
Deferred News

News from the Environment Agency Pension Fund



Welcome

Welcome to your annual newsletter which provides you with useful facts and information about your pension. This is your newsletter so please do let us know if there's anything you'd like to see included at Engage@eapf.org.uk

News from the EAPF

COVID-19 update for contacting us

Please be assured during this time we're continuing to process retirement applications, payments and other essential processes.

If you have a query, please send this via email to info@eapf.org.uk or through our online portal **EAPF Online** (if registered).

If you'd like to send your query on EAPF Online, simply log on, click 'Contact us' at the top and select the first option 'info@eapf.org.uk' which allows you to complete our online 'Contact us' form.

Please support us by only getting in touch by telephone if your query is essential.

If you're not already registered to EAPF Online, it's really simple. All you need to do is visit portal.eapf.org.uk with your National Insurance number, click Register at the top and follow the instructions. Once you've successfully registered, you'll be sent a pin number by email to allow you to log on.

We'll update our website at www.eapf.org.uk/news as soon as we receive any further information and if the situation changes.

Now that we've left the EU, how will my pension be affected?

There's still some uncertainty when it comes to many aspects of leaving the European Union. But we do know that most people will see very little or no difference to financial services going forwards.

If you're an EU, EEA or Swiss citizen and you plan to remain living in the UK after 30 June 2021, you and your family can apply to the EU Settlement Scheme; you must do this before 30 June 2021. If your application is successful, you'll get either settled or pre-settled status. However, you may be able to stay in the UK without applying – for example, if you're an Irish citizen or have indefinite leave to remain. You can find out more about settled status and how to apply by visiting www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families

The Withdrawal Agreement sets out the terms for the UK's withdrawal from the EU. This provides a transition period up until 31 December 2020. The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) have issued a new guide for UK nationals living in the European Economic Area (EEA) or Switzerland by 31 December 2020. This includes information specifically on what you can do to prepare for the withdrawal if you are receiving a pension.



You'll find the new guide and more information online at www.gov.uk/guidance/benefits-and-pensions-for-uk-nationals-in-the-eea-or-switzerland

What you think about responsible investment

In February, we asked for your views on responsible investment. We had a great response with over 2,600 of you taking part in the survey.

We were really encouraged to see that you share our passion for investing responsibly.

- 88% of you think it is important* to invest in sustainable and low carbon assets. (*Results of those who stated it was very important, important or quite important.)
- 90% of you think it is important to influence the behaviour of the individual companies we invest in so that we help the environment and society more broadly.

We think climate change poses a financial risk to investments and so do you.

- 69% of you think that climate change will present a financial risk to investments in your lifetime. And generally, the younger you are, the greater you see this risk to be.

We also wanted to understand the best way to tell you about how the fund invests responsibly, which method works best and what type of initiative had caught your eye:

- 55% of you said that you had not seen any communications.
- The majority of you that had seen news about responsible investment had read about it in the member newsletter.

- The website was the second most popular channel.

You'll find the full results on our website at www.eapf.org.uk/members/videos-and-presentations/surveys



Pension news

Changes to survivor benefits for opposite sex civil partners

From 31 December 2019, survivor benefits payable to an opposite sex civil partner are now equal to those paid to the widow or widower depending on their gender.

This means that the survivor's pension payable to the survivor of a civil partner, where the civil partnership took place after the member stopped contributing to the EAPF, and:

- **The survivor is the same gender as the member** – survivor's pension is based on post 5 April 1978 service.
- **The survivor is female, but the deceased member was male** – survivor's pension is based on post 5 April 1978 service.
- **The survivor is male, but the deceased member was female** – survivor's pension is based on post 5 April 1988 service.

Annual pension revaluation 2020

Your pension is adjusted annually in line with Pension Increase Orders, which is linked to the Consumer Prices Index (CPI). The increase is calculated in line with the CPI rate based on the 12 months to September 2019.

This means that there's an increase of 1.7% applied to your deferred pension, from Monday 6 April 2020.

Lifetime allowance

The lifetime allowance (LTA) for the 2020/21 tax year is £1,073,100.

The LTA is a limit on the amount of pension benefit that can be paid from pension schemes without triggering a tax charge.

Page 4 of your enclosed Annual Pension Statement shows the percentage of LTA you've used with your deferred EAPF pension.

Deferred member webinar

Get to know your pension better by taking part in our deferred member briefing webinar.

We'll cover a number of interesting topics and other issues related to your pension benefits. There will also be a chance for you to ask questions and raise any areas of concern.

When is the webinar taking place?

The webinar will be on Thursday 18 June at 6pm.

If you're unable to make this date, you can still watch a video of our presentation on our website.

If you'd like to join us and register your attendance, please contact Capita by either:

- emailing your confirmation to: eapfbriefing@capita.co.uk
- calling **0800 121 6593**

Please make sure that you include your telephone number for reference when registering.

How do I log into it?

We'll send you the log in details that you'll need by email closer to June. Don't forget to register your attendance first so we can contact you with the details.

We hope you can join us!



Communications

Keeping us up to date

It's really important to keep us up to date with your current email and home address.

This lets us keep you informed when important Government changes happen that may affect your deferred EAPF pension.

You can update your details by either:

- Logging into your **EAPF Online** account
- Emailing us at info@eapf.org.uk
- Calling **0800 121 6593**

Our communications give you important information about your pension and the options available to you helping you plan for retirement.

EAPF Online

Having an EAPF Online pension account lets you securely and easily access your personal pension information at a time that suits you.

Registering online means you'll get access to:

- View your Annual Pension Statements
- Update your personal details
- Nominate a beneficiary

Sign up online in 4 simple steps!

Visit portal.eapf.org.uk and then:

- Click '**Register**' at the top
- Enter the 'security code' shown
- Enter your personal details
- Wait for your Pin number and log in

Contact details

If you have any questions regarding your pension entitlement you can contact our pension administrator, Capita, by:

 Using the '**Contact the EAPF**' button on the website at www.eapf.org.uk

 Emailing info@eapf.org.uk

 Following on twitter [@EAPensionFund](https://twitter.com/EAPensionFund)

 Calling **0800 121 6593**

+44 114 452 5008 (overseas)

 Sending your query to **Capita, 11b Lingfield Point, Darlington, DL1 1AX**