



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. Our 'Pension basics' section covers the retirement process and topping up your pension.

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

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

2. Investments

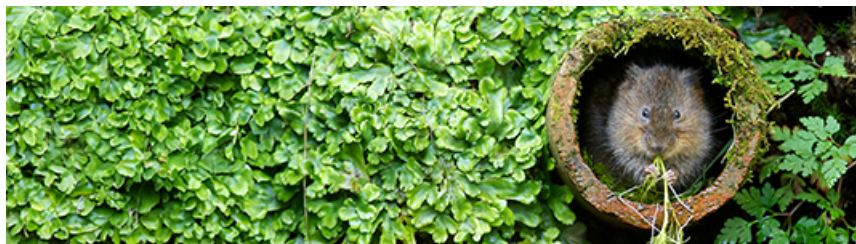
Our latest annual report and accounts

Our EAPF Annual Report and Financial Statements 2024-25 were laid in Parliament in July. This provides all the financial facts and figures about the Fund. It's a big read – but the key thing for you to know is that the fund is performing well and is financially secure.

Here are some highlights:

- The total value of the Fund's assets is £4.8bn
- The formal funding level ratio (Assets to Liabilities) is 103%
- We continue to achieve great outcomes from our investments in tackling climate change, improving biodiversity and generating strong financial returns
- Around 32% of the Fund's investments are held in UK assets
- We were recognised for multiple awards in the year including European Pension Fund of the Year

You can read both reports on our website.



[Read our latest Annual Reports](#)

Case study – example of a new investment in climate solutions

The EAPF has a target of investing 17% of the fund's Assets Under Management (AUM) in climate solutions. These are investments that directly support the transition to a low-carbon, climate-resilient economy, while delivering long-term financial value.

An example of one of our investments in climate solutions is Vine Farm Solar Park which is Owned by Schroders Greencoat LLP.

Vine Farms is one of the UK's largest solar installations. It covers 88 hectares, contains 146,000 panels and generates 46 MW of clean, renewable energy, enough to supply 11,500 homes. The site also includes a nature reserve which supports local ecosystems. The nearby river has been revitalised as part of the project, and we're thrilled to report sightings of brown trout once again.



3. Pension news

Annual pension statements

Your annual pension statement for the year ending 31 March 2025 will be added to your EAPF Online pensions account by 31 August.

We'll send you an email to let you know when your statement is ready to view 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 the full story for details about latest McCloud changes to this year's statement.



[Read more about your statement](#)

Access and Fairness consultation

The Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) is currently going through a government consultation. The consultation which closed this month, focused on improving access and fairness within the scheme.

The consultation attempts to address several key issues, including:

- Equalisation of survivor benefits
- Removing the gender pension gap
- Monitoring Opt out rates
- Further guidance on the McCloud remedy
- Changes to contributions when buying back 'lost pension' following authorised absences

As soon as we have any updates on this consultation, we'll update the [News Section of our website](#).

If you'd like more information, click the links below.

[Read the latest LGPS update](#)
[Read the consultation on the Gov.uk website](#)

Update on Government plans for LGPS pooling

The EAPF is a fund of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS). Earlier this year we responded to a consultation concerning the Government's proposed changes to the way LGPS fund assets are managed.

In our response, we explained that we support the Government's need for LGPS assets to better support growth and green growth in particular. However, we believe that some of the proposals will result in us having to compromise on our responsible investment approach.



[Read more about the Government's plans](#)



New contribution bands from 1 April 2025

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 2025, the employee contribution bands have increased by 1.7% for the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS).

Our website is updated each year with the latest contribution rates so you can see how much you'll pay into the Scheme.

[See how much it costs](#)



Normal Minimum Pension Age (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. You can read more about this by clicking below.

[Read more on the criteria](#)

Replacing the Lifetime Allowance with the Lump Sum Allowance

Since 6 April 2024, the old 'Lifetime Allowance' (which was a limit on the amount of pension benefits that can be paid from a person's pension schemes without triggering a tax charge), has been replaced with a 'Lump Sum Allowance' (LSA) of £268,275. The LSA limits the amount of tax free lump sums (and the tax free elements of lump sums) that you can take in your lifetime.

You'll also need to have available Lump Sum and Death Benefit Allowance (LSDBA), which, at £1,073,100, is higher than the LSA. If you have available LS, you will usually have sufficient LSDBA, unless you've taken a Serious Ill Health Lump Sum (SIHLS) from another pension arrangement.

Annual allowance

The Annual Allowance (AA) limit is set by the Treasury and is currently £60,000 for the 2025/26 tax year. This is the amount by which the value of your pension savings may increase in any one year without you having to pay a tax charge on your excess pension savings.

[Read more about these changes](#)



Topping up your pension

In light of your statement being available soon, you might wonder whether you can pay a little more in to get a little more out. In the LGPS, there are 2 mechanisms that you can use to top up your pension.

These are Additional Pension Contributions (APCs) or Additional Voluntary Contributions (AVCs). Whilst these might sound similar in name, they're two very different things.

[Find out more](#)



Helping you start retirement planning

Retirement is an important life decision, and we know preparing for it can be complex and overwhelming. You want to have the best possible outcome and you most likely won't have been through the process before.

We've provided some useful steps with guidance to help you start the process. Our new retirement process flow timeline infographic will show you who needs to do what, when certain steps will happen and how long it should take.

[Find out more](#)

5. Online services

Nominate your loved ones on EAPF Online

One of the most important and valued benefits of being an EAPF member is that your loved ones are covered financially in the event of your death. The Scheme provides valuable protection for your dependants, whether you die before or after you retire.

You can decide who you wish your lump sum death grant to be paid to by completing an 'Expression of wish' nomination form. The easiest way to do this is on EAPF Online, your personal pension portal.

Once you're registered online, log in and click 'My Nomination'. After making a nomination online, you can easily see who you've nominated and also update or delete your nominations at a time that suits you!

The amount that may be payable depends on certain criteria and whether you're a contributing, deferred or pensioner member. For more details on the types of death grants payable, visit www.eapf.org.uk/dgnom

[Register or log in to EAPF Online](#)

5. Communications

Cyber incident

Our website is the best place to look for the latest updates linked to the situation.

We most recently updated our Q&A documents in June which you'll find in our [Cyber hub](#).

[Read the latest update from EAPF](#)

Contributing member webinars 2025

We'll be hosting our popular live pension webinars between October and November this year.

Sessions will include our most popular topics - new starters, increasing your benefits, planning for retirement, how the EAPF invests, and pension basics.


Watch out for our Pension Awareness Week series campaign in September which will give you all the details you need about the session dates, times and how to book a place.

Pension Awareness Week


This year's national campaign will be between 15 and 19 September 2025. Organisers are again hosting their live shows during the week between 15 and 17 September, which you will need to register for.


Watch out for our own 'EAPF Pension awareness' email campaign series next month where you can find out what challenge the national campaigners are setting for this year's focus. We'll also have confirmation and booking links for our EAPF Pensions webinar series and more!

[Sign up to the Pension Awareness Week live shows](#)

 www.eapf.org.uk

 info@eapf.org.uk

 0800 121 6593

 +44 333 241 2693 (Overseas)

 @EAPensionfund

**Environment Agency
Pension Fund**

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