



## Abolition of the lifetime allowance

As mentioned in previous editions of PATHways, regulations intended to correct the existing legislation in relation to the abolition of the lifetime allowance (LTA) came into force on 18 November 2024 and mainly have effect from 6 April 2024.

Between them [The Pensions \(Abolition of Lifetime Allowance Charge etc\) \(No. 2\) Regulations 2024](#) and [The Pensions \(Abolition of Lifetime Allowance Charge etc\) \(No 3\) Regulations 2024](#) have over 35 amending regulations, including in relation to the following aspects:

- The calculation of certain crystallised rights for testing the value of the member's pension rights does not exceed the commutation limit for the purpose of paying trivial commutation lumps sums
- The formula used to determine the member's pension commencement lump sum entitlement where a member holds scheme-specific lump sum protection
- Various changes relating to individuals with primary or enhanced protection
- Minor updates to the process for transitional tax-free amount certificates
- Changes to certain requirements relating to transfers to qualifying recognised overseas pension schemes

## HMRC newsletter

On 18 November 2024, HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) published an update to [Pension schemes newsletter 163](#), which was originally published in October 2024.

The update corrects the information provided under the 'International' heading, relating to the guidance on the abolition of the LTA amendment regulations. The revised guidance now informs of a new paragraph in those regulations, to modify the availability of a member's overseas transfer allowance where the member has had a pension in payment before 6 April 2006.

## New Deputy Pensions Ombudsman appointment

The Pensions Ombudsman (TPO) has [announced](#) that Camilla Barry has been appointed as Deputy Pensions Ombudsman (DPO), for a term of four years from 9 December 2024.

Camilla will replace the current DPO Anthony Arter, who remained at the TPO after his term as Pensions Ombudsman ended to complete his cases for the Pensions Dishonesty Unit and to deal with any conflicts for TPO.

## Pensions dashboards

The Pensions Dashboards Programme (PDP) has recently [released](#) updated draft [reporting standards](#). This set of standards includes the requirements for schemes and dashboard providers, in relation to generating, recording and reporting data. This includes information for security protection, tracking performance and helping regulators to monitor compliance with legal obligations.

PDP has also informed that minor updates have been made to the data standards and the code of connection.

All standards will be mandatory but remain in draft until final approval by the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions.

Separately, on 6 November 2024, Chris Curry, Principal of the PDP, provided a [progress update](#) on the programme. Accompanying this were some Q&As covering a number of topics, including on the MoneyHelper pensions dashboard, user testing, the Gov.UK identity service, matching criteria and AVCs.

## Pension scams

The Pensions Regulator (TPR) has continued its recent activity of highlighting pension scams by issuing a [press release](#) relating to a storyline in EastEnders covering the “devastating impact of pension scams”.

To help develop the story, TPR were one of the organisations that shared insights into the tactics used by scammers and the far-reaching financial and emotional toll on victims.

The press release also includes a call to action for the industry to report scams and the suspicions of scams to [Action Fraud](#).

TPO has also [published details](#) of a recent [determination](#) concerning pension liberation. In this case TPO determined that the scheme trustees had committed various breaches of trust and maladministration and were ordered to repay over £5.2 million into the affected schemes.

## Revaluation Order 2024

[The Occupational Pensions \(Revaluation\) Order 2024](#) was published on 20 November 2024 and will come into force on 1 January 2025. The Order provides the revaluation percentages that will apply to benefits in excess of GMP for deferred members of a defined benefit pension scheme, who will take their pension benefits in 2025.

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