

The Royal National College for the Blind Defined Benefit Scheme

Useful Information

About the Scheme

The Royal National College for the Blind Defined Benefit Scheme (the Scheme) is a defined benefit (DB) pension scheme. It is not open to new entrants.

How are my benefits calculated?

Benefits built up before 1 April 2009

Your pension is based on the amount of time you have been in the Scheme (service) (up to 31 March 2009) and your best three year average salary in the last ten years of working before you retire.

Your benefits will continue to be linked to your pensionable salary until you leave RNCB's employment or retire, unless the usual method of revaluing deferred pensions results in a higher figure.

In the time between leaving the Scheme and commencing your pension, that part of your pension earned before 1 January 2006 will increase each year by **5%** a year. That part of your pension earned from 1 January 2006 and before 1 April 2009 will increase each year in line with the Retail Prices Index to a maximum of **5%** a year.

Benefits built up from 1 April 2009

From 1 April 2009, benefits were built up under the CARE structure. Each year, a pension was built up as a proportion of your pensionable earnings. Each year's pension increases from that year until retirement.

In the time between each Scheme year and commencing your pension your pension will increase each year in line with the increase in the Retail Prices Index to a maximum of **5%** each year.

When can I retire?

The Scheme's Normal Retirement Age is 65.

You can take your pension at any time between age 55 and 75. If you take your pension before age 65 it will normally be reduced to reflect early retirement. The early retirement reduction varies depending on when you joined the Scheme.

The part of your pension earned before 1 October 2006 would be paid at an unreduced rate if it is taken after age 60. However, the part of your pension earned after 1 October 2006 would be reduced if you retire before age 65.

If you take your benefits after the Normal Retirement Age, your pension will be increased for late payment.

Joiners before 6 April 2006

If you joined the Scheme before 6 April 2006, you have a 'Protected Pension Age' of 50, which means you can take your pension from age 50. However, if you take your benefits before age 55, you must have left the employment of RNCB.

What will I receive when I retire?

When you retire, you can take your benefits as a pension or take a tax free lump sum and a lower pension.

Depending on the size of your pension, you may have the option to take everything as a one-off taxable lump sum. We will let you know if this is available to you when we provide your retirement quotation.

You can also transfer your benefits to another scheme.

Please contact us if you need further information or any quotations.

How will my pension be paid?

All pensions are paid direct to your bank account and are paid in advance every three months on 6 April, July, October and January. Any tax payable is deducted from your payment as instructed by HMRC.

Will my pension increase?

Any pension earned before 1 April 2009 will increase each year in line with the Retail Prices Index to a maximum of **5.5%** each year. Any pension earned from 1 April 2009 will increase each year in line with the Consumer Prices Index to a maximum of **2.5%** each year.

What if I am ill?

If you are in ill-health now or become so in the future and you are unable to work, you could apply for an ill-health pension. Please note that payment of your pension on these grounds would be subject to medical evidence. Please contact us for further information.

What will happen to my pension when I die?

Survivors Pension

- A pension is payable to your survivor for the rest of their life if you left the scheme after 30 September 1985. This pension is **50%** of the value of the pension you would have received, or are already receiving, at the date of your death.
- The survivor's pension would generally be paid to your spouse or partner. If your nomination is not your spouse or partner and you wish to check if they are eligible, please contact us.
- In addition, there are children's pensions payable if you left the Scheme after 30 September 1985. These pensions are payable to up to four children, with a value of **12.5%** of your pension as detailed above. These are payable up to age 18 (or 22 if in full-time education).

Lump sum

- If you die before taking your benefits, a lump sum equal to the contributions you paid into the Scheme, plus interest, would be payable.
- If you die within five years of taking your pension, the pension payments for the remainder of those five years would be paid as a lump sum.
- You can nominate one or more person or organisation for the lump sum.
- The lump sum death benefits are payable at the discretion of the Trustee. Under current legislation, this means that they do not form part of your estate for inheritance tax purposes. You can help the Trustee by completing a Nomination Form, detailing the beneficiaries you would like to be considered.

What about Additional Voluntary Contributions (AVCs)?

If you have paid AVCs whilst a member of the Scheme, you will receive a statement of these benefits separate to your main scheme benefits.

Further details of your AVCs can be found by visiting your scheme page on the TPT website:

www.tpt.org.uk

Contact us

Our scheme specific contact details can be found at: <http://www.tpt.org.uk/contact-us/members>.

For general enquiries, please contact us using the details below.