

Nationwide Pension Fund

Newsletter

A quick update on what's going on and what you need to know

February
2015

What's included:

Budget 2014 –
Pension legislation
changes



Warning about
Pension scams

Member Nominated
Trustee Directors –
Changes in election
process

Some useful
reminders



Find out more at:
www.nationwidepensionfund.co.uk



On your side

Budget 2014 – pension legislation changes

New retirement options

You may have heard about the pension changes that were announced by the Government last year. These changes have introduced greater flexibility for members of Defined Contribution pension schemes and in particular allow them to take their total pension fund as a lump sum.

These changes will take effect from April 2015 and although not directly affecting the Nationwide Pension Fund, will apply if you have made Additional Contributions to the Nationwide GPP or if you have similar benefits from a previous employment.

If you have a pension which is not yet in payment, you'll have the option to transfer your benefit to a Defined Contribution arrangement

so you can take advantage of the greater flexibility. The Trustees would caution that a transfer is unlikely to be in the best interest of members and if your transfer value is £30,000 or more, you will be legally required to take independent financial advice.

Minimum retirement age increase – from 2028

The Government announced that the minimum age at which a person can draw their pension will increase from 55 to 57 from 2028. After that, any future increases in the minimum retirement age will maintain a 10 year gap below the State Pension Age, increasing as and when the State Pension Age increases.

Pension scams

Please be aware if you receive an invitation to transfer your pension to a company offering early access to your money before the age of 55 – it is highly likely that this will be a bogus scheme.

The Government are clamping down on these scams and you're likely to suffer high tax charges if you make transfers to such an arrangement. The probable result is that you will end up losing most, if not all of your pension savings.



Retirement online support

A new online support tool called 'Talking Retirement Online' was released for members on 1 January 2015. The site offers useful pre-retirement information including details about state benefits and inheritance tax as well as information you might find useful after you have retired.

When you click on the tool, you'll be asked for an access key and password which can be found here:

Access via the NPF website at:
www.nationwidepensionfund.co.uk

Access Key:
NBS

Password:
NBSRetirement

Election process for Member Nominated Trustee Directors

The Trustees have reviewed the process for the appointment of Member Nominated Trustees (MNT) to make sure that it continues to reflect the principles of proportionality, fairness and transparency.

What happens next?

Two of the current MNTs, Rob Goldspink and Mark Willis, will reach the end of their terms of office this year. In order to achieve a cost effective and efficient election process, it has been agreed to recruit for both vacancies at the same time during 2015.

Further information on the election process outlining the current arrangements as well as full details on the new arrangements can be found on the NPF website under 'Managing the Fund'.

Summary of changes

It's important to the Trustees that the process reflects and involves the total membership so they have made the following changes:

- Removal of the separate Pensioner and Employee member constituencies; all four MNT positions will now be filled from the membership as a whole to include employee, deferred and pensioner members
- All new appointments will have a term of office of five years
- There are now three stages to the election process:
 1. Nomination stage
 2. Selection Panel stage to shortlist candidates
 3. Ballot stage

We'll be in touch in March to let you know how you can become a MNT and how to nominate.

Expression of Wish forms

It's important that all members complete an Expression of Wish form to let the Trustees know who you would like to receive your benefits in the event of your death.

If you've already completed one but your personal circumstances have since changed, for example you've got married, divorced or have had children, you should now consider updating your form.

From 1 March 2015, all forms will be stored electronically. You can find more information about this and a link to the form in the Document Library on the NPF website. If you would prefer us to post one to you, please contact Employee Pensions on the number below.



Appeal for email addresses

We're always looking for ways to reduce the amount of paper we use, as well as making distribution of our communications more efficient. If you'd like to receive non-personalised scheme communications like the Annual Reviews electronically, please complete the details on the NPF website under 'Help the environment'.

Any Questions?

Pensions can seem confusing but the Employee Pensions team are here to help. Whether you want a bit more information on the topics covered in this newsletter or just to talk through the options available to you, feel free to get in touch:

Email: pensions.team@nationwide.co.uk

Phone: 01793 655131

Intranet: mynationwideintranet/NBSIntranet/youandnationwide/pensions/NPF

Internet: www.nationwidepensionfund.co.uk



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