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Hello

Welcome to January's e-bulletin with all the latest news and updates useful for anyone who administers the Teachers' Pension Scheme.



TR6 / TR8 - Address fields required by March 2016

Last year we confirmed that from 1 March 2016, the TR6 and TR8 would require the home address field to be completed.

We thought that we'd give you a gentle reminder of the introduction of this change. Email addresses remain discretionary but if you do have an email address it would be extremely helpful if this could also be included. An email address enables us to contact your employees directly to encourage them to sign up to My Pension Online. This is of particular importance as from this year Benefit Statements will only be accessible online.

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Secure contact us - starts February

As mentioned in previous bulletins, from 1 February all emails to both yourselves and our members will be sent and received securely via the Employer Portal and My Pension Online (MPO). Since security is paramount to Teachers' Pensions please sign into the Employer Portal to contact us securely. It's vitally important to continue to encourage members to register for a My Pension Online account.



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Benefit Statements

As you'll already be aware, this will be the first year that the Benefit Statement will only be available online. We've previously informed members of the change but it would be helpful if you could encourage your employees to register for My Pension Online.

We've created a series of resources to circulate to your members, encouraging them to sign up to MPO. Follow the link below to read why registering for My Pension Online is so important for your members.

[Find out more >](#)

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Improvement to Certificate of Re-employment

Based on your feedback we've made a change to the Certificate of Re-employment web form. It'll now show the related tax year that the form refers to. This change took effect on all forms submitted from 17 December 2015.

Consulting members about the tax changes

We mentioned in the last bulletin how changes announced in the Government's July budget will impact on tax free allowances, including the Annual Allowance and Lifetime Allowance. We've identified members who potentially may be affected by these changes - you can find out more by following the link below.

[Find out more >](#)

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Employer Review Survey

Thanks to those of you who have taken the time to complete the Employer Review Survey. So far we've had over 200 responses.

The survey helps us to understand the costs and time involved in delivering the Scheme. There's still time to take part in the survey and input into the review.

[Click here to complete the survey >](#)



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Rejection of opt-out forms due to time delay

We've recently received a number of opt-out forms from employers that have been submitted more than 4 months after the member has signed them.

Click below to see what implications submitting a late opt out form can have.

[Find out more >](#)

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Improvements to member records

We're always looking to improve the quality and accuracy of the information we use in administering Teachers' Pensions and therefore it's essential we ensure that service records are correct.

With this in mind we'd ask if you would support us by reviewing your employees' records to ensure their accuracy and completeness. The lines of service form the basis for all the calculations we provide for members and any actions we deliver on their behalf. You'll appreciate therefore that accuracy is essential.



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Single Tier State Pension

Last month we wrote about the new single tier State Pension being introduced on 6 April 2016 which any individual who reaches their State Pension Age on or after 6 April 2016 will be subject to. From this date, contracting-out of the Additional State Pension for members

of defined benefit schemes such as the Teachers' Pension Scheme will cease.

HMRC require that all schemes undertake a reconciliation of their data against the records held by HMRC..

[Find out more >](#)

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Your help in gaining member feedback

We'll be contacting you in the coming months as part of our quest to further understand the thoughts and actions of our members in terms of their retirement planning and their understanding of the value of their pension. We'd like you to circulate an email to members of the Scheme to ask them to take part in a short survey in order for us to gather valuable insight. We'll use the results to assess how we communicate and engage with you and our members.

Flexibilities

We're still working on providing a flexibilities calculator, modeller and web form. Unfortunately, whilst we advised you that this would be live by the end of last year, it's been delayed.

Feedback from both internal and external stakeholders at the testing stage has provided some excellent suggestions on how we could improve this resource and it was felt more appropriate to delay its launch to include these improvements. We are working to make it available online by the end of March.

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Did you know? - Key facts regarding our Contact Centre and Employer Support Team

We've put together some interesting facts about our Employer Support and Contact Centre Teams.

[Find out more >](#)



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