection Fund might be able to take over the scheme and pay compensation to members. Further information and guidance is available on the PPF website at [www.ppf.co.uk](http://www.ppf.co.uk).

Alternatively, you can write to the Pension Protection Fund by emailing: [information@ppf.co.uk](mailto:information@ppf.co.uk)

### THE IMPORTANCE OF THE EMPLOYER'S SUPPORT

Our objective is to have enough assets to pay pensions now and in the future. However, success of the funding plan relies on the employer continuing to support the scheme because:

- The funding level can fluctuate and where there is a funding shortfall the employer will usually need to put in more money.
- The target funding level may turn out not to be enough so that the employer may need to put in more money.
- The employer will be paying the future expenses of running the scheme on an annual basis.

### EXPRESSION OF WISH FORM AND CHANGES OF ADDRESS

We take this opportunity to remind you of the need to ensure that your "expression of wish form", indicating who you would like lump sum benefits to be paid to in the event of your death, is kept up to date. Please contact Mercer if you want to update this form or if you have changed address.

### WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

Please contact Mercer at the address given earlier if you have any questions, or would like any more information including a copy of the scheme booklet, trust deed and rules, actuarial valuation, recovery plan, statement of funding principles, schedule of contributions, actuarial report, statement of investment principles or annual report & accounts. These can be viewed free of charge but, if you require a copy, this may involve a charge to cover copying and posting for some of the items.

***Important: If you are thinking of leaving the scheme for any reason you should always consult a professional advisor, such as a financial adviser, before taking any action.***