
Pensioner member briefing

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Agenda

- Our Pension Funds
 - News from the EAPF
 - Summary of Pension Benefits
 - Death benefits
 - Topical Changes
 - Communications
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Our Pension Funds

Valuation Results

- Our last triennial valuation was in March 2019, where our assets were valued at around £4 billion and a funding ratio of 106%
 - The unaudited valuation of the Active Fund as at 31 March 2021 is over £4.2bn
 - Funding level as at 31 March 2021 is estimated to be around 111%
 - Funding levels at the previous Fund valuations in 2016 was 103% and in 2013 it was 90%
 - We have one of the highest funding levels across all of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS)
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Commendations

- Best Pension Fund in the United Kingdom (IPE)
- Best approach to Sustainable Investments (LAPF)
- Recognised Global Leader in Responsible Investments for 2nd consecutive year (PRI)
- Customer Service Excellence accreditation



WINNER
*Best Approach to
Sustainable Investing*



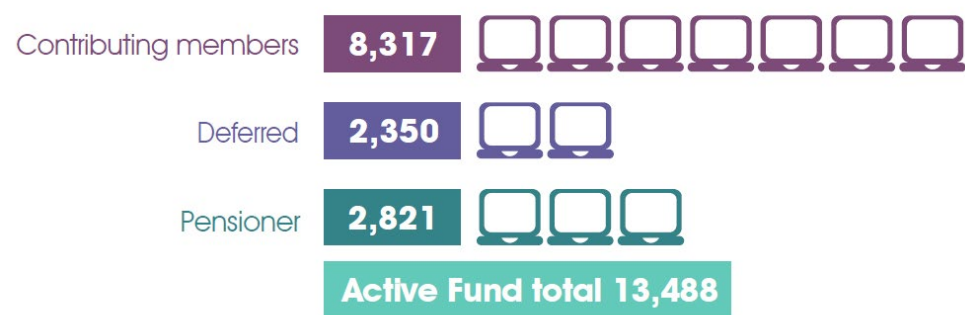
CUSTOMER
SERVICE
EXCELLENCE®

Membership vs Online registrations

Active Fund - as at 31 March 2021



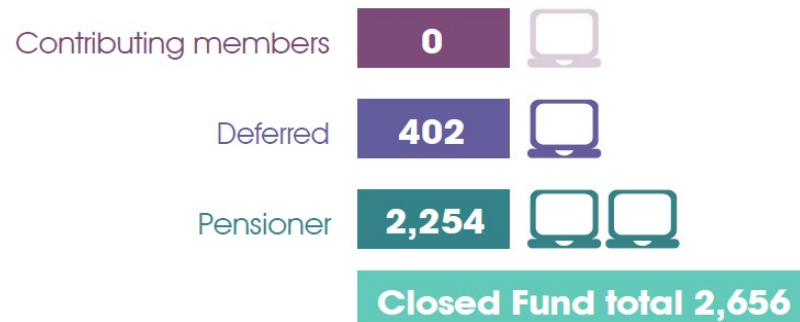
Active Fund - as at 31 March 2021



Closed Fund - as at 31 March 2021



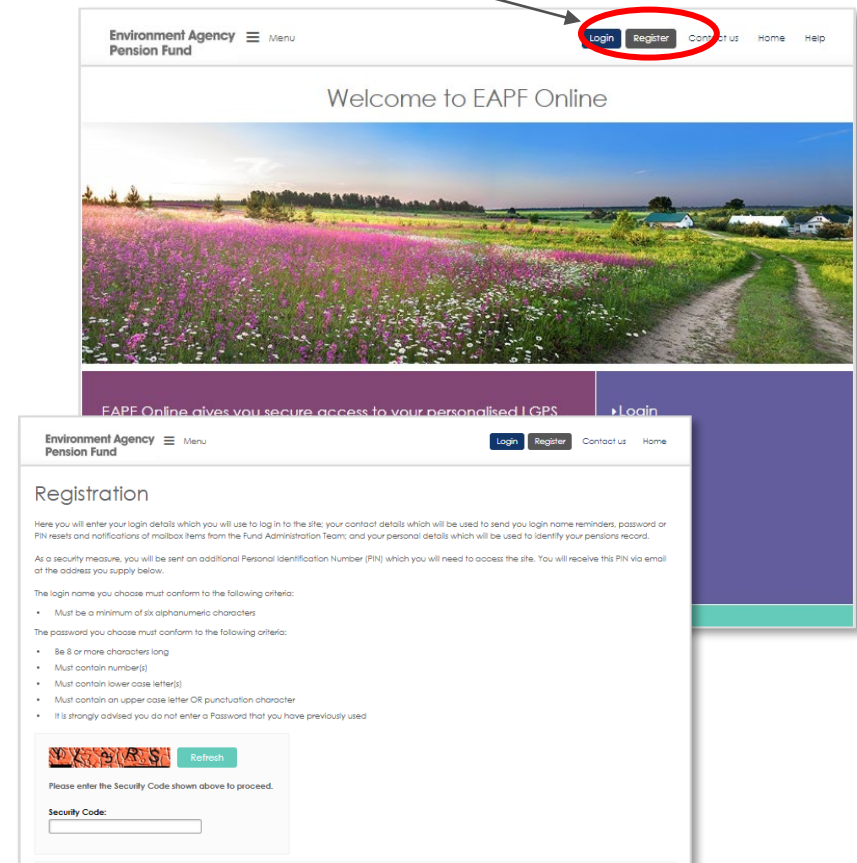
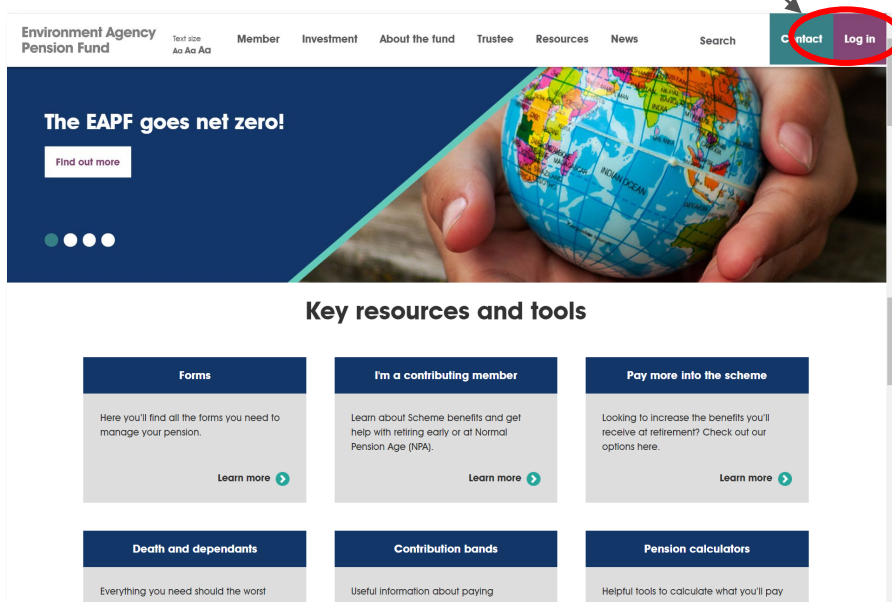
Closed Fund - as at 31 March 2021



Register on EAPF Online

From www.eapf.org.uk select 'Log in' and follow the easy steps

Or go directly to portal.eapf.org.uk then click 'Register' and follow the easy steps



A leader in 'Responsible Investment'

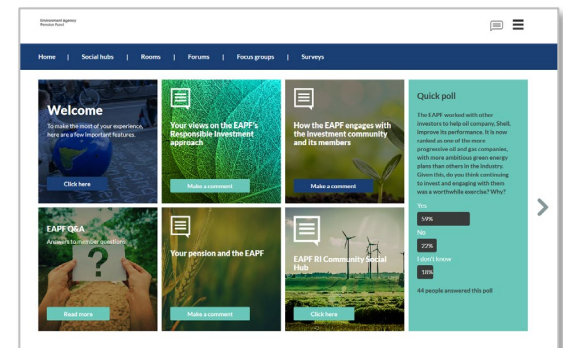
- EAPF's **desire** is to contribute to:
 - A strong economy;
 - A healthy environment; and
 - A fair society
- We want to hear what members think.



88% of you think it is important to invest in sustainable and low carbon assets (Spring 20, based on 2,600 members)

90% of you think it is important to influence the behaviour of the individual companies we invest in (Spring 20, based on 2,600 members)

92% wanted a Net Zero target (Summer 20, based on 82 members)



You told us that...

- 55% of you said that you had not seen any communications
- The majority that had read about responsible investment had seen it in the member newsletter
- The website was the second most popular channel

Full results available on website March 2021 News page

www.eapf.org.uk/news/public/2020/05/what-you-think-about-responsible-investment



EAPF in the news

NEWS

Environment Agency Pension Fund adopts 2045 net-zero climate policy

BY SUSANNA RUST | 20 APRIL 2021

'We wanted to come up with something that was credible': Environment Agency Pension Fund reveals net zero plans

James Phillips, Professional Pensions

● 21 April 2021 • 3 min read



Investment

Realism vs ambition: Setting pension scheme net-zero targets

The Environment Agency Pension Fund's Marion Maloney joins with Aon's Tim Manuel and ITS's Tegs Harding to discuss net-zero targets and what sits behind them

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Management of the fund

Governance

- EAPF has both Pension Board and Committee
 - Safeguard interests of all EAPF Members
 - Pension Fund Management Team
 - www.eapf.org.uk/trustees/governance-policies
-

Who your member reps are

- Hywel Tudor
Hywel.Tudor@environment-agency.gov.uk
- Peter Smith
Peter.Smith@environment-agency.gov.uk



Summary of Pension Benefits

Summary of pension benefits

- Pension for life, revalued in line with cost of living
 - Pension for dependants
 - All the benefits that you've built up are protected by the Government
 - Though benefits **could be reduced** on re-entering employment
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Cost of living revaluation

LGPS pension

- Pension revalued by Pensions Increase (Review) Orders (i.e. inflation, currently CPI)

Guaranteed Minimum Pension (GMP)

- Revalued as above, shared between EAPF and State pension

State pension

- Higher of growth in prices (currently CPI), average earnings or 0.5%
 - 'Triple lock guarantee'
-

Cost of living revaluation – April 2021

CPI

- Period assessed = October 2019 – September 2020
- CPI = 0.5%
- Applied in April 2021

Impact on contributing members

- Career average benefits increased by 0.5%

Impact on deferred & pensioner members

- Benefits increased by 0.5%



Pensions Increase (PI) & GMP

Met SPA before 6 April 2016

- Pre 88 GMP = no revaluation (paid by the State)
- Post 88 GMP = revalued in line with PI, up to 3% (excess paid by State)
- Pension in excess of GMP = revaluation paid by EAPF

Meet SPA after 5 April 2016

- **All** revaluation paid for by EAPF
 - Recently extended to **all** members meeting SPA after 5 April 2021
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Your State Pension

- State pensioners before 2016 had a 'two-tiered' State pension
 - Since 2016, new State pensioners could qualify for flat rate 'single tier' State pension of £179.60 pw (2021/22 rate)
 - Need 35 qualifying years for a full pension
 - Applies to:
 - Women born after 5 April 1953
 - Men born after 5 April 1951
 - **To calculate or forecast your State pension, contact www.gov.uk/check-state-pension**
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Topping up your State Pension

- You **may** be able to pay contributions to fill any 'gaps' in your National Insurance records
 - Usually within a short period before your SPA
 - The rules concerning eligibility are complex and differ depending on your circumstances
 - For more information
 - Visit www.gov.uk/check-state-pension
 - Contact the 'Future pension centre' on 0800 7310175
 - Complete an online enquiry form at www.gov.uk/future-pension-centre
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Re-entering employment

- If, having taken your LGPS pension, you enter:
 - **Non-LGPS employment** – no issue
 - **LGPS employment** – you **must** tell the EAPF
- Re-entering LGPS employment – if you stopped contributing:
 - **Before 1 April 1998** – your LGPS benefits **may** be affected
 - **After 31 March 1998** – your LGPS benefits **won't** be affected*, **unless** you:
 - Retired on Tier 3 ill health; or
 - Were awarded Compensatory Added Years on retirement

*If you receive a LGPS pension from another fund, their policy may be different

Death Benefits

Death Grants

Date of Leaving	Pensioner members
Before 01/04/1998	Dependent on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Period of membership • Reason for retirement • Age at date of retirement • Pay at leaving <p>But not always payable</p>
01/04/1998 to 31/03/2008	5 x pension, less any pension already paid
After 31/03/2008	10 x pension, less any pension already paid
<p>DEATH GRANTS CANNOT BE PAID AFTER AGE 75</p>	

Nominating Beneficiaries

- Nominate who you wish to receive a death grant in the event of your death
 - Not legally binding, but the Environment Agency Pensions Committee will endeavour to abide by your wishes
 - **May** enable payment to be made to your loved ones more quickly
 - Payments made in this manner are not subject to inheritance tax
 - Forms can be submitted online by logging into your [EAPF Online](#) account or download a paper version at www.eapf.org.uk/forms
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Survivors' Pensions

Spouse/partner (payable for life)

- Husband/wife
- Civil partner
- Cohabiting partner
 - Leavers after 31 March 2008 only



Eligible child

- Up to age 18, or age 23 if in full time education
- Any age, if unable to work due to permanent incapacity/impairment at member's date of death

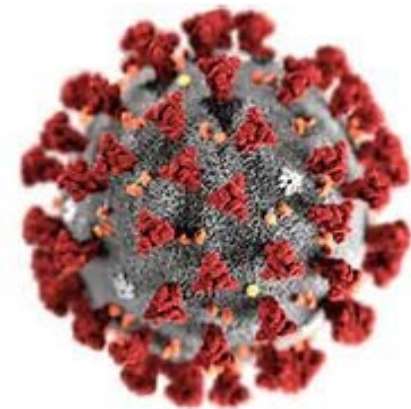
Survivors' pensions revalued each year in line with inflation (currently CPI)

Topical Changes

Covid-19 – it can't defeat the LGPS!

- Last year, the Covid-19 ('the coronavirus') pandemic resulted in stock market crashes throughout the world
- Is my LGPS pension affected by the stock market crashes?
 - No!
 - LGPS is a **statutory** scheme, backed by a government promise
- Last year, we published 'LGPS member Q&A on Covid-19', which is downloadable from our 'Other useful factsheets' section at www.eapf.org.uk/publications

LGPS benefits are fully protected!



WASPI appeals rejected

- **Women Against State Pension Increases (WASPI) formed in 2015**
 - Have campaigned against the increase to women's SPA (specifically those women born in the 1950s)
 - WASPI argue that those born in the 1950s had inadequate time to prepare for the changes
 - Age and sex discriminatory charges were brought against the DWP
- High Court ruled in October 2019 that SPA changes did **not** discriminate on age &/or gender
 - WASPI planned to appeal against this
 - In September 2020, Court of Appeal **rejected** WASPI's claim
 - In March 2021, Supreme Court **rejected** WASPI's right to appeal further
- However, Parliamentary Ombudsman is investigating a separate maladministration case on WASPI's behalf



Is your State pension being underpaid?

- Government have found that £3bn may be owed in underpaid State pensions
- In the past, **women born before 6 April 1953**, who:
 - Were married
 - Paid 'married women's reduced rate National Insurance contributions' **and**
 - Whose husbands reached 65 before 2008

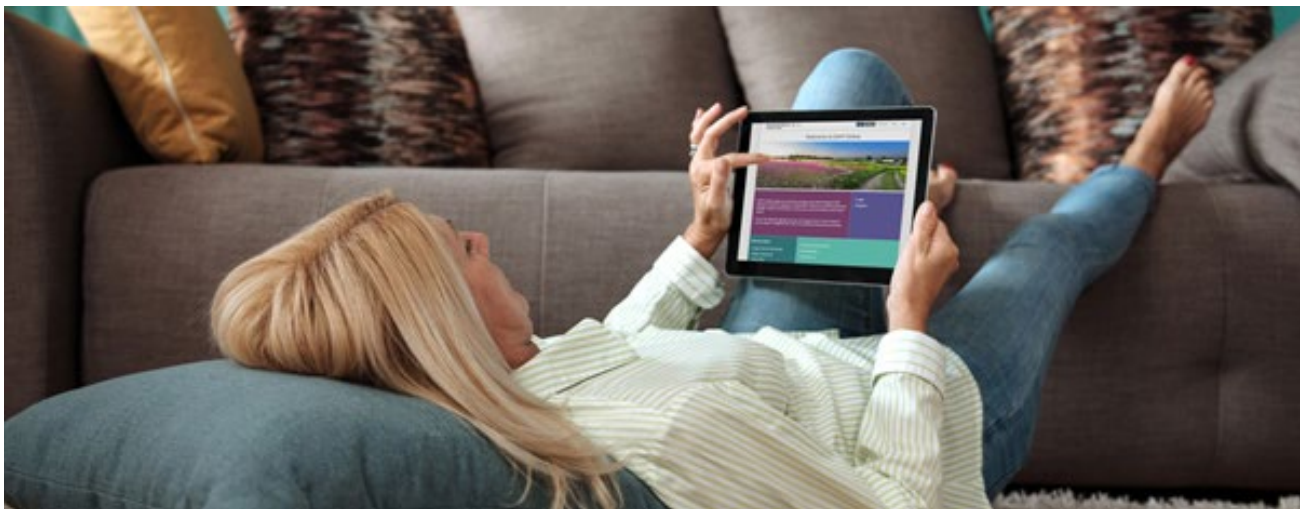
Would've been entitled to an 'enhanced pension' = 60% of their husband's State pension

- However, DWP believe 200,000+ entitled women have **not** claimed an 'enhanced pension'
 - Eligible claimants may be due arrears averaging **£13,500**
 - Former pensions minister believes that **widows** and **divorced women** may be affected, too
- If you think you're affected, please contact 'The Pension Service' on 0800 731 0469

Communication

Web Portal

- On [EAPF Online](#) you're able to update your personal details online and nominate a beneficiary at a time that suits you.
- You can now print and download your payslips and P60s.
- Online P60 is also now an official HMRC approved document you can use to deal with your tax returns!
- If you have any suggestions for improvement or any comments please contact us at Engage@eapf.org.uk



Pensioner newsletter

- Newsletter sent to our retired members in April
- It covers a lot of the topical issues covered in this webinar
- You can also download all our newsletters from www.eapf.org.uk/newsletters-and-spotlight/newsletters
- We'd like to hear your suggestions for content or how we can improve?



Protecting personal data

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

- EAPF is a Data Controller under the GDPR
 - We store, hold and manage your personal data in line with statutory requirements
 - Enables us to provide you with pension administration services.
- We're required to share your information with certain bodies but will only do so in limited circumstances.
- You can find out more about how we hold your data, who we share it with and what rights you have to request information from the Fund, by visiting www.eapf.org.uk/privacy-policy

Contact us

Please contact us if you:

- Move house or change bank account
- Have a change in circumstances such as marriage/divorce or enter/dissolve a civil partnership

Please make sure your dependents/carer know they should contact Capita in the event of:

- **Your death** – they should provide original/certified copy of death certificate
- **You becoming incapable of looking after your own affairs** – they should provide copy of Enduring Power of Attorney
- Bereavement guide also available
- ‘Other Useful factsheets’ section at www.eapf.org.uk/publications

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

Disclaimer

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If you require advice on this subject you should contact an independent financial adviser.