

PENSIONNEWS

CONTENTS

Chairman's Message	2
National Fraud Initiative	4
Coming Soon (New website, Dashboards)	4
Annual Members' Meeting	7
Sustainability Report	8
Communications Timetable	9
TfL Pensions Consultative Council	10
Trustee Update	10
Other Fund Matters	11
Contacting us	12



Notice for the visually impaired

Copies of this newsletter in large type and in a text only format are available from the Fund Office. Please write to TfL Pension Fund, 4th Floor, 200 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 9TJ, or email the Fund Office at helpdesk@tflpensions.co.uk

CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the 2023 edition of **PENSIONEWS**.

The last year has been a busy year for the Fund. The Funds' assets stood at £14.176bn at 31 March 2023.

For TfL the principal employer, the continued impact of reduced ridership and fares revenues and the consequential impact on finances has been an area of considerable focus for the Trustees who have continually monitored the strength of employer covenant over this period. Another area of focus for the employer has been the Pensions Review which is a condition of Government funding, however to date there have been no proposals for change from TfL.

For the Trustees focus on investments and the associated risk has been a key area with the Investment strategy withstanding the market turmoil in the Autumn of 2022 and the funding level remaining healthy and positive.

Another area that continues to be a focus for the Trustees is sustainability and we include further details about our latest sustainability report in this issue.

**25,489 ACTIVE MEMBERS
AT 31 MARCH 2023**

**FUND ASSETS OF £14.176BN
AT 31 MARCH 2023**

In this edition we bring you the latest news on issues currently facing the Fund, including:

- ◆ Annual Members Meeting
- ◆ Pension Increases
- ◆ What new for 2023
- ◆ PCC Election Results
- ◆ Sustainability Report
- ◆ Trustee update
- ◆ National Fraud Initiative

As usual we provide a communications timetable for the year ahead which includes the details of this year's Annual Members' Meeting for your diary.

If you have any comments about this issue of **PENSIONEWS** or any other Fund publication, we always welcome your feedback and you can let us know by contacting the Fund Office at the address on the back page.

M. Antoniou

Maria Antoniou
Chair of the TfL Pension Fund Trustees





EXPRESSION OF WISH FORMS

When there is a lump sum death benefit payable from the Fund Trustees always look to take into account a members wishes when deciding who the lump sum should be paid to.

The Trustees take account of your wishes by looking at any Expression of Wish form you may have provided; unfortunately not all members complete one or keep them up to date.

We have had several cases where no Expression of Wish has been received and this can lead to delays in being able to pay the lump sum and there is a risk that the Trustees do not pay the lump sum as the member would have wished.

If you are a current active member or have a deferred pension with the Fund, please take the time to complete an Expression of Wish form, you can either download a form to complete by hand or you can do this online through our Pension Web Portal. If you do this via the portal you will be able to see your completed form online.

Fill out an Expression of Wish form today to make sure we know who you'd want to receive any lump sum if you die.



Download a form from www.tfl.gov.uk/pensions or visit the Pension Web Portal <https://pensions.tfl.gov.uk>





COMING SOON



Later this year, we plan to launch our new look stand-alone Pension Fund website. We have taken on board the feedback from our members and redesigned the site to make it easier to access the information you need.

In addition we have created new life event guides which go into more detail about specific life events and the things to consider in relation to your pension, and in particular the need to seek suitable independent advice.

Other new features include:

-  Information videos
-  Contact form

CONTACTING THE FUND OFFICE



We are aware that some members have been experiencing difficulties contacting the Fund Office by telephone. As a result the Trustees have engaged a third party provider to supplement the Fund Office team through the establishment of a call handling centre. Members should call the call handling centre who will be the first line of support for telephone enquiries. We expect this service to launch in September and will confirm this on the Fund website. The new telephone number for contacting us by telephone will be **01737 235 298**.

MONEY HELPER

Money Helper is a Government provided service which has consolidated a number of different services under one umbrella and provides a wealth of useful information, we would encourage members to take a look at the Money Helper website <https://www.moneyhelper.org.uk/en/pensions-and-retirement>

The Government have introduced an enhanced digital MOT and the Pensions Regulator would like to see planning for the overall retirement journey start as early as possible and taking the midlife MOT should be seen as an essential part of it. You can find out more through the following link <https://jobhelp.campaign.gov.uk/midlifemot/home-page/>

NATIONAL FRAUD INITIATIVE (NFI)

The Audit Commission has developed a data matching exercise which detects and helps to prevent fraudulent and erroneous payments from being made from the public purse. The NFI analyses and cross checks electronic data from audited public bodies participating in the exercise, which is run every two years. The Fund has participated since 2004 and submitted data for the 2022 exercise.

As a direct result of our participation in past exercises, overpayments have been identified and further inappropriate payments have been stopped. The Fund Office will identify and pursue any overpayments identified by this exercise.



PENSIONS DASHBOARD

The Government will be launching a pensions dashboard, this is currently expected to be in 2026, this will allow you to search all of your pension benefits in one place, all pension schemes are required to provide data to the pensions dashboard and the TfL Pension Fund is required to make data available by 2026.

In preparation for this we have been validating the data we hold as it is important for our data to be accurate and to this end we would encourage you to ensure we are kept up to date with any changes to your details, in particular if you move. If we lose contact with you we may not be able to trace you when your benefits become due, and for those already receiving a pension from us, if you move and fail to notify us we may have to suspend payment of your pension until you contact us.

You can update your address via our Pension Web Portal, by telephoning us or by writing to us; for current employees we receive address updates from HR so if you move please ensure that your SAP record is updated.

GUARANTEED MINIMUM PENSION (GMP) EQUALISATION

Firstly what is a GMP?

Your GMP is part of your pension from the Scheme. It replaces part of the State Pension.

Before April 2016, the State Pension was made up of two parts: the flat-rate Basic State Pension, and a second level of State Pension linked to earnings. This was called the State Second Pension (or 'S2P'), and before that, the State Earnings Related Pension Scheme (or 'SERPS').

From 6 April 1978, pension schemes could 'contract out' of SERPS. This meant that both employers and employees would pay lower National Insurance contributions, and the pension scheme had to provide a certain level of benefit in place of the SERPS pension the employee would be giving up.

For pension schemes like ours, this minimum level is the GMP. The amount of GMP and the way it must be increased in payment is set by legislation.

People stopped building up GMPs from 6 April 1997.

What is GMP Equalisation?

For workplace pension schemes that were contracted out of SERPS (and later the State Second Pension), GMPs remain unequal in some cases.

GMP equalisation is the action all such pension schemes must take to adjust pensions for the effect of unequal GMPs. This is only required in respect of GMPs built up from 17 May 1990.

In the past, State Pensions were paid to men and women at different ages (65 for men and 60 for women), but were gradually equalised so that by November 2018, men and women had a State Pension age of 65.

However, GMPs are still payable from age 65 for men and age 60 for women. Also, men and women could build up GMPs at different rates.

In 1990, the European Court of Justice ruled that all UK pension schemes had to treat pensions equally for men and women for benefits built up after 17 May 1990, including the same pension age.

But the rules governing GMPs were set in legislation and as State Pension ages were still different, GMPs did not adjust in line with this ruling. As a result, GMPs remained unequal in some cases.

Following a High Court ruling in October 2018, UK workplace pension schemes must now put this right by adjusting pensions for any unequal GMPs included in the pension.

What is the Fund doing about this?

The Fund is currently reviewing all records to ensure that the GMP data held is accurate, this is done through a reconciliation with HMRC, once complete work will be undertaken to identify any records where the GMP needs to be corrected, the work will be undertaken to identify members for whom GMP needs to be equalised, this is a complex process involving the Scheme Actuary and will take some time. Once complete affected members will be contacted.

PENSION WEB PORTAL

Over 22,500 members have already registered to use the portal, if you have not already done so why not register today? To Register, please visit <https://pensions.tfl.gov.uk> you will need your e-mail address, Pension Fund Member number and your National Insurance number, you will also need to key in other details about yourself such as your name and date of birth.

Once registered you will be able to:

- ♦ View payslips (pensioners only)
- ♦ View P60s (pensioners only)
- ♦ View benefit statements
- ♦ Run retirement calculations (active and deferred members only)
- ♦ Update your address (pensioners and deferred members only)
- ♦ Submit and track the progress of general enquiries to the Fund Office
- ♦ Update your Expression of Wish (coming soon)

We have published a Pension Web Portal user guide on the Pension Fund website which includes step by step the process to register.

SIGN UP TODAY



Keep your password safe



Our Pension Web Portal, contains important information about you and your benefits under the Fund, so please keep your password safe, don't share it and try to make sure that it is not something that could be easily guessed. If you think your password has been compromised you should look to reset your password through the portal, our user guide provides a step by step guide of how to do this.



ADDITIONAL VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS (AVCs)

Many members pay AVCs through the Fund's AVC plan, it is important that you keep your AVCs under review, making sure the funds in which you have invested remain appropriate for you and if you have chosen to pay AVCs through the Lifestyle option that your target retirement age reflects your current plans for retirement.

Our Guide to AVC Investment Options provides you with details of the 'self select' funds available and the lifestyle option. In addition we provide Fund Fact Sheets for each of the self select funds available, these are updated every month.

If you wish to change your investment choice or your target retirement age if you have chosen the lifestyle option, you can do this online through Legal & General's "Manage Your Account" website, or by contacting Legal & General by telephone on **0345 070 8686** or email to employerdedicatedteam@landg.com

ANNUAL MEMBERS' MEETING

The Annual Members' Meeting was held virtually on 7 October 2022. The meeting began with an introduction from the Chair of Trustees, Maria Antoniou, and was followed by a review of the year by the Fund Secretary, Stephen Field. He provided a summary of the growth of the Fund over the year to 31 March 2022, Trustee changes and the key activities over the last year.

There were three guest speakers on the day. Gareth Oxtoby, Scheme Actuary, from Willis Towers Watson, Dave Aleppo, from Willis Towers Watson, the Fund's investment adviser, and Pauline Sibbit, from Sackers, the Fund's legal adviser.

The meeting concluded with a question and answer session.

The meeting presentations and a video of the full meeting can be found on the Fund's website at www.tfl.gov.uk/pensions



YOU ARE INVITED TO THE 2023 ANNUAL MEMBER'S MEETING

The 2023 Annual Members' Meeting will take place on Friday 6 October at 11:00 in the Telford Theatre, One Great George Street, Westminster, London SW1P 3AA. There will once again be an exhibition in the Great Hall, so if you are unable to attend the meeting, you are welcome to drop in at the exhibition, which will be open from 10:30 to 12:45. Once the meeting has formally concluded in the Telford Theatre, there is an opportunity to meet the Trustees and their advisers. Fund Office Staff will also be present and refreshments will be provided.

This will be a hybrid meeting to allow those not able to attend in person to take part in the meeting by joining online.



HOW TO JOIN THE ONLINE MEETING

MEETING ACCESS

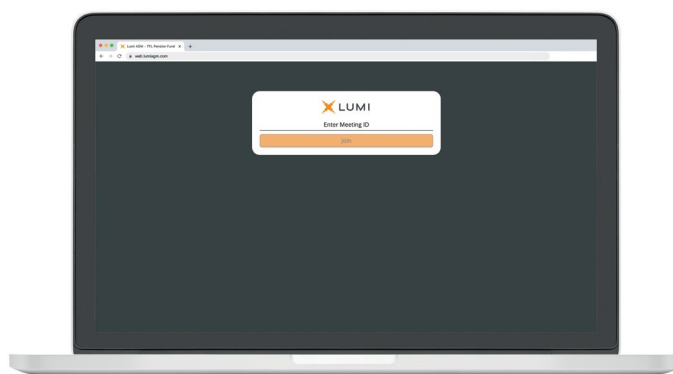
Members can participate in the meeting remotely, via: <https://web.lumiagm.com>

This can be accessed online using the latest version of Chrome, Firefox and Safari on your PC, laptop, tablet or smartphone. You'll be prompted to enter the Meeting ID, then click join meeting.

You will then be prompted to enter:

- Membership number; and
- Password, which is: **TFLPFAMM**

Access to the Lumi platform will be available an hour prior to the start of the meeting.



Meeting ID: 171-757-581

2022 SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

The Fund Trustee takes a holistic view in aligning their Sustainable Investing Beliefs towards the Fund's investment activities. There is a clear recognition that each of the three factors: Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) play an important role in driving the long-term value of the Fund's investment portfolio. The Fund Trustee believes that as a long-term provider of responsible capital, the Fund should be an agent of positive change, engaging with the companies to help them adopt and transition to best business practices and sustainable business models.

This is the fifth year the Fund has published its Sustainable Investing Annual Report, this Report captures the on-going efforts and evolving activities the Fund has undertaken as it continues along its important journey to integrate ESG considerations across all of its investments.

The Fund continues to work in partnership with its managers to source investment opportunities that not only offer attractive rates of return, but equally are aligned to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals ("SDGs"). The report showcases some of these exciting investment opportunities that the Trustees are proud to be part of.

The Fund is an active member of various industry bodies and initiatives that are helping pension schemes globally

to collaborate and speak with one voice on the various ESG matters, particularly climate change. The belief is working with like-minded investors on climate change is more effective than working alone or just disinvesting from companies that are making changes to their business models. In particular the Fund is a signatory to the UNPRI (United Nations Principles of Responsible Investment) and to the Carbon Disclosure Project, is a member of A4S (Accounting for Sustainability) and is a supporting investor of Climate Action 100+.

To gain a greater understanding of the Fund's approach from this report and learn more about some of the Fund's investment activities, please find the full report on our website.



<https://tfl.gov.uk/cdn/static/cms/documents/2022-report-on-sustainable-investing.pdf>

In addition the Trustees have recently published a Statement of Investment Beliefs which can be viewed on the Fund website <https://content.tfl.gov.uk/statement-of-investment-beliefs-june-2023.pdf>



CARBON FOOTPRINT

The Fund's carbon emission intensity across the Fund's active equity and bond portfolio has reduced by 34 per cent and since 2016.



PAY DATES

The pay dates for the remainder of 2023/24 scheme year are:

25 September 2023

23 October 2023

20 November 2023

18 December 2023

15 January 2024

12 February 2024

12 March 2024

COMMUNICATIONS TIMETABLE

September	Annual Review – the Trustees’ summary of the Report and Accounts incorporating the Summary Funding Statement – how the Fund’s invested assets compare with the liabilities to pay benefits Benefit statements to all deferred members
October	Annual Members’ Meeting – a forum for all members to meet the Trustees and discuss the Fund – details will be included in the Annual Review
April	Annual Payslips and P60s to pensioners. These will show the payment dates for the forthcoming tax year, as well as showing total pension and tax information for 2023/24.
May / June	AVC statements to all members of the AVC plan (for those registered with Legal & General) statements are published to your Legal & General online account.
June / July	Benefit Statements to all Active members

As well as the documents listed above which are issued to various categories of Members, the following documents will also be published on the Fund’s website where you can view or download them.

September	Annual Report & Accounts at 31 March 2023 – the Annual Review which is issued in September is a summary version of the full Report & Accounts
December	ESG Report
April	Statement of Investment Principles – this is the Trustee statement of the principles governing investment decisions

TFL PENSIONS CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL

The PCC discusses any issues relating to the operation of the TfL Pension Fund (but not individual entitlements). PCC members are elected from three sections representing pensioners and deferred pensioners, employees of London Underground and TfL employees other than LU. The PCC has a role in nominating Trustees to the Pension Fund to represent these groups. The PCC constitution is on the Fund's website at www.tfl.gov.uk/pensions

Election results 2022

The longest serving quarter of the TfL Pension Consultative Council (PCC) retired from office on the 30 November 2022. The term of office for the new appointments commenced on the 1 December 2022 and will end on the 30 November 2026.

In Section One (representing pensioners and deferred pensioners), David Biggs and Stephen Spurgin's terms

ended. Three nominations were received and, following a postal ballot, Mr Biggs and Mr Mark Harding were elected. Mr Harding and Mr Biggs have both served on the PCC since 2001 and 2005, respectively.

In Section Two (representing TfL and its subsidiaries or contractors, excluding London Underground Limited), Mohan Sukumaran's term ended, and no other nominations were received. Therefore, Mr Sukumaran was duly re-elected. Mr Sukumaran has served on the PCC since 2021.

In Section Three (representing London Underground Limited and its subsidiaries), Hari Srikandarajah and Pete Woods' terms ended. Four nominations were received and, following a postal ballot, Mr Woods and Mr Tony De Wet were both elected. Mr Woods has served on the PCC since 2018.

For more information about the PCC you can visit the TfL Pension Fund website at www.tfl.gov.uk/pensions or contact or contact Tim Handley, PCC Secretary on **020 7126 2213** or email helpdesk@tflpensionfund.co.uk

TRUSTEE UPDATE

The Trustee Board decides all policy matters; however the Trustee Board has established six committees to supervise different aspects of the Fund and report back to the full Trustee Board. The current membership of the committees is shown below:

Committee	TfL Nominated	Non TfL Nominated
Actuarial Valuation Committee	Maria Antoniou* Rebecca O'Donnell	Stephen Ellaby Chris Miller
Alternatives and Liability Hedging Committee	Mark Evers Rebecca O'Donnell	Paul Murphy John Timbrell*
Appeals Committee	Mercillina Adesida Tricia Ashton* Julian Thirlby	Stephen Ellaby Sonja Folarin Paul Kilius-Smith
Audit and Risk Committee	Tom Cunnington Chris Reader James Terry	Finn Brennan Lewis Brown* John Leach
Investment Committee	Tricia Ashton Mark Evers Rebecca O'Donnell Julian Thirlby	Lewis Brown Paul Kilius-Smith Paul Murphy John Timbrell*
Operations Committee	Mercillina Adesida Tom Cunnington Chris Reader James Terry	Lewis Brown Finn Brennan Sonja Folarin Paul Murphy*

* Chair

OTHER FUND MATTERS

Ill-health pensions in payment

If you are in receipt of an ill-health pension, the Fund requires you to tell us if the total of your current earnings (if any) when added to your pension exceeds the greater of 150 per cent of your current pension or £40,700. This latter figure is increased annually by earnings inflation.

Ill Health Retirement

We have published a helpsheet which explains the ill health process for contributing members, this can be found on the Fund website homepage, the key things to note are:

- ◆ If there is a likelihood that you may leave due to ill health, you should make an application for an ill health pension allowing at least two months for the medical evidence to be collated and considered
- ◆ Members can submit their own ill health retirement application
- ◆ Making an application does not change the attendance at work process
- ◆ Being granted an ill health pension does not bring the attendance at work process to an earlier conclusion

Pensioner payments

A number of our pensioners change account and it is important to remember there can be a delay in your change notification being received by the Fund office, so whether you use the current account switch service where the banks notify us or you make the switch independently, please do not close your old account until you have received confirmation from the Fund Office that we have received and actioned your change request, this will avoid payments being returned to us and the consequent delay in reissuing the payment to you.



CONTACTING THE FUND OFFICE

The staff in the Fund Office will be pleased to answer any queries you may have. They cannot give financial advice or deal with tax matters but will be able to advise you who to contact for the assistance you need.

If you are telephoning the team, we are introducing a call centre from September 2023 the new telephone number will be **01737 235 298**. If you are having difficulty contacting us by telephone, we can also be contacted by email to **helpdesk@tflpensions.co.uk**

The Fund Office team are working on a hybrid basis so we are now able to see visitors in the office, but with fewer people in the office each day we require that you contact us to book an appointment by email or telephone to ensure that a member of the team is available to help you.

They can be contacted at:

TfL Pension Fund
4th Floor
200 Buckingham Palace Road
London SW1W 9TJ

We will be moving on 6 October 2023 to:

8th Floor
Palestra
197 Blackfriars Road
London
SE1 8NJ



Email at: **helpdesk@tflpensions.co.uk**

If you have access to the internet, you can access member self-service and find lots of information, including forms and Fund documents, on the Fund's website at www.tfl.gov.uk/pensions



This review is printed on paper that is made from 50% recycled and 50% sustainable sources. You can recycle this plastic film, go to www.recyclenow.com for your nearest recycling facility.