

PATHways



Pension Administration Technical Help

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



Dissolution of Parliament

Following the announcement that a General Election will take place on 4 July 2024, the [dissolution of Parliament](#) took place on 30 May. All business in the House of Commons and House of Lords came to an end from that date.

This leaves a great deal of uncertainty around both the future direction and timing of currently expected pensions developments. This includes:

- the amending regulations that are required to rectify previously published legislation relating to the abolition of the lifetime allowance, as outlined in [Pensions schemes newsletter 158](#). This may leave some members in the unsatisfactory position of having to delay their retirement plans until this situation is resolved
- the publication of the Pensions Regulator's new Defined Benefit funding code
- key pensions policies related to the current Government's [Mansion House](#) reform package, including the Defined Contribution value for money and decumulation frameworks

Related to this, the Pensions and Lifetime Savings Association (PLSA) has published its [Pension priorities for the first 100 days of a new Government](#). The document outlines five key areas that the PLSA believes a new Government can act on quickly, to better secure the financial futures of those currently saving towards retirement.

HMRC newsletter

[Pensions schemes newsletter 160](#) was published by HMRC (HM Revenue & Customs) on 30 May and includes the following:

- confirmation that the HMRC [online tool](#) designed to help individuals determine whether they can apply for a transitional tax-free amount certificate, has now been published. A summary of what information must legally be included in a certificate is also provided
- details of the payroll reporting requirements for the 2024/2025 tax year in respect of serious ill-health and stand-alone lump sums, as well as lump sum death benefits paid for members under 75
- a reminder of the steps that need to be completed to migrate to the Managing pension schemes service and that pension scheme returns from the 2024/2025 tax year will need to be submitted via that service, rather than via the Pension Schemes Online service
- information on the correct routes for raising different types of pension tax rules related queries with HMRC, including various email addresses

Pensions dashboards

PDP standards

The Pensions Dashboards Programme (PDP) has published its updated version of the [data standards](#), which set out how the data returned to dashboard services must be formatted.

Other standards currently being refined are the technical, reporting and design standards, as well as a code of connection, made up of security, service and operational standards. These will be published after they have been tested and validated. All standards are subject to final approval by the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions.

NAO report

On 10 May, the National Audit Office (NAO) published a [report](#) on its investigation into the delays in the delivery of the PDP. The report covers the purpose of dashboards and how the PDP was set up. It also covers the progress the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and Money and Pensions Service (MaPS) have made in delivering the PDP, the problems with implementation and the progress made in resetting the PDP.

In its [press release](#), Gareth Davies, head of the NAO, concluded "Though progress has been made during the reset, DWP and MaPS must continue to work closely to ensure the final stages of the PDP are delivered smoothly and the public can begin to have access to this important service."

PSIG consultation

The Pension Scams Industry Group (PSIG) has issued an [industry consultation](#) on its future strategy, which closes on 31 July 2024. Its aim is to understand the value provided by PSIG, its possible future direction and how this could be achieved, including potential funding options.

The outcome of the consultation will assist PSIG shape its future activities in a variety of areas. This may potentially include stopping certain activities that do not provide sufficient value to the industry.

TPO operating model review

The Pensions Ombudsman (TPO) has published a [blog](#) outlining some of the ideas it has for reducing waiting times and improving the service offered to its customers. It says that during this year it will be prioritising three specific areas:

- tightening the conditions that must be met before TPO's Resolution Team investigate a complaint, such as requiring complainants to demonstrate they have already exhausted their scheme's internal dispute resolution procedure
- extending the use of short-form decisions and determinations for appropriate cases at all stages of its processes
- exploring whether there are certain categories of complaints that are more appropriately dealt with by other organisations and whether a de minimis threshold should be applied in some circumstances

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