

Deferred News

News from the Environment Agency Pension Fund



Welcome

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

News from the EAPF

Your new look annual pension statement – it's going digital

You may notice your annual pension statement looks different this year and is now in landscape view.

This is because we're providing your statement in a new interactive format which can be viewed via your personalised portal on EAPF Online. This year it's the last year you'll be receiving your annual pension statement in the post.

See your annual pension statement cover letter enclosed for more information about your pension statement going digital.

If you haven't registered to EAPF Online, visit portal.eapf.org.uk with your National Insurance number, click on the 'Register' button at the top and follow the easy instructions.

Going paperless is a great way to stay organised. It also reduces the environmental impact of printing and posting documents and helps to achieve our NetZero ambitions. You can read more about what we're doing as a Fund on NetZero in our following story.

Your EAPF pension is officially the Best Pension Fund in the UK!

In December 2020 we won two awards, Best Pension Fund in the UK and Best Approach to Sustainable Investing, as well as receiving highly commended for Best Public Pension Fund in Europe!

A big factor in winning these awards was the work we did engaging with you on what you think about Responsible Investment. We ran a forum, which even included a video from Richard Curtis, the Director of Four Weddings and a Funeral. Richard launched 'Make My Money Matter' to make people aware of the need for their pensions to reflect their values and invest appropriately, which we fully support. You can watch the video at vimeo.com/533968855

Climate change remains a key area of focus for us. Recent events have brought human rights to the forefront and we've always been conscious that our Fund should help build a better future.

We know that you want us to do more in these areas and we're constantly reviewing how we do things and looking for new and innovative approaches.

We're working on a really ambitious NetZero target. 92% of members who took part in the forum last summer wanted this. Members also wanted to see more clearly, on the website, the companies we invest in. Have a look at what we've been doing to address these issues online at www.eapf.org.uk/investments/climate-change

The member reps who look after the EAPF

We're aware you're not sure who your Pension Committee (PC) reps are and what they do.

Seven member representatives make up half of the Pensions Committee, the other half are EA Board members or Executive Managers from the EA or NRW.

Five of these represent the views of active members (those who currently pay into the scheme), one represents pensioner members, and Hywel Tudor is our representative for deferred members.

You can contact Hywel and the other reps at EAPF@environment-agency.gov.uk. Please visit our website at www.eapf.org.uk/meet-the-reps to learn more about them.

The pandemic and how it's changed the way we work

The current global pandemic has led to a lot of changes in the way organisations have had to operate. We've had to adapt quickly and find solutions that enable us to continue to prioritise our members and their needs whilst our teams are working at home, in some cases for the first time.

The work we did to identify our priorities and to provide solutions to some immediate problems, such as accepting photographic electronic verification, was recognised in an article in Pensions Age magazine. It also formed part of our award submission for the Best Pension Fund in the UK. You can read the article by visiting our website at www.eapf.org.uk/pensions-age

We've also made improvements to our EAPF Online portal. There's still a way to go to make our online offering even more functional with more ability to complete transactions online.

This will enable the Environment Agency to achieve its ambitions to be NetZero by 2030. The environmental impact of printing and posting documents that we can share electronically is just one of the things we're looking at in this area. You can find out more about our 'Policy to address climate change' on our website at www.eapf.org.uk/policies

Pension news

Beware of pension scams!

The coronavirus pandemic has brought out the best in many people! Unfortunately, it has also brought out the worst in others, with cybercrime, as well as pension scams, on the increase. Some key things to note:

- Reported losses due to pensions scams during January to March 2021 amounted to £1.8 million.
- Stock market volatility has caused some people to consider transferring their pension pots elsewhere.
- Scammers are targeting people by phone, email and letter.
- Always be vigilant, pensions 'cold-calling' is illegal!
- As well as losing your pension pot, you could also be subject to a hefty tax charge from HMRC!

Remember: The LGPS is a defined benefit, statutory scheme, backed by the Government. Transferring is a risky business so you should always seek independent financial advice from an authorised and registered specialist. You can find one by searching 'retirement adviser directory' at www.moneyadvice.service.org.uk

You can also watch our video called 'Transferring your pension' in the videos section of our website at www.eapf.org.uk/pensions-made-simple

Annual pension revaluation 2021

Your pension is adjusted annually in line with the Pension Increase Orders, which is based on the increase in the Consumer Prices Index over the 12-month period to September 2020.

This means that there's an increase of 0.5% applied to your deferred pension from Monday 12 April 2021.

Lifetime Allowance (LTA)

The LTA for the 2021/2022 tax year is £1,073,100 and will remain at this level until April 2026.

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's also 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 24 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 important to keep us up to date with your current email address.

This lets us keep you up to date 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 to help you plan for retirement.

We've updated our public website!

Check out our new look public website at www.eapf.org.uk

We've made lots of improvements with new simplified menus, and improved accessibility. It's now easier to navigate and links you to key information related to your member type.

Our new 'Resources section' gives you access to useful member guides and factsheets, webinar presentations, surveys, and videos – all in one place!

We've also created a new series of videos called 'Pensions made simple' to help you understand the basics of your pension. Watch these helpful videos at

www.eapf.org.uk/pensions-made-simple

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 and download your annual pension statements
- Update your personal details
- Check your family benefits
- Nominate a beneficiary

Sign up online in four simple steps!

Visit portal.eapf.org.uk and then:

- 1 Click 'Register' at the top
- 2 Enter the 'security code' shown
- 3 Enter your personal details
- 4 Wait for your PIN and log in

If you need a version of this document in a more accessible format, please email us at engage@eapf.org.uk or call **0800 121 6593** or **+44 114 452 5008** (if you're calling from abroad).

Please tell us what format you need, and we'll arrange this for you.


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 portal.eapf.org.uk

 Emailing info@eapf.org.uk

 Calling **0800 121 6593**
+44 114 452 5008 (overseas)

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

 Follow us on Twitter [@EAPensionFund](https://twitter.com/EAPensionFund)

