

# PATHways

## Pension Administration Technical Help

Highlighting pensions news and legislation that has particular relevance to what we do in pension administration



## DWP ministerial changes

Further to the recent ministerial changes confirmed in PATHways [139](#) and [140](#), October 2022 has seen a number of additional changes at the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) including:

- The appointment of Mel Stride MP as [Secretary of State for Work and Pensions](#) on 25 October, replacing Chloe Smith MP
- The official confirmation of Alex Burghart MP in the role of 'Minister for Pensions and Growth' on 12 October, then subsequent departure from that post later in the month
- The appointment of Laura Trott MP as Parliamentary Under Secretary of State on 27 October, now confirmed in the post of [Minister for Pensions](#)
- The return to the DWP of Guy Opperman MP (previously Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Pensions and Financial Inclusion) on 27 October, now confirmed in the post of [Minister of State for Employment](#)

## PASA guidance on DC transfers

The Pensions Administration Standards Association (PASA) DC Transfers Working Group has published [Good Practice Guidance on DC Transfers](#).

This guidance is intended to assist the working group's objective to drive improvement in transfer processing and its stated primary aim is to "improve the overall saver experience through faster and more secure transfers". The guidance sets out a standardised and non-prescriptive process flow and includes accompanying template letters, a checklist and transfer information template to help support those aims.

## TPR enforcement strategy and updated prosecution policy

The Pensions Regulator (TPR) has published a new [enforcement strategy](#), consolidated [enforcement policy](#) and updated [prosecution policy](#) following a consultation earlier in the year (see [PATHways 136](#)), along with its [consultation response](#).

The strategy document sets out the overarching aims of and approach to TPR's enforcement work (except automatic enrolment) and provides insight into the framework TPR applies when selecting cases for enforcement action. The consolidated enforcement policy replaces and consolidates previous policies on DB, DC and public service pension schemes into one and, together with the updated prosecution policy, has been developed to reflect the new powers TPR has gained from the Pension Schemes Act 2021.

These are accompanied by a [blog](#) in which Erica Carroll, TPR's Director of Enforcement, outlines the reasons behind the new, refreshed, documents on TPR's approach to enforcement.

## Pensions dashboards updates

Developments in the pensions dashboards arena continue apace, with progress made during October 2022 including:

### Government consultation response and draft regulations and deferred connection guidance

The DWP has published the following items:

- [Government response to the Pensions Dashboards: further consultation](#)
- [Pensions dashboards: draft guidance on deferred connection](#)
- A [press release](#) informing that proposed regulations have been laid before Parliament for scrutiny

The consultation response is to the further consultation from June 2022 (see [PATHways 137](#)) concerning proposals on how and when services would be made available to the public (the 'dashboards available point' or 'DAP') and the sharing of information between TPR and Money and Pensions Service (MaPS).

DWP has taken on board feedback and, on availability to the public, has acknowledged that to provide formal notice at least 90 days before the DAP may create challenges and amended the proposal so that the Secretary of State must issue a formal notice at least 6 months before the DAP.

The draft guidance on making an application to defer connection outlines the process envisaged, including in what circumstances an application might be considered, how DWP will consider and decide on applications, and how to apply including the deadline for making such applications.

The [regulations](#) (subject to Parliamentary approval) outline how pension schemes will connect to the dashboard ecosystem and what providers must do to become a qualified pensions dashboard service. The draft regulations include the staging profile with deadlines for schemes to have completed connection and provisions to allow applications to be made by schemes, in some specific circumstances, to defer their staging deadline by up to 12 months.

### PDP progress update report

The Pensions Dashboards Programme (PDP) has published its sixth [progress update report](#) giving a summary of progress made since April 2022 and setting out focus areas for the next six months.

Recent activity includes the continuing development of data, technical, reporting and design standards and work with early participants on the initial test phase of the programme. The focus areas to April 2023 include further consultation on design standards, testing the connection processes and functionality of the central digital architecture and testing the MoneyHelper dashboard being built by MaPS with real data.

## Financial Reporting Council AS TM1

The Financial Reporting Council has [announced](#) changes to the Actuarial Standard Technical Memorandum 1 (AS TM1) which will apply to Statutory Money Purchase Illustration (SMPI) statements issued from 1 October 2023.

TM1 v5.0 will replace the current v4.2 and DWP intends for the updated standard to be used when determining DC pension projections to be shown on pensions dashboards. The changes aim to support more consistent and reliable pension projections for DC pension scheme members once they start to be provided to pensions dashboards services.

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