

# PATHways

## Pension Administration Technical Help

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



## Cold-calling ban approved by Parliament

The ban on pensions cold-calling has been approved by Parliament via [The Privacy and Electronic Communications \(Amendment\) \(No. 2\) Regulations 2018](#) (SI 2018/1396). This ban will come into force from 9 January 2019 and will be enforced by the Information Commissioner's Office. The regulations define pensions cold calling for the purpose of this ban and the limited circumstances where direct marketing calls may still be permitted.

## HMRC updates

HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) has published the following guidance:

### Countdown bulletin 40

[Countdown bulletin 40](#) has information on several topics in relation to the end of contracting-out including:

- An update on scheme financial reconciliation (the aggregate surplus or deficit position for the scheme in consideration of unresolved outstanding debt or refund of individual contracted-out premiums) discussing the implications if schemes do not request their financial position
- Confirmation that the 31 December 2018 deadline for scheme cessation and stalemate queries has been extended to 9 January 2019 due to a recent access issue with Shared Workspace

### Contracted-out pension schemes

New [Contracted-out pension schemes](#) guidance topics have been added to the 'Pension administrators' collection section of the gov.uk website, in relation to the ongoing administration of contracted-out pension rights:

- Provide a pension for your scheme member
- How to calculate your scheme member's Guaranteed Minimum Pension
- Transfer your scheme member's contracted-out pension rights

### Manage and Register Pension Schemes service

[Manage and Register Pension Schemes service newsletter – December 2018](#) has information on recently added and forthcoming features in relation to this service. This includes the facility for a scheme administrator to invite another to be associated to a scheme, the option for such an invitation to be accepted and the ability for a scheme administrator to remove themselves, if they no longer perform that function. The [Manage a registered pension scheme](#) guidance on the gov.uk website has also been updated.

## Pensions dashboards

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has published a [‘feasibility report’ and consultation](#) examining ways in which the Government can help the industry to create pensions dashboards. The report uses the word ‘dashboards’ throughout and the Government believes that consumers will eventually benefit from a range of dashboards to choose from, to sit alongside a non-commercial version hosted by the Single Financial Guidance Body (the SFGB).

The Government expects that industry should start to supply data, on a voluntary basis, to tie in with the SFGB hosted dashboard currently expected to be introduced during 2019. When parliamentary time allows, it is expected that legislation will compel most pension schemes to provide member data (with the individual’s consent) to the relevant dashboards. While a phased timetable for onboarding will be agreed by the pensions industry via a delivery group under SFGB stewardship, the report envisages that many schemes will participate within three to four years from when the first dashboards are available to the public.

## Scottish Budget 2019/20

Scottish finance secretary Derek Mackay [presented his Budget](#) to the Scottish Parliament on Wednesday 12 December 2018 including proposed [income tax rates and thresholds](#) for taxpayers in Scotland for the tax year 2019/20.

## Exiting the EU

The DWP has recently published two sets of guidance, in relation to the UK potentially leaving the EU in a ‘no deal’ Brexit scenario, explaining the rights of [EU citizens in the UK](#) and of [UK nationals in the EU](#) to benefits and pensions. Each include the Government’s view that “There is nothing in UK private occupational pensions legislation that prevents occupational pension schemes from making pension payments overseas. We do not expect that this will change as a result of the UK withdrawing from the EU.”

The DWP has also published [a further draft](#) of The Occupational and Personal Pension Schemes (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2018 which amend various primary and secondary pensions legislation to reflect the UK’s exit from the EU. This draft replaces an earlier version published in October 2018.

## Industry appointments

The following industry appointments have been announced recently:

- Anthony Arter has been [reappointed as Pensions Ombudsman](#) for a further two years and will continue in post until 31 July 2021
- Charles Counsell has been [appointed as the new Chief Executive of The Pensions Regulator \(TPR\)](#) and will join TPR in April 2019 following the departure of Lesley Titcomb at the conclusion of her term as Chief Executive at the end of February 2019

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