



Councillors Pension Scheme – September 2021

The NAC ran an Information Session on the Local Government Pension Scheme following their Members’ Meeting on 15 September 2021.



Ruth Benson from the NILGOSC delivered a presentation that was specifically designed for Councillors and covered the following:

- *An overview of the Local Government Pension Scheme for Councillors*
- *An explanation of the Annual Statement*
- *Questions and Answers*

A copy of the NILGOSC presentation can be viewed by [clicking here](#)

Handling Online Abuse – June 2021

Intimidation and abuse directed at councillors, particularly through social media, is a matter of concern for many of our members, therefore the NAC welcome the programme of work entitled ‘Civility in Public Life’ which is being carried out by the Local Government Association in co-ordination with WLGA, COSLA and NILGA.

Further details of this programme with advice and tips for elected representatives can be viewed on the LGA website by clicking the image below or visiting:

<https://www.local.gov.uk/our-support/guidance-and-resources/civility-public-life>

Rules of engagement

Handling online abuse

Set expectations – point people to your rules of engagement and apply these consistently.

Lead by example – do not post comments that could be considered abusive, and avoid posting false or unverified information.

Consider content – some content will be more controversial than others. Consider before posting how you will manage engagement with this, for example only engaging in comments on the policy itself or directing people to consultation documents.

Defuse conflict – waiting to respond can take the heat out of situations, as can reframing your own language.

Know when to step back - Remember you do not have to engage with abusive or threatening behaviour. You can set the record straight with factual information if you wish, but you can step away when you want to.

Protect your privacy – set different passwords for different accounts, and do not post information that can allow people to identify your whereabouts outside of official council business.

Understand privacy settings – there is a range of settings to help you manage who can see or comment on your posts.

Get and give support – where you feel able, provide support to fellow councillors online, and reach out to colleagues and your council for support where needed.

Record abuse – screenshot comments and keep a record of abusive or threatening communications.

Report serious issues – if you feel unable to deal with online abuse yourself or have any concerns about your safety, report this to your council or the police.



For more information on the LGA’s work on handling abuse on social media and digital citizenship visit: www.local.gov.uk/civility-public-life

REF 43.5



Coronavirus COVID-19 Information – December 2020

Links to websites with useful information and advice available in relation to COVID-19



Disruptieve Presentation – October 2019

At the NAC 2019 AGM, guest speaker ANDREA WINDERS of DISRUPTIEVE provided a dynamic presentation on the Regeneration of Towns and Villages. As an Urban Disruptor, Andrea shared her unique method for approaching failing areas, applying disruption, whether physical, digital, or other, and she gave details of a live project in the UK.

Andrea is available for discussions or meetings with councils, and she can be contacted by email at andrea.winders@disruptieve.com

Please [click here](#) to view the Disruptieve presentation.

Councillors exempt from paying GDPR Fees – April 2019

There has been a change in legislation in relation to the payment of Data Collection fees for Councillors.

From 1st April 2019, Elected Members are exempt from paying an annual fee unless they operate from business premises that have a CCTV camera.



Councillors that are registered as a Data Collectors may receive, or have already received, a reminder to pay a renewal fee as these are being sent out by the ICO automatically, however this reminder can be ignored as fees paid will not be reimbursed by the ICO, if you have set up a direct debit to pay your fee you should cancel this.

See details overleaf which have been taken from the website of the

[Information Commissioners Office](#), this information can be accessed by following this link

<https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/data-protection-fee/>



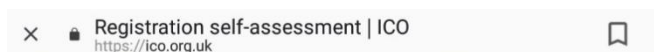
From 1 April 2019, the Data Protection (Charges and Information) (Amendment) Regulations 2019 exempted the processing of personal data by members of the House of Lords, elected representatives and prospective representatives.

'Elected representatives' is defined by the Data Protection Act 2018 and includes, but is not limited to, MPs, MSPs, AMs in Wales, MEPs, elected councillors in county councils, district councils, London boroughs, parish councils, elected mayors and police and crime commissioners.

'Prospective representative' refers to anyone seeking to become an elected representative as defined above.

Not sure if you need to pay a fee to the ICO?

[Take our quick self-assessment](#) to find out.



ico.

You are under no requirement to pay a fee

Organisations or individuals who only process personal data for judicial functions, elected representative functions, to maintain a public register or for domestic or recreational reasons are exempt. You therefore do not have to pay a fee to the ICO

However, it is important that your organisation adheres to the principles of the General Data Protection Regulations and understand best practice for managing information. To help ensure you are complying with the GDPR, we have produced a range of [training materials](#) including practical toolkits, training videos and more.

Even if you are exempt, you may still wish to [pay a data protection fee](#).

Phasing Out Single Use Plastics Presentation – January 2019

At the NAC Conference in January 2019 a presentation was made on Phasing Out Single Use plastics which can be viewed by [clicking here](#)

Universal Credit – October 2018



Advice NI made a presentation and prepared a Case Study Document for the National Association of Councillors, NI in October 2018. These documents cover many aspects of the Universal Credit scheme and highlight some of the problems that may be encountered by members of the public when making a claim. This information should be useful for councillors assisting constituents within their local communities with preparing applications and dealing with queries in relation to applications.

Click here for the [Universal Credit Presentation for NAC NI](#)

Click here for the [Universal Credit Case Study for NAC NI](#)