



## Pension schemes newsletter 150

HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) has published [Pension schemes newsletter 150](#). This includes, amongst other things, further reminders of:

- details of how to migrate schemes across from the Pension Schemes Online service, and
- confirmation that functionality for submitting Pension Scheme Returns for the 2023/24 tax year via the Managing Pension Schemes service will be released in Spring 2024. Schemes which are migrated by April 2024 will have a filing deadline of 31 January 2025, whilst those migrated after 31 October 2024 will have a filing deadline of three months from the date of issue of the notice to file.

## TPR statement on Capita cyber security incident

The Pensions Regulator (TPR) has published a [statement](#) on the cyber security incident in which some data was exfiltrated from Capita's servers. The statement reminds any trustees who use Capita services for their pension scheme that they hold responsibility for their members' data security. Trustees should therefore check whether their members are affected and communicate with Capita on any developments.

TPR encourages trustees to proactively contact their members to warn them about pension scams whilst keeping them updated about whether a specific breach has occurred. Trustees should monitor for increased or unusual transfer requests – this should already be considered for certain statutory transfers as part of the assessment for any amber flags under the 'conditions for transfers' regulations. Affected individuals may need to be notified and directed to the National Cyber Security Centre's [guidance on data breaches](#). If there has been a breach, TPR and the Information Commissioner's Office may also need to be contacted.

TPR highlights the importance of having robust cyber security and business continuity plans. They may engage further with trustees who have affected members to understand what actions have been taken.

## DWP publishes auto enrolment call for evidence

The DWP has published a [call for evidence](#) on the alternative quality requirements for DB and hybrid schemes which are used for auto enrolment purposes. The call for evidence closes on 19 June 2023.

The Department is legally required to carry out this review at least once every three years. The alternative quality requirement tests set out criteria a DB or hybrid scheme can meet in order to be used for auto enrolment, rather than the 'test scheme' approach. For the first time, requirements for collective defined contribution schemes are now considered in the review. The review aims to determine whether the requirements deliver on the simplifications made in 2014, and whether they have any unforeseen consequences.

## Pensions Dashboard Programme update

### Progress update report

The Pensions Dashboard Programme has published its [seventh update report](#), covering the period from October 2022 to April 2023. This includes confirmation that the legislative timetable for implementation of dashboards will be delayed (as covered in [PATHways 145](#)) and that the Programme will be going through a reset period to establish a new, achievable timeline. It has subsequently been [announced](#) that the previous staging timeline has been replaced with a new connection deadline of 31 October 2026.

The report reminds the industry of preparation work which should continue to be undertaken whilst the Programme works on the new delivery plan. This includes deciding on whether to connect directly to dashboards or to use a third party, preparing data for accuracy and increasing dashboard awareness within the organisation and with trustees.

The report also includes updates from the Programme's partners: the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), the FCA and TPR. These contain details of the FCA's final dashboard rules for FCA regulated providers set out in [Policy Statement 22/12](#), and its proposed regulatory framework for dashboard operators.

### Consent comprehension testing

The Programme has published [a report](#) on research carried out with a sample of 25 potential dashboard users to provide feedback on draft consent and authorisation wording. The wording explains what the Money and Pensions Service will do with user data and asks for consent for these purposes. The report also covers initial reactions users had to the concept behind pensions dashboards.

The research found that the proposed wording was widely understood and that the test users were reassured about their data security by being informed that the service is backed by government. Concise wording was found to encourage users to read the authorisation in full and therefore to fully understand the nature of their consent.

## FCA publishes letter to SIPP operators

The Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) has published [a letter](#) it has sent to firms within its 'SIPP Operator portfolio', i.e. firms for whom Self-Invested Personal Pensions are the primary business. The letter sets out the FCA's concerns that have been heightened due to ongoing firm failures in the sector, particularly due to Financial Ombudsman Service decisions. These concerns include harm due to pension scams and fraud, and inadequate due diligence processes in relation to investments being accepted into some customers' SIPPs.

The letter describes the FCA's expectations for these firms, which include that they conduct due diligence on introducer firms and the investments accepted in their products. The operators are reminded that the forthcoming Consumer Duty will require them to both deliver good outcomes and avoid causing foreseeable harm for customers.

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