

**FALKIRK PENSION FUND
BUYING BACK PERIODS OF INDUSTRIAL ACTION
LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME (LGPS)**

Periods of absence from work due to industrial action do not count for pension purposes unless you opt to pay contributions to buy back the lost service. Your continued membership of the LGPS is unaffected by periods of industrial action.

The cost of buying back the service is 16% of the pay you would have received if you had been at work. The improvement to your pension position if you buy back your strike period is likely to be marginal. For example, assuming your annual salary is £20,000 and you buy back one day's industrial action, your pension would increase by £0.92 per year. You will receive tax relief on the contributions made to buy back your strike period.

Although the period you are being allowed to buy back may seem trivial, it could be important to you, if by not buying it back, you fall short of the pensionable service needed to qualify for an enhanced level of benefit. An example of this might be an employee having to retire on ill health grounds but just falling short of the 2 year threshold needed to qualify for enhanced benefits.

If you want to buy back service you have lost while you were on strike, you must request to do so in writing to your employer (not Falkirk Pension Fund) within 30 days of returning to work (or within 30 days of leaving, if you do not return to work) or longer if your employer allows.

Pensions Section
Falkirk Council
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