

PATHways



Pension Administration Technical Help

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



TPR news

Updated guidance for DC schemes on illiquid asset disclosures

New requirements introduced in [The Occupational Pension Schemes \(Administration, Investment, Charges and Governance\) and Pensions Dashboards \(Amendment\) Regulations 2023](#) mean that, from 1 October 2023, trustees will have to state their policy on investing in illiquid assets in the statement of investment principles for their scheme's default arrangements.

Trustees will also be required to disclose the asset class breakdown for each of their scheme's default arrangements in the Chair's statement. The Pensions Regulator (TPR) has updated the following guidance to help DC pension schemes comply with the new regulations, which are designed to ensure they consider all the investment opportunities available to achieve best value for savers:

- [DC code of practice 13](#)
- [Communicating and reporting: DC schemes](#)
- [DC investment governance](#)

Updated DB superfunds guidance

TPR has concluded its [review](#) of its DB superfunds guidance and has summarised the key issues it has considered. It has now published updated guidance for [DB superfunds](#) and for [trustees and employers](#) and reflects the feedback received. In a recent TPR [blog](#) it explains that the updates include:

- easing the way for schemes transferring to a superfund
- changes to their funding expectations
- more clarity on the assessment process, among other changes

TPR will engage further with industry and the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) in relation to the longer-term plans for the legislative framework and further development of DB superfunds.

TPR publishes blog – climate scenario analysis

TPR has published a [blog](#) in which Mark Hill, TPR's Climate and Sustainability Lead, explains what pension scheme trustees can do to drive change in climate scenario analysis for their annual climate reports. The blog lists TPR's expectations of trustees, including that they should:

- have an appropriate level of knowledge and understanding of climate issues and completing regular training
- be able to understand the basis underlying their climate scenarios, the limitations of those scenarios and the assumptions made in their construction
- consider doing more scenario analysis in years where they are not formally required to do so

PASA publishes data guidance on DB benefit accuracy

The Pensions Administration Standards Association (PASA) Data Working Group has published new [data guidance](#) on benefit accuracy for DB schemes. Trustees have a duty to ensure members receive the pension benefits they are due. PASA has previously issued guidance focused on [data quality](#) and they are now building by focusing on benefit accuracy.

The guidance informs that when assessing DB scheme data, the benefits payable to a member should be a priority in the evaluation to ensure they are currently accurate and remain accurate in the future. PASA believe that the investment to get benefits right is time and money well spent, not only for the outcome and experience for members, but in comparison to the significant costs that arise when things go wrong.

This guidance has been prepared to assist schemes in understanding key areas which will support benefit accuracy and focuses on:

- benefit specification
- data specification
- benefit audit
- automation
- independent assurance

DWP – guidance on deferred connection to pension dashboards

The DWP has updated its [guidance on deferred connection to pension dashboards](#) for trustees or managers of relevant occupational pension schemes and their advisers. The guidance and application form to request to defer the connection deadline have been updated to reflect the legislative changes made by [The Pensions Dashboards \(Amendment\) Regulations 2023](#), including introducing a single connection deadline of 31 October 2026.

TPO member factsheet on incorrect pension information

The Pensions Ombudsman (TPO) has published a [factsheet](#) for members setting out what they should do if they have a complaint about incorrect pension information received, for example, an incorrect benefit statement, and when TPO can investigate. The factsheet explains that, in most cases, members will only be entitled to be paid the correct pension benefits set out in the rules, even if that amount is lower than the incorrect information provided.

MaPS publishes report on pension scams

The Money and Pensions Service (MaPS) published [findings](#) from a [review](#) into pension scams. It presents the findings from a review of the evidence on the scale of pension scams in the UK, the impact on those affected, types of scam and tactics used by scammers, key risk factors and current trends.

The report recommends actionable and evidence-based strategies and interventions that MaPS and others (such as trustees), could adopt to reduce the risk of scams and better support those affected. One suggestion is to introduce “positive friction” in the process of completing a transfer after an [amber flag](#) has been raised, by MaPS requiring individuals to confirm whether they want to proceed with a transfer after attending a pensions safeguarding appointment, before they issue the appointment reference number.

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