



News from the Environment Agency Pension Fund

1. Welcome

Welcome to the summer edition of your contributing member pension newsletter. This gives you important news and updates about your pension fund.

If you'd like to download our newsletter, **[you'll find a PDF version in the Newsletters section of our website.](#)**

If you have any feedback about the communications we send you, please email us at **Engage@eapf.org.uk**

2. Investments

Investing responsibly

For many years now your pension fund has invested as responsibly as possible and we are always reviewing the best way to do this and looking for new opportunities. We undertake statutory and best practice reporting of our activities.

One of these is reporting our responsible investment performance through the UK Government. The report is long (but well worth a read) and we've highlighted some of the key points through a short film, there is also a 2 page summary.

[Read our 2 page summary.](#)

[Watch our short film on EAPF's approach to responsible investment.](#)



[Read more on our performance and investment returns](#)

3. Pension news

Annual pension statements

Your annual pension statement for the year ending 31 March 2023 will be added to your online pensions account by 31 August.

We'll send you an email to let you know when your statement is ready to view on EAPF Online. If you've opted for a paper statement, as well as being uploaded online, a paper copy will also be sent out to your home address by 31 August.



[Read more about your statement](#)

Cyber incident update

As you will be aware, Capita who administer your EAPF pension experienced a cyber-attack earlier this year. We have now written to affected members outlining the data items that Capita have confirmed as likely to have been exfiltrated during the attack and informed you of the free membership that Capita have arranged to Experian's identity monitoring service, known as 'Identity Plus'.

The incident is still very live, and we have been doing our best to answer all your questions. We have comprehensively updated our [Cyber Incident Hub](#) on our website, which includes the Q&A document, registration guidance to Experian and various other information. Moving forward, we ask members impacted by the attack to review the hub in the first instance, as we'll continue to update the Q&A document as

the situation evolves.

We also have an important update about the Experian membership being extended to 24 months. Click below to read more about this.



[Find out more](#)

McCloud update

In previous newsletters, we told you about the McCloud judgment. This is commonly used to refer to the court judgment which ruled that the protection given to older members of the public service pension schemes, when they reformed to CARE Schemes, was discriminatory.

For the LGPS, the discrimination related to the underpinning of the pension a member would receive for pensionable service during the period 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2022, as this protection was only applied to members who, on 31 March 2012, were within 10 years of reaching their Normal Pension Age at the time (age 65). Members who benefited from this protection would, on their retirement, receive the higher of their CARE pension or the pension they would have received if the LGPS had continued to be a final salary scheme. This protection is referred to as the statutory underpin.

The current position hasn't really changed - the Government still intends to extend the statutory underpin to all members who were previously excluded because they were more than 10 years away from reaching their 65th birthday. In addition, the Government aim to publish the necessary regulations to amend the LGPS later next month. The amendment regulations will apply retrospectively from April 2014, and are coming into force on 1 October 2023.

[Read more on McCloud](#)



[New contribution bands from 1](#)



[Normal Minimum Pension Age](#)

April 2023

On 1 April each year, the pay bands increase by the same percentage as pensions increase, which is then rounded down to the nearest £100.

From 1 April 2023, the contribution bands have increased by 10.1% for the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS).

We update our website every year with the latest contribution rates. Click below to find out how much you'll pay into the Scheme.

[See how much it costs](#)

(NMPA) is increasing to 57

The Finance Act 2022 will increase the normal minimum pension age (NMPA) for pension schemes from 55 to 57 on 6 April 2028. The Act received Royal Assent in February 2022.

The 'NMPA' is the earliest age* at which a pension scheme member can claim their pension benefits.

However, despite the increase to the NMPA, the Finance Act 2022 allows for members to retain the old NMPA of 55 depending on certain criteria. Click below to read more.

[See the criteria](#)

Changes to the Lifetime Allowance (LTA) and Annual Allowance (AA)

Following the Chancellor's announcement in the 2023 Spring Budget, the LTA was effectively abolished from 6 April 2023.

The LTA (set at £1,073,100 for the 2023/24 tax year) was a limit on the pension savings that a person could build up in a tax-friendly environment, without being subject to a tax charge. On taking payment ('crystallising') of a pension benefit, a person would use up part of their available LTA. If the same person had multiple pension benefits across different pension schemes, they'd continue to use up part of the available LTA for each pension benefit being taken. If a person's total pension savings were large enough, they could, potentially, use all their available LTA and be subject to a tax charge on any 'excess' pension benefits.

For the 2023/24 tax year, the Chancellor announced that, the LTA tax charge would be reduced to 0% as an interim measure, thereby effectively abolishing the LTA. Consequently, any pension benefits paid in excess of a person's available LTA would be taxed at a person's marginal rate.

[Find out more](#)

Pensions Dashboard update

Due to the increasing complexity of implementing the Pensions Dashboard Programme (PDP), the Pensions Minister, Laura Trott, announced in June 2023 that the PDP would be delayed, and that large to medium pension schemes (like the Local Government Pension Scheme) would be required to 'connect' to the Pensions Dashboard by 31 October 2026.

For reference, the PDP is a government-led initiative to allow people to view all their pensions benefits online in one single place (i.e., a 'dashboard'). Once pension schemes are 'connected' to the Pensions Dashboard, people will only need to sign up and login to see the current and future values of their collective pension benefits.

Find out more

4. Online services

Our improved EAPF Online portal

Our portal has been through a migration upgrade to improve accessibility, functionality, and overall user experience of EAPF Online at portal.eapf.org.uk

Although it's taking longer than expected, we've made good progress on new developments to improve the log in process, created a new Contact form with upload option and a new web chat service. We're hoping to launch our refreshed EAPF Online portal once these developments are complete. Don't worry, you won't need to re-register when this eventually happens.

We'll contact you by email when we're closer to going live.

5. Communications

Contributing member webinars 2023

This year, we'll run a series of pre-recorded webinars rather than the live sessions, which will be available for members to view [via the videos and presentations page on our website](#) in late Autumn 2023.

We appreciate how popular and valued these sessions have been in the past, as a method of keeping our members informed about how their pension works and of recent or upcoming developments.

This year, we'll include a focussed short webinar about the 'McCloud remedy' and what it means to you, as well as covering the usual topics - new starters, increasing your benefits, planning for retirement, how the EAPF invests, and pension basics.



Pensions Awareness Week

The national campaign has been scheduled for 11-16 September 2023. Organisers are again hosting some live shows during the week, which you will need to register for. There are all sorts of interesting topics being covered such as state pensions explained, pensions and tax, and how women can better their retirement – and many others.

It's never too early or too late to give your pension some attention, so sign up below for the live shows.

[Sign up to the National Pensions Awareness Week shows](#)

Watch out for our own EAPF Pension awareness email campaign series next month where we'll cover important topics such as McCloud, your annual pension statements, and helpful resources we have to help you with pension planning.

If you need a version of this newsletter in a more accessible format, please email us at engage@eapf.org.uk or call us using the telephone number shown below.

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



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