

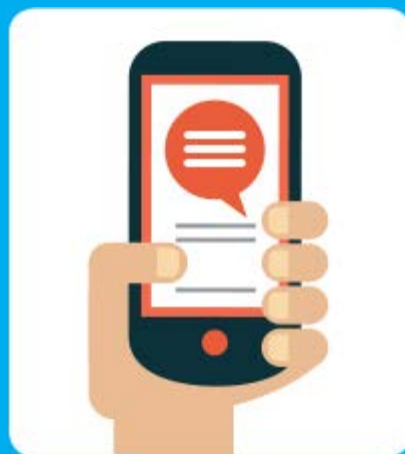


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Hello,

Welcome to your first e-bulletin in 2015 and a special warm welcome to our newest readers! We hope you'll enjoy our monthly e-bulletins keeping you, up to date with all the latest news and developments at Teachers' Pensions.

This month the Academies and Free Schools e-bulletin covers this year's Annual Benefit Statement exercise, circulation of letters to our members about their status in the Scheme from April 2015, some good news about Monthly Data Collection, Training Opportunities and lots more!



Reform changes - Informing members

As part of this year's Annual Benefit Statement exercise ([more information here](#)) we'll be writing to all of our active members to tell them how they're affected by the changes to the Scheme from April



2015. This will include members that aren't affected by the changes. The letters will inform them whether the changes will affect them, explain more about what the changes mean and offer guidance on where to find out more.

[Find out more >](#)

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Outstanding Annual Service Returns

As you're aware, in order to provide our members with the most up to date Annual Benefit Statement (ABS), we rely heavily on the information provided within your Annual Service Return. If we don't receive this information your employees can face delays in receiving information in relation to their pension benefits, which can result in members' pensions being paid late.

If you haven't returned yours please ensure you do as soon as possible. If you have any issues or would like to talk through the process please visit our [Annual Return section](#) online. Alternatively, contact us by email at tpdata@teacherspensions.co.uk or by phone on 0845 300 3756 and select option 1.

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Annual Benefit Statements

Annual Benefit Statements will be distributed during February and March. Once you've received these please circulate them to your employees as soon as possible.

Please note that some of your employees won't receive a paper ABS if:

- They're re-employed
- In their first two years of teaching
- Currently in mixed service.

Please ask your employees to contact us on 08456 066 166 or email tpmail@teacherspensions.co.uk if they fall into one of these groups and would like more information.

[Find out more >](#)

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Communicating with new members

When a teacher first joins the Teachers' Pension Scheme, we'd like to send them important information about the Scheme and what their options are. Our preferred method of contacting members is via email, which can prove difficult with inaccurate or missing data. When you're communicating with new employees it would be helpful if you could inform them we'll be contacting them directly and collect email addresses and postal addresses, where possible.



All of our welcome communications are in electronic format and can be found online via our website:
www.teacherspensions.co.uk

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Monthly Data Collection (MDC) - Latest news

Between September 2014 and January 2015, we began the first onboarding phase for MDC and feedback from those taking part is extremely encouraging. The great news is we now have five employers, one of which is a Local Authority, submitting member data on a monthly basis, directly into our live system. These employers will also no longer be required to submit additional information through other methods, such as TR6 and TR8 forms.

The next onboarding date is May 2015 and there is still plenty of time to register your interest. Email us at mdc@teacherspensions.co.uk and

the team will provide the necessary information and guidance materials to advise you of the next steps.

[Find out more >](#)

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Tiered Contributions

Are you aware that member contributions are changing from April 2015? The rates are based on member's salaries. For more information and to see the new contribution rates visit our website.

[Find out more >](#)

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Training demand

Due to the demand for our training and the limited number of places available, if you can't attend please contact us as soon as possible by emailing training@teacherspensions.co.uk

[Find out more >](#)

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Additional Pension Factors - Informing members

Following the 2012 Scheme valuation, we've been issued with new factors for calculating the cost of Additional Pension. We'll be implementing these factors shortly and communicating with affected members to explain their options.

Members who have already taken out an Additional Pension will be able to choose to either change the amount they're paying for their election, or stop their election. During March/April we'll send you a report, via the Employer Portal to let you know of any changes you need to make - please look out for this as you'll need to implement the changes from April's payroll run.

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Important information about contributions

Backdated pay awards

Since 1 April 2013, when a pay rise is processed and a teacher moves bandings, the new rate should be applied to the salary and the arrears payable in the month the pay rise is processed. There is no need to calculate any retrospective contributions based upon the salary already paid.

Refunds of contributions

Where a current year refund is due to a teacher, this should not create a ratio variance. The contributory salary should be deducted from the appropriate tier along with the employer and teacher contributions. Any refunds due in respect of contributions paid in prior years should continue to be recorded in boxes H, I and J.

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Teachers' Pensions, Mowden Hall, Darlington DL3 9EE.

Pension scheme registry number 10005209

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