



Pension schemes newsletter 151

HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) has published [Pension schemes newsletter 151](#), which includes, amongst other things, information about:

- The updates which have been completed to HMRC's [annual allowance calculator](#) to reflect changes in the annual allowance and money purchase annual allowance for the 2023/24 tax year
- The Managing Pension Schemes service including reminders about taking action to migrate pension schemes to the newer service, the expected release of event report functionality for the 2023/24 tax year this summer, filing Accounting for Tax returns, and the need to submit Pension Scheme Returns for the 2023/24 tax year via the service in due course

DWP review of 'Conditions for Transfers' regulations

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has issued a [report](#) following its review into the operation and effectiveness of the Occupational and Personal Pension Schemes (Conditions for Transfers) Regulations 2021. The review considered whether the regulations are effective, have there been any unintended consequences and do the red and amber flags remain appropriate in view of the current pension fraud landscape.

The review established that there have been issues with the practical application of the incentives red flag and the overseas investments amber flag and, whilst the Pensions Regulator (TPR) has previously updated its [guidance](#) to help address these issues, the DWP has committed to conducting further work with the pensions industry and TPR to consider if changes could be implemented to improve the operation of the regulations without undermining the policy intent.

TPR blog on protecting savers from economic volatility

TPR has published a [blog](#) by Director of Regulatory Policy, Analysis and Advice, Louise Davey, which urges trustees not to lose focus on protecting defined contribution savers, particularly those who are close to retirement, from economic volatility. The blog post reminds trustees to use TPR's [guidance](#) (as covered in our [PATHways 144](#)) on 'Supporting defined contribution savers in the current economic climate' and encourages trustees to focus on outcomes and ensure their default pre-retirement investment strategy is targeting the right outcome and is fit for purpose in the current market environment.

The blog also touches on the annual benefit statement cycle and cautions that early signs of economic recovery in some areas are unlikely to be fully reflected in the backward-looking annual benefit statements they will be sending to savers in the coming months and so "it's vital that trustees provide more up-to-date context in annual statements and supporting materials." Schemes are also urged to engage with savers approaching retirement about their choices.

PLSA resources for supporting pension scheme members

The Pensions and Lifetime Savings Association (PLSA) has [published](#) new resources for pension schemes to assist their members with the cost-of-living crisis, which include a new cost-of-living [hub](#) and a [guide](#) titled 'Supporting savers through the cost-of-living crisis: a resource for schemes'.

These resources are intended to provide guidance to schemes that wish to share additional information with savers struggling due to the increased cost-of-living and the guide seeks to consolidate information from a range of sources that may be helpful. The guide includes information on how schemes can encourage saver fiscal health in retirement (including decision making as it relates to their pension savings) as well as wider financial wellbeing aspects (signposting to mental health resources, basic budgeting support, government benefits and information on scam protection) and is structured in a question-and-answer format with digestible answers that signpost to key resources.

Pensions Dashboards

New approach to dashboards delivery

The DWP has outlined a new approach to dashboards delivery, with a [written ministerial statement](#) (touched on in our [PATHways 148](#)) of 8 June 2023 by Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Pensions, Laura Trott MP, confirming that a revised staging timeline will be set out in guidance and all schemes in scope will need to connect by 31 October 2026. On the same day, [draft Pensions Dashboards \(Amendment\) Regulations 2023](#) were published, which amend the 2022 Dashboards Regulations to introduce a single mandatory connection deadline in legislation of 31 October 2026 and remove the previous staging profile, deadlines and connection windows.

PASA dashboards values guidance

The Pensions Administration Standards Association (PASA) has published [Dashboards Values Guidance](#) to assist trustees and administrators with possible practical approaches including for situations where it is anticipated the official Government guidance may not provide sufficient detail, along with an [update on coordinating AVC information for dashboards](#) (where AVC and main scheme benefit administration are split).

TPR blog on getting data 'dashboards-ready'

TPR has published a [blog](#) by Louise Davey, following the draft amendment regulations, encouraging trustees to prepare and plan their approach to connection and articulating that the process of preparing for dashboards will shine a light on data quality. Trustees and those supporting them in their preparation are set a challenge to get data accuracy to a point where they're confident that it can be used in the dashboards environment.

Trustees are reminded to think about their matching data (to match dashboards users to their pensions) as well as the value data that will be returned to users to view, and that the time spent cleansing data should not be underestimated. Trustees are urged to work with their administrators to assess how much value data can be frontloaded using bulk or automated calculation routines.

PDP FAQs

The Pensions Dashboards Programme (PDP) has published [frequently asked questions](#) on the new approach to connection following the ministerial statement and delivery approach reset, amongst which it is noted that the PDP has said it will engage with industry on shaping the connection guidance.

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