

# Pension news

March 2023

## Welcome to your active member newsletter

As the Interim Director of Civil Service Pensions, I'm delighted to introduce this year's active member newsletter.

We feature an important item about how to manage your pension during the cost-of-living crisis, outlining things to consider if you're questioning being a member of the scheme.

We also feature updates on the 2015 Remedy (McCloud) which affects around 420,000 civil servants. Find out if you're affected using the ***Am I affected?*** tool ([retirementmodeller.civilservicepensionscheme.org.uk/remedy](https://retirementmodeller.civilservicepensionscheme.org.uk/remedy)).



This year's **Member Engagement Survey** is live ([www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/F83WWS](https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/F83WWS)) and as in previous years, I'd welcome your feedback as it helps us to shape and improve the service we provide.

We've listened and acted on the results of last year's Member Engagement Survey and created a new, simpler registration process for the Pension Portal. We held a live 'A beginner's guide to benefit statements' webinar during **Pension Awareness Week 2022** ([www.civilservicepensionscheme.org.uk/paw](https://www.civilservicepensionscheme.org.uk/paw)) because over 30% of active members told us they managed their pension solely through their Annual Benefit Statement.

Members also said they were more satisfied with the scheme when they had better knowledge about their pension and so we created our first podcast series and promoted **Pension Power** ([www.civilservicepensionscheme.org.uk/pension-power](https://www.civilservicepensionscheme.org.uk/pension-power)), our free one-hour online training course more widely across our channels and with employers.

It can be hard to visualise what the future holds, especially during challenging times and if it's decades away, but knowing your Civil Service Pension is increasing month by month with your employee contribution and your employer contributions can give you some peace of mind and help you plan for the future.

## Protecting your pension during the cost-of-living crisis

Many of us are feeling the squeeze on our day-to-day finances and may be concerned that saving for your future-self could be leaving your current-self short of money.

It's important to remember that your pension is one of your most valuable assets and could be one of your main sources of income when you retire.



Here are six things you should know if you're questioning whether you should continue being a member of the Civil Service Pension scheme:

### Tax relief on contributions

You don't pay income tax on money going into your pension. Instead, the tax you would have paid on that part of your salary goes into your pension.

Find out more about your pension and tax:  
[www.civilservicepensionscheme.org.uk/alpha-scheme-guide/your-pension-and-tax-07a](http://www.civilservicepensionscheme.org.uk/alpha-scheme-guide/your-pension-and-tax-07a)

### It's guaranteed for life

As a Defined Benefit scheme, you'll receive a guaranteed income **for life** after you retire.

Find out more about alpha:  
[www.civilservicepensionscheme.org.uk/alpha-benefits](http://www.civilservicepensionscheme.org.uk/alpha-benefits)

### You can partially retire

If you opt out of your Civil Service pension, you can't take partial retirement which can be vital for members who want to take control of their work/life balance.

Find out more about partial retirement:  
[www.civilservicepensionscheme.org.uk/partial-retirement](http://www.civilservicepensionscheme.org.uk/partial-retirement)

### It's safe

As a Defined Benefit scheme there are no investments involved. It's probably the most risk-free pension available.

Find out more in Episode 1 of our podcast:  
[www.civilservicepensionscheme.org.uk/podcast-s1e1](http://www.civilservicepensionscheme.org.uk/podcast-s1e1)

### Our tools can help you track increases

Our pension calculators and retirement modelers are all online and can help you keep track of your pension.

Our tools and calculators:  
[www.civilservicepensionscheme.org.uk/tools-calculators](http://www.civilservicepensionscheme.org.uk/tools-calculators)

### Support for your loved ones

Being a member means that your loved ones and dependents will be looked after in the event of your death.

Find out more about benefits for your loved ones:  
[www.civilservicepensionscheme.org.uk/benefits-for-loved-ones](http://www.civilservicepensionscheme.org.uk/benefits-for-loved-ones)

## Still thinking of opting out?

If you decide that opting out really is best for you, **there's an alternative:** our partnership pension account ([www.civilservicepensionscheme.org.uk/partnership](http://www.civilservicepensionscheme.org.uk/partnership)) is a defined contribution scheme and part of the wider Civil Service pension arrangements. You could switch to partnership and when the time is right for you, you could switch back to alpha. Your employer will continue to contribute to your pension, even if you don't.

If you're worried about money right now, check out MoneyHelper's cost of living guides ([www.moneyhelper.org.uk/en/money-troubles/cost-of-living#cost-of-living-guides](http://www.moneyhelper.org.uk/en/money-troubles/cost-of-living#cost-of-living-guides)). Their website is full of free information and guidance to help make your money and pension choices clearer.

To find out more about the difference between Defined Benefit and Defined Contribution pensions, listen to the first episode of **Civil Service Pensions podcast**. The series delves into what makes the Civil Service Pension Scheme one of the best.

## Updates on the 2015 Remedy

### Be a 'My Remedy' case study

Around 420,000 civil servants will be impacted by 2015 Remedy, and we're more likely to remember information when we see and hear it from someone we relate to.

We are looking for volunteers to be 'My Remedy' case studies, to take part in a campaign aimed at helping members to understand if they too are affected by 2015 Remedy and what it actually means for them.



If you're interested in taking part, please complete this form:

[www.civilservicepensionscheme.org.uk/remedy-case-study-recruits](http://www.civilservicepensionscheme.org.uk/remedy-case-study-recruits)

### 2015 Remedy and Partial Retirement

You told us that you'd like to know more about how 2015 Remedy impacts on partial retirement, so we've put together this short guide.

#### What is partial retirement?

Partial retirement allows members to take



some or all of their pension and tax-free lump sum and continue working, as part of a gradual move away from work and into retirement. This means that you have a combination of earnings and pension for a period before you fully retire.

During this period, you can also build up further pension by continuing with your contributions, buying added pension ([www.civilservicepensionscheme.org.uk/added-pension](http://www.civilservicepensionscheme.org.uk/added-pension)) or making additional voluntary contributions ([www.civilservicepensionscheme.org.uk/csavcs](http://www.civilservicepensionscheme.org.uk/csavcs)). This will be paid when you take full retirement.

### **I'm affected by 2015 Remedy – can I still partially retire before October 2023?**

Yes, your partial retirement will be based on the current position as the 2015 Remedy hasn't been implemented yet. If there are any changes required after you partially retire, we'll get in touch with you. You can find out if you're affected by the 2015 Remedy using the *Am I Affected?* tool ([retirementmodeller.civilservicepensionscheme.org.uk/remedy](http://retirementmodeller.civilservicepensionscheme.org.uk/remedy)).

### **What are the criteria for partial retirement?**

Partial retirement is available to all members who meet the following criteria:

You've agreed with your employer to reshape your job by reducing your pay by at least 20% (by either reducing your working hours or your salary)

- You apply for partial retirement no more than 3 months after reshaping your job
- You're over minimum pension age for your scheme:
  - classic/classic plus: 50
  - premium if you joined before 6 April 2006: 50
  - premium if you joined after 6 April 2006: 55
  - nuvos and alpha: 55

If you claim your pension before your pension age, it will be reduced for early payment.

For more information and examples to see if partial retirement is right for you, take a look at our guide to partial retirement ([www.civilservicepensionscheme.org.uk/partial-retirement-guide](http://www.civilservicepensionscheme.org.uk/partial-retirement-guide))

### **Public consultation for the 2nd stage of 2015 Remedy**

New scheme regulations are needed for the second (retrospective) part of the 2015 Remedy to address the age discrimination of Civil Service Pension Scheme members. There are 420,000 affected members - find out if you're one of them using our *Am I affected?* tool

([retirementmodeller.civilservicepensionscheme.org.uk/remedy](http://retirementmodeller.civilservicepensionscheme.org.uk/remedy)).





Find out more at [www.gov.uk/government/consultations/civil-service-pension-scheme-2015-remedy-mccloud-regulations](http://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/civil-service-pension-scheme-2015-remedy-mccloud-regulations)

## Keep up to date with the latest information on 2015 Remedy

[www.civilservicepensionscheme.org.uk/remedy](http://www.civilservicepensionscheme.org.uk/remedy)

### Member Engagement Survey 2022-23

Tell us what you think and win £100 in Love2Shop vouchers!

Our annual survey is a chance for you to share your views and help us improve the information we provide to our members.



Understanding your pension benefits means that you can make more informed choices about your financial future. To make sure that the information we provide helps you do this, we want to hear what you think.

As a thank you, you'll have the chance to be entered into our prize draw.

Complete the survey now: [www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/F83WWS](http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/F83WWS)

The survey closes on Friday 7 April 2023.

### Have you listened to our podcast?

Last year, we launched the **Civil Service Pensions podcast** ([www.civilservicepensionscheme.org.uk/podcast](http://www.civilservicepensionscheme.org.uk/podcast)), with six episodes designed to help you learn more about your pension and make more informed choices about your financial future.

Each episode explores different aspects of the scheme with guest speakers as well as scheme members sharing their experiences and perspectives.

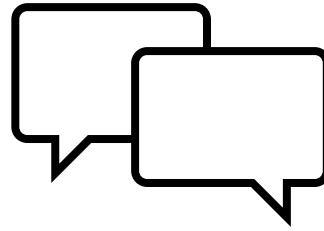


The podcast has already been downloaded over 16,000 times and listeners are telling us they appreciate this fresh approach to pensions.

No matter your pensions knowledge, the Civil Service Pensions podcast has something for everyone.

From the very basics with Pensions 101 through to topics like the Gender Pension Gap and why you should care about your pension in your 30s, as well as interesting tales of life in retirement from a retired member, our podcast will give you a fresh perspective - subscribe now and look out for series 2 later this year!

**“I like the way how they broke down the benefits of being a pension, excellent explanations given for the layperson, it was explained so well that at the end I was sure about the benefits of being in a pension as opposed to putting funds into a savings account.”**



Podcast listener, January 2023

## Listen to the first series now

Search 'Civil Service Pensions Podcast' wherever you get your podcasts.

### Your pension explained in 1 hour

Book a free, one-hour, online Pension Power session and you'll soon have the facts you need to make more informed choices about your financial future.

We'll also tell you about all the benefits that make your Civil Service pension one of the best of its kind.

**Book your place now:**

[www.civilservicepensionscheme.org.uk/pension-power](http://www.civilservicepensionscheme.org.uk/pension-power)

### Register for the Pension Portal

It's now even easier to sign up. You just need a few personal details to get started.

It's a quick and easy way to access all your pension information in one place. Update your details, check your Annual Benefit Statements and use the Retirement Modeler to see if your pension is on track to give you the retirement you want.

**Register now:**

[members.civilservicepensionscheme.org.uk](http://members.civilservicepensionscheme.org.uk)

## Don't miss out in 2023

Join our mailing list to keep updated.

Enter your details on this form – [www.civilservicepensionscheme.org.uk/opt-in](http://www.civilservicepensionscheme.org.uk/opt-in)

By submitting your details (ideally a non-work email address) you consent to be contacted by email and remember you can unsubscribe at any time.

Remember, you can unsubscribe at any time.

## Share your views on this newsletter

Complete our short survey at [www.civilservicepensionscheme.org.uk/pension-news-spring-2023](http://www.civilservicepensionscheme.org.uk/pension-news-spring-2023)