

# PATHways

## Pension Administration Technical Help

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



## DWP updates

### Consultation on draft pensions dashboards regulations

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has launched a [consultation](#) on the draft pensions dashboards regulations. The consultation closes on 13 March 2022 and aims to seek views on a range of policy questions relating to the creation of dashboards and the indicative draft regulations published with the consultation.

The draft regulations cover three main areas:

- the requirements that will need to be met by providers of a “qualifying pensions dashboard service”. This includes, for example, a requirement to register with the Money and Pensions Service and comply with the (still to be) published security, technical and service standards
- the requirements for relevant occupational pension schemes. This includes the proposed compulsory staging timetable for schemes with 100 or more active and / or deferred members, the possible option for early or voluntary connection or a request for deferral of a staging deadline, as well as the type of information that must be provided to dashboards. The staging timetable proposes that ‘large’ schemes will have a roll-out date of between April 2023 and September 2024 and ‘medium’ schemes between October 2024 and October 2025. While not included in these regulations, ‘small’ and ‘micro’ schemes are currently expected to connect from 2026
- the proposed compliance and enforcement powers that will be available to The Pensions Regulator (TPR)

### Response to ‘Stronger Nudge’ to pensions guidance consultation

The DWP has made several changes to its proposed ‘Stronger Nudge’ to pensions guidance proposals, based upon the responses received to its consultation, as detailed in [PATHways 126](#). The changes, detailed in the [consultation response](#), aim to reduce the administrative burden of the regulations and include:

- the Stronger Nudge requirements not applying when a transfer request is for any purpose other than accessing flexible benefits e.g. consolidation of pension benefits
- the Stronger Nudge requirements not applying to the trustees of a ceding scheme where the receiving scheme has already met them
- allowing trustees to provide details on how the individual can book their own Pension Wise appointment, for example, where the trustees have been unable to book an appointment for the individual despite taking reasonable steps
- enabling the Stronger Nudge guidance to be issued as early as possible in the process, i.e. before an application is received
- removing the requirement to opt out in a separate communication for certain transfer requests

In addition, the regulations relating to these stronger nudge requirements have been published. [The Occupational and Personal Pension Schemes \(Disclosure of Information\) \(Requirements to Refer Members to Guidance etc.\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2022](#) were laid before Parliament on 17 January 2022 and come into force with effect from 1 June 2022. These regulations impose new requirements on occupational pension schemes that include (broadly) defined contribution benefits. This includes the requirement to ensure 'relevant beneficiaries' have received 'appropriate pensions guidance' prior to transferring or receiving flexible benefits, subject to certain 'opt out notification' provisions.

## TPR updates

### [TPR has released a blog on ways to protect pension savers in 2022](#)

The [blog](#) looks at some of the challenges different groups of pension savers may face and how the risk for each can be mitigated. Some of the areas the blog briefly considers are TPR's expectation that trustees take a 'common-sense approach' to the transfer regulations introduced in November 2021. TPR expect to see an increased reporting of suspected scams from administrators/trustees. They touch on climate-related risk and how they expect trustees to increase their capability in this area including the submission of Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures reports where required.

The blog also explains how increasing diversity across the pensions industry is essential to ensuring all savers get good value for money and the steps TPR have taken in this area, including setting up an industry working group to look at the barriers to diversity within the industry.

## HMRC Pension Schemes Newsletter 136

HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) has published [Pension Schemes Newsletter 136](#). This includes, amongst other items:

- further information on the increase to the normal minimum pension age, as covered in [PATHways 130](#), including the new protection available where an individual had an unqualified right to take their benefits prior to age 57
- a reminder that scheme administrators should check that the receiving scheme continues to meet the 'Q'ROPS requirements prior to making a transfer payment to an overseas arrangement
- the facility to migrate pension schemes on to the Managing Pension Schemes service is currently planned for release in early April 2022 and confirmation that schemes will be required to provide additional information to complete the migration process. The newsletter also gives some further updates regarding the functionality of the new service, including that from mid-March 2022 it will no longer be possible to compile and submit an Accounting for Tax return for any quarter from 1 April 2020 on the Pension Schemes Online service.

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