

Pension Changes Update



This Pension Changes Update includes:

- information for the members who will be eligible for the upcoming Options Exercise
- information about pension contributions
- responses to the feedback we've had since our last update
- details of our new and upcoming publications.

The last update told you about the new scheme and how it will work.

It also explained who will, and who won't go into the new scheme.

The new Civil Service Pension Scheme is called:



You will start to see this name, logo, and a new look appearing on the information we publish about alpha.



Helping you understand alpha

For those members who will be moving into alpha, it is important that you are aware of the main features of the scheme. A scheme booklet will be published closer to April 2015.

In the meantime to help you understand how alpha will work, we have produced 'An introduction to alpha', (www.civilservicepensionscheme.org.uk/members/the-new-pension-scheme-alpha/where-can-i-get-more-information) this slide pack highlights the key features and benefits of the scheme.

As we get closer to April 2015 we will publish further Pension Changes Updates, guides and videos to keep you informed.

If you haven't read the first update yet, you can find it here www.civilservicepensionscheme.org.uk/media/94916/pension-changes-update-apr2014.pdf

But first we have some further news about the new scheme which starts on 01 April 2015.

The standard Normal Pension Age (NPA) in classic, classic plus and premium is age 60 and in nuvos, is age 65

Changes to contributions

Since April 2012 pension contributions have been changing.

From 01 April 2015 all members will pay the same level of pension contributions for their salary band (based on their actual earnings), no matter if they are a member of classic, classic plus, premium, nuvos or alpha.

There is one exception. Anyone who has actual earnings of less than £15,000 a year, and who was a member of classic immediately before April 2015, will see their contribution changes introduced over three years.

There is more information about contributions here. www.civilservicepensionscheme.org.uk/members/contribution-rates



Options Exercise

We told you in the last update that not all members will be joining alpha on 01 April 2015.

If:

- you were a member of classic, classic plus, premium or nuvos, or another public service pension scheme on 31 March 2012, that offered you an enrolment date later than 01 April 2015

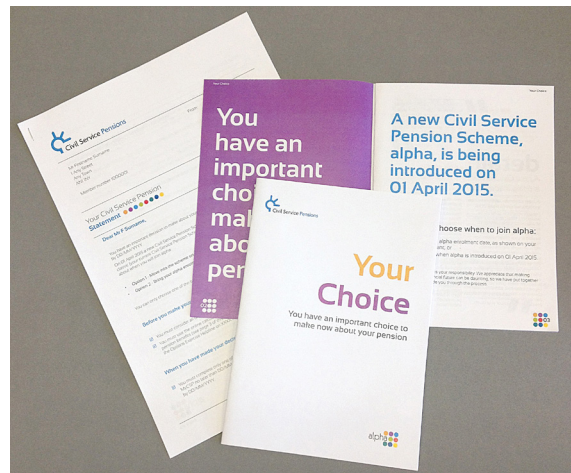
and

- you were more than 10 years but less than 13.5 years from your Normal Pension Age (NPA) on 01 April 2012,

you will have a decision to make in the Options Exercise in October 2014.

Members with less than 10 years will not move into alpha at all

If you are eligible for the Options Exercise, you will need to decide when to move into alpha: either on your alpha enrolment date, which will be shown in your Options Pack; or 01 April 2015.



An Options Pack will be sent to all members eligible for the Options Exercise in October 2014 and this will contain:

- a Your Choice booklet, and
- a personalised illustration statement.

It will also confirm your alpha enrolment date, and include other useful information.

To support members who will take part in the Options Exercise we will publish more information on the scheme website. This will include:

- a slide pack
- a factsheet, and
- a video,

to help you choose between the two options, but remember we can't tell you what the right choice is for you.

You may wish to speak to an Independent Financial Adviser before you make your choice. See the Financial Conduct Authority site for tips on finding an adviser. www.fca.org.uk/consumers/financial-services-products/investments/financial-advice/finding-an-adviser

Thank you for your feedback

Since the last update we have received lots of feedback via the online form. (www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/2015communications)

We have taken your comments on board and will be using them to inform the way we communicate these changes to you.

We will be regularly adding content to the Q&A section of the pension scheme website, and will include some content based on your comments. This will include adding case studies, to help you see how the pension changes will affect different types of member. (www.civilservicepensionscheme.org.uk/members/the-new-pension-scheme-alpha/where-can-i-get-more-information/)



Further information about the changes

More information, other guidance materials and updates to the Q&A section will be published on the scheme website over the coming months.

The website already contains information to help you understand the scheme changes. It explains how you will be affected, depending on which scheme you are currently in (ie classic, classic plus, premium or nuvos www.civilservicepensionscheme.org.uk/members/what-member-type-am-i/); and provides a quick-reference guide (www.civilservicepensionscheme.org.uk/media/95212/what-scheme_am-i-in_v2_300315.pdf), to help you work out which scheme you are in now, if you are not sure.

If you are not already a member of classic, classic plus, premium or nuvos and you are thinking of joining, you can find out more about the current schemes here. www.civilservicepensionscheme.org.uk/members/the-new-pension-scheme-alpha/how-will-this-affect-me/prospective-members/



Have your say

We want to make our pension communications as helpful as possible and give you what you need to understand your pension benefits and make informed decisions about your future.

Please help us to do this by taking a few minutes to give us feedback on this Pension Changes Update. www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/2015communications

Or scan the QR code.

