

Sending data to your pension fund



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1 Introduction

This guide explains how to use i-Connect to send information about Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) members in your organisation to your pension fund.

i-Connect is an Internet application that helps to manage the transfer of employee information from payroll administrators to pensions administrators.

Throughout this guide, we refer to monthly processing; i-Connect can accept files from weekly, fortnightly, lunar (four-weekly) or monthly payrolls.

You can upload data about your employees in a file into i-Connect using a web browser. i-Connect then automatically identifies and sends information about new joiners, opt-outs and leavers, together with pay and contributions, to your pension fund. In addition, this process fulfils your record-keeping obligations.

1.1 FAQs

There is a FAQ section at the end of this guide with answers to some of things that occasionally go wrong when uploading and submitting a file.

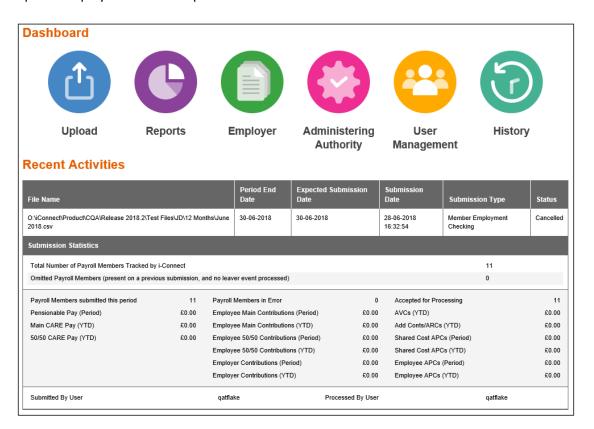
1.2 Who to contact

If you have any questions about using i-Connect, please contact your pension fund.



2 Dashboard

After you have signed in, you will land on the 'Dashboard' screen, where you will be able to upload employee data to the pension fund:



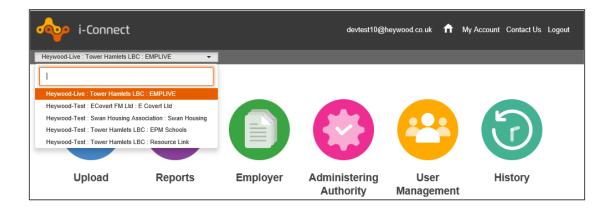


Click the 'Upload' icon to submit employee data for this pay period.



3 Payroll selection

It is important to remember that the information displayed on the Dashboard relates only to the currently selected payroll. You can select a payroll using the dropdown list located in the upper left-hand corner of the i-Connect Dashboard:



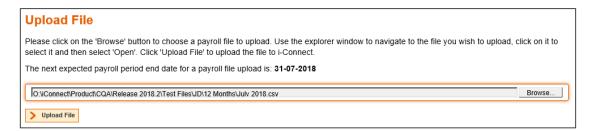
You can also start typing in the edit field to perform a contains search, if you have many payrolls to select from:





4 Upload file

To upload a payroll extract file to i-Connect, click the 'Browse' button. Navigate to the file's location, then click the 'Upload File' button. i-Connect checks to make sure the correct file has been uploaded for that month:



When the file is accepted for processing a 'Member Employment Checking' message will be displayed:



The Member Employment Checking process checks to see if any target system records have been deleted by the pension fund (please see section 5 for further details). If no records have been deleted the following message will be displayed:





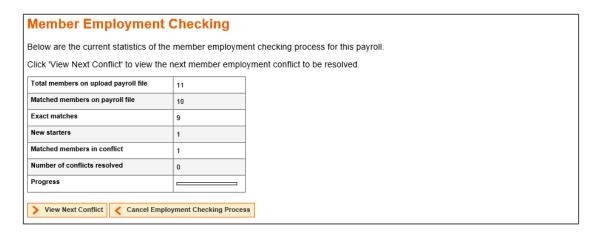
5 Member employment checking

Member employment checking looks for employees who have been deleted from the pension funds system, Altair. Members can be deleted for a number of reasons but, generally, this is because the pension fund has decided that a post change should not create a new record on their system.

The pension fund should send you a list of the old payroll references. These must be removed from the payroll extract file to avoid duplicate errors. The pension fund has also been instructed to ensure that all matching fields (NI number, payroll reference, date of birth, sex and surname), are updated on their system, to ensure that you can select the correct member when processing a re-match.

5.1 Member employment checking process

i-Connect checks Altair to make sure that all members processed on the last file submission are still present. If i-Connect finds that one or more members are missing from Altair, the following page is displayed:

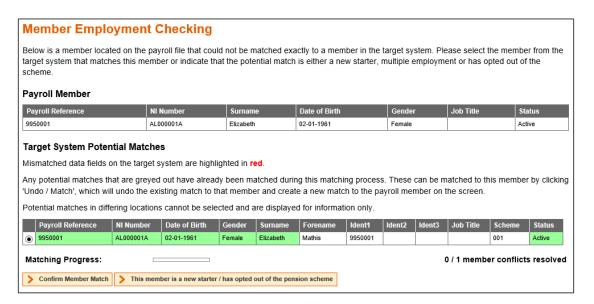


i-Connect provides totals for the number of:

- · Members on the payroll file
- Matched members
- Exact matches
- New starters
- Matched members deleted from Altair
- · Number of deletions resolved



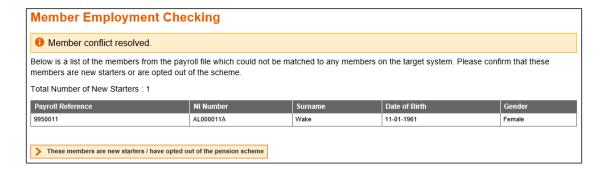
Select 'View Next Employment Conflict' to resolve any members who have been detected. The first deleted matched member conflict is displayed:



The 'Payroll Member' information is taken from the payroll extract file. The potential matches information is taken from Altair. If you agree with a potential match, select the relevant radio button and click the 'Confirm Member Match' button.

If you disagree with the potential matches displayed in the table, click the 'This member is a new starter / has opted out of the pension scheme' button. i-Connect will then create a new record on the pension funds system.

The following page will be displayed when all employment checking conflicts have been resolved if any new starters have been detected:



Click on the 'These members are new starters / have opted out of the pension scheme' button to continue.



An updated member employment results page will be displayed:



To complete the employment checking process and proceed with the payroll update, click the 'Confirm Employment Checking Complete' button.

To cancel the entire process, click the 'Cancel Employment Checking Process' button.

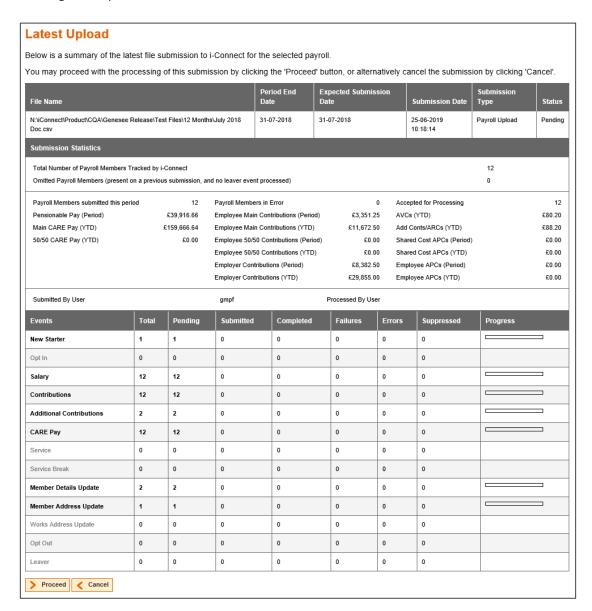
You can reset all employment conflicts and restart the resolution process by clicking the 'Reset All Employment Conflicts For Submission' button.

On confirmation of employment checking being complete, i-Connect compares this pay period extract file with last month's data to detect any changes. When the process completes, the 'Latest Upload Summary' page is displayed.



6 Latest Upload summary page

The Latest Upload page displays a table with totals for events detected by i-Connect for sending to the pension fund:





7 Event reporting

Clicking anywhere on the relevant line in the event history displays a summary, which provides a breakdown for that event by National Insurance number (NINO) and payroll reference(s):

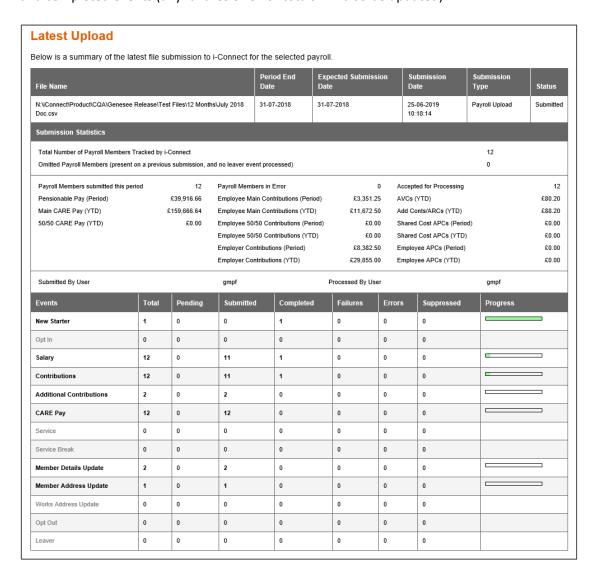
New Starter Breakdown - All						
1 events have been dete	1 events have been detected for the following members:					
NI Number Payroll Reference Status Error Additional Information						
AL000011A	9950011	CREATED				



8 Submitting data to your pension fund

Click the 'Proceed' button to send the detected events to your pension fund, or click 'Cancel' to cancel the upload process.

When you click 'Proceed', the upload status changes from 'Pending' to 'Submitted' to indicate that i-Connect has started sending the events. The progress bars fill to indicate the progress of the upload and the totals change to display the number of pending, submitted and completed events (any failures or error totals will also be updated):



The upload process can take several minutes to several hours to complete, depending on the size of the payroll and the amount of activity on the i-Connect service.



You should log into i-Connect the following day to ensure all events have been processed correctly and that the status of the file upload has changed from 'Submitted' to 'Complete'. If the status is still displayed as 'Submitted', or is reported as 'Internal Error', contact the i-Connect service desk (support@i-Connectdata.co.uk).

8.1 Tolerance failures

If any of the payroll tolerances are breached for your selected payroll (see the Onboarding Guide), a message is displayed on the Dashboard, underneath the Latest Upload section:

File Name			Period End Date	Expected Submission Date	1	Submission Date	Submission Type	Status
N:\iConnect\Product\CQA\Genesee Release\Test Files\12 Months\July 2018 Doc.csv			31-07-2018	31-07-2018		25-06-2019 10:27:58	Payroll Upload	Pending
Submission Statistics								
Total Number of Payroll Members Tracked	by i-Connect						12	
Omitted Payroll Members (present on a pro	evious submission, a	and no leaver eve	nt processed)				0	
Payroll Members submitted this period	12	Payroll Membe	ers in Error	0	Acc	cepted for Processing		12
Pensionable Pay (Period)	£39,916.66	Employee Mai	in Contributions (Period	£3,351.25	AV	Cs (YTD)		£80.20
Main CARE Pay (YTD)			in Contributions (YTD)	£11,672.50	Add	d Conts/ARCs (YTD)		£88.20
50/50 CARE Pay (YTD)			50 Contributions (Perior	t) £0.00	Sha	ared Cost APCs (Period))	£0.00
		Employee 50/5	50 Contributions (YTD)	£0.00	Sha	ared Cost APCs (YTD)		£0.00
Employer			tributions (Period)	£8,382.50	Em	ployee APCs (Period)		£0.00
		Employer Con	tributions (YTD)	£29,855.00	Em	ployee APCs (YTD)		€0.00
Submitted By User		gmpf		Processed By User				
1 tolerance failures were detected with this submission. Click here to view the failures.								

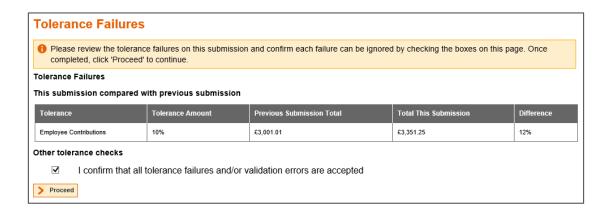
Click the message for further details:



Check the payroll extract file against the payroll system to ensure that the details are correct. If there is a problem with the file, you should return to the Dashboard, cancel the payroll upload and request a new payroll extract file from your payroll team/provider.

If the file is valid (the triggered tolerances are consistent with the payroll system), you should return to the Dashboard and click the Proceed button. i-Connect will then display the tolerance failures on a new page, and it will not be possible to proceed with the upload until you have ticked each failure to confirm that the tolerance checks will be ignored:



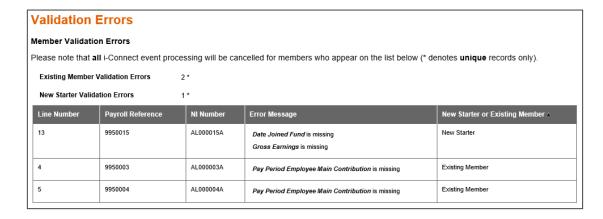


8.2 Validation errors

i-Connect checks the payroll extract file for validation errors as part of the upload process. An error message is displayed on the Dashboard if any validation errors are detected:

File Name			Period End Date	Expected Submissio Date		Submission Date	Submission Type	Status
N:\(\)Connect\Product\CQA\Genesee Release\Test Files\12 Months\July 2018 Val Err.csv			31-07-2018	31-07-2018		25-06-2019 11:17:57	Payroll Upload	Pendin
Submission Statistics								
Total Number of Payroll Members Tracked	by i-Connect						11	
1 Omitted Payroll Members (present on a previous submission, and no leaver event processed)					2			
Payroll Members submitted this period	12	Payroll Member	rs in Error	3	Accep	pted for Processing		!
*	12 £39,916.66	•	rs in Error Contributions (Period)			pted for Processing		
Payroll Members submitted this period Pensionable Pay (Period) Main CARE Pay (YTD)		Employee Main			AVCs	-		£80.2
Pensionable Pay (Period) Main CARE Pay (YTD)	£39,916.66	Employee Main Employee Main	Contributions (Period)	£3,119.75 £11,672.50	AVCs Add 0	(YTD)		£80.2 £88.2
Pensionable Pay (Period)	£39,916.66 £159,666.64	Employee Main Employee Main Employee 50/50	Contributions (Period) Contributions (YTD)	£3,119.75 £11,672.50	AVCs Add 0 Share	(YTD) Conts/ARCs (YTD)		£80.2 £88.2 £0.0
Pensionable Pay (Period) Main CARE Pay (YTD)	£39,916.66 £159,666.64	Employee Main Employee Main Employee 50/50 Employee 50/50	Contributions (Period) Contributions (YTD) Contributions (Period	£3,119.75 £11,672.50) £0.00	AVCs Add C Share	(YTD) Conts/ARCs (YTD) ed Cost APCs (Period)		£80.2 £88.2 £0.0
Pensionable Pay (Period) Main CARE Pay (YTD)	£39,916.66 £159,666.64	Employee Main Employee Main Employee 50/50 Employee 50/50	Contributions (Period) Contributions (YTD) Contributions (Period) Contributions (YTD) Contributions (YTD) Contributions (Period)	£3,119.75 £11,672.50) £0.00	AVCs Add C Share Share Emple	s (YTD) Conts/ARCs (YTD) ad Cost APCs (Period) ad Cost APCs (YTD)		£80.2 £88.2 £0.0 £0.0 £0.0

Click the message for further details:

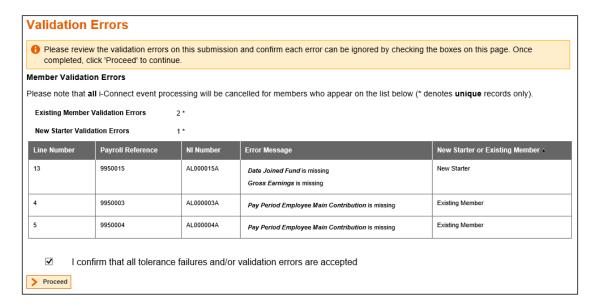




i-Connect provides the following information for each error, enabling you to identify the relevant records on the payroll extract file and investigate the error:

Line Number	The row in the CSV file for employee with the error
Payroll Reference	The employee's payroll refence(s)
NI Number	The first letter of the employee's surname
Error Message	A description of the error
New Starter/Existing Member	Whether the error relates to a new starter or existing member

Following investigation, you may choose to ask your payroll team/provider to correct the file or proceed with the upload and ignore the validation errors by ticking the 'I Confirm that all tolerance failures and/or validation errors area accepted' checkbox:

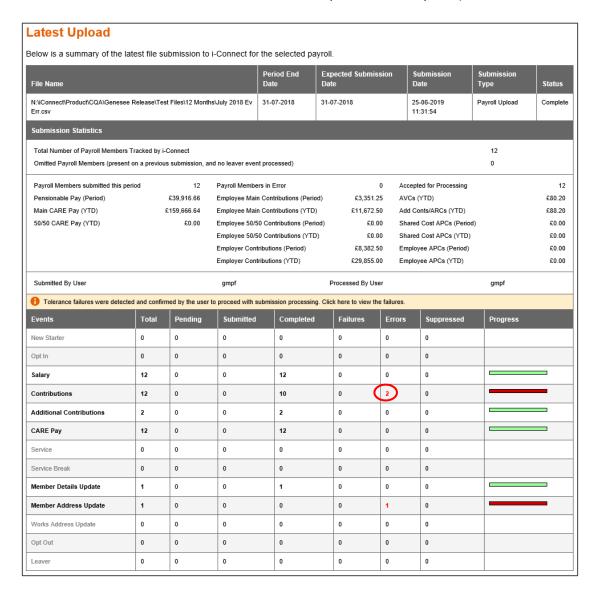


Please note that <u>no events</u> will be updated for any existing members with a validation error, even if the error only effects one of the events. These members will be omitted from the payroll extract file and will be reported as 'Omitted Members' in i-Connect (see section 8.4). You must ensure that any ignored validation errors are corrected on the next pay period payroll extract file, unless you are processing the last pay period in the scheme year (e.g. 31/07/2019), in which case all validation errors should be corrected to ensure each member has a complete record of pay and contributions. See the FAQ section for a full list of validation errors.

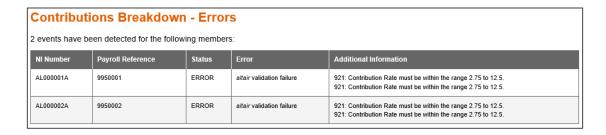


8.3 Event errors

Errors may be reported for one or more events during the submission process (after you selected the 'Proceed' button to submit data to the pension funds system):



Click on the number in the Event tables 'Errors' column to view further details of each of the event errors:

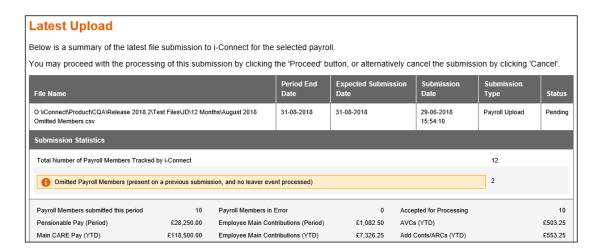




8.4 Omitted members

Omitted members are employees who do not appear on the payroll extract file each payroll period, for example, zero-hour-contract employees, who are not included on one payroll submission, but may be included in future payroll submission.

Omitted member processing occurs automatically and prevents unnecessary new starter events from being identified and duplicate records being created on your funds target system. i-Connect will display a warning on the dashboard if any omitted members are detected:



Clicking the warning message to display a list of the omitted members:



Omitted members are carried forward each pay period, until they re-appear on the payroll extract file, when normal processing is resumed.

If the omitted members are no longer active on the payroll system they can be deleted by ticking the 'Delete?' check box and clicking the 'Delete' button. The deletion option is only available when the submission status is 'Pending'.

Please note that you should notify the fund if you are intending to delete omitted members, as they may need additional information from you to process any leaver entitlements.



9 FAQs

This section provides details of the possible error messages that can be displayed by i-Connect while the payroll extract file is uploaded, validated and the events detected.

9.1 File upload errors

I see the following message when uploading a file.	File errors were detected. The payroll period end date on the payroll file does not match the expected payroll period end date for the next submission.	i-Connect is expecting a file with a different payroll period end date to be uploaded. The previous month's file may have been uploaded instead of this month's
I see a message about data formatting errors in the file.	Pile errors were detected. Data formatting error found on line(s): 2.	file. There are issues with the structure of the file, for example, missing columns or one or more of the records in the file has an issue. Please contact i-Connect.



I see a message about the file containing duplicate members.

Latest Upload

Below is a summary of the latest file submission to i-Connect for the selected payroll.

File Name	Period End Date	Expected Submission Date	Submission Date
O:\iConnect\Product\CQA\Release 2018.2\Test Files\JD\12 Months\August 2018.csv	31-08-2018	31-08-2018	29-06-2018 16:29:40
Submission Statistics			

Total Number of Payroll Members Tracked by i-Connect

Omitted Payroll Members (present on a previous submission, and no leaver event processed)

Payron Members submitted this period	Payroli Members III Error	Accepted for
Pensionable Pay (Period)	Employee Main Contributions (Period)	AVCs (YTD)
Main CARE Pay (YTD)	Employee Main Contributions (YTD)	Add Conts/AF
50/50 CARE Pay (YTD)	Employee 50/50 Contributions (Period)	Shared Cost.
	Employee 50/50 Contributions (YTD)	Shared Cost.
	Employer Contributions (Period)	Employee AP
	Employer Contributions (YTD)	Employee AP

Submitted By User qatflake Processed By User

Ø

File errors were detected.

The payroll file contains duplicate members that are linked to the same employment on line(s): 2,3

Duplicate members are reported if a member has been re-matched on the target system, but the member still has two records on the payroll extract file, both with the same NI Number, but one with the previous post number (processed as a leaver on the payroll system), and the second as the new active post with the new payroll reference. It will not be possible to proceed with the file upload until the duplicate records have been identified and deleted from the payroll extract file.



These errors are identified from the initial validation of the file and prevent the file from being uploaded. They must be resolved before the file can be successfully uploaded.

Error text	Description
INSUFFICIENT NUMBER OF COLUMNS	Insufficient number of data columns found on line(s): {0}.
BAD IDENT	Missing or invalid member identifier on line(s): {0}.
GENERIC VALIDATION ERROR	One or more fields failed validation on line(s): {0}.
DATA DECODE ERROR	Data formatting error found on line(s): {0}.
BAD NI NUMBER	Missing or invalid NI number on line(s): {0}.
NO PERIOD ENDS	The payroll file does not contain a payroll period end date.
MULTIPLE PERIOD ENDS	The payroll file contains more than one payroll period end date.
PERIOD END DOESN'T MATCH	The payroll period end date on the payroll file is not the expected payroll period end date for this submission.
NO INCOMING MEMBERS	The payroll file does not contain any members.
MEMBER DATA REQUEST ERROR	An error occurred when retrieving member data from the target system. Please contact your system administrator.
INTERNAL PROCESSING ERROR	An internal processing error has occurred with your payroll file. Please contact your system administrator.







