

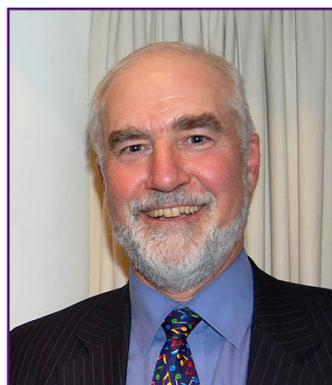
# MEMBER UPDATE

The University of Warwick Pension Scheme  
(UPS Defined Contribution Section)



## From your Trustee Chairman

Welcome to our latest newsletter for members in the University of Warwick Pension Scheme. There's a lot to report on regarding what's happened in the last twelve months, but I would also like to take this opportunity to highlight what the Trustee will be looking at over the next year.



Mr James Hunt  
Chair

### WHAT'S INSIDE?

<b>From your Trustee Chairman .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Looking Back .....</b>	<b>2</b>
The Trustee Board .....	2
<b>Looking Forward .....</b>	<b>2</b>
The increase in the normal minimum pension age.....	2
Changes to the Scottish Widows investments funds .....	2
<b>The State Pension.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Scams .....</b>	<b>4</b>

# Looking back

## THE TRUSTEE BOARD

The Scheme and in particular the Trustee Board plays a valuable part in supporting members and helping them prepare for retirement. The Scheme needs to be well run to ensure that we comply with all the regulatory requirements and continue to pay member benefits as they fall due. Last year we ran a selection exercise for two Member-Nominated Trustee Directors (MNDs) on the Trustee Board, one of whom was seeking re-appointment.

I am pleased to welcome Mr Ian McFarlane-Toms, a Business Ready Programme Manager with the Science Park as our newest MND. In addition, Mr Quentin Compton-Bishop was reappointed for a further five-year term, and his reappointment allows the board to benefit from his extensive trustee and business experience which is so valuable as we meet various challenges in the coming years. Our other MND is Mrs Jenny Davies who was appointed 13 March 2019. The Trustee Board is comprised of three MNDs and four university appointees as listed below:

**Mr J Hunt (Chair of Trustees)**

**Mr Q Compton-Bishop (MND)**

**Mrs Jenny Davies (MND)**

**Prof S Jacka**

**Mr Ian McFarlane-Toms (MND)**

**Emeritus Prof S B Palmer**

**Mr J McMeehan Roberts**

# Looking forward

## The increase in the normal minimum pension age

Legislation has recently been passed which will increase the normal minimum pension age (NMPA) from 55 to 57 on 6 April 2028. The NMPA, i.e., the earliest age at which you can access your benefits in normal circumstances is currently 55, (though some members in ill-health may be able to take their benefits earlier than this).

This topic is quite complex, and our legal advisers are reviewing how this change in the law interacts with our rules and so we will in due course provide more details on the University's pensions pages as to how this might affect you and in what circumstances protections might apply.

For now, members can continue to retire and claim their pension benefits from age 55 up until 5 April 2028 and some existing staff might be able to benefit from certain protections allowed for under the law.

## Changes to the Scottish Widows investments funds

In the last update we mentioned that Scottish Widows were planning to make changes to the default investment strategy and in due course they would write to members. There were some delays encountered at Scottish Widows, but you should now have had a letter from them explaining about the planned changes to take place in June.

As the vast majority of members do not make an active selection of funds, they are put into the default investment strategy which covers a "glide path" where an individual's investments change the closer to retirement. In brief, the closer one is to actual retirement the less tolerance one is expected to have for fluctuations in value, i.e. Scottish Widows move the funds into less risky assets as a member's target retirement age approaches. In the absence of a member declaration Scottish Widows assumes it to be age 65.

You will also have seen in the news about how pension schemes and employers are being encouraged to be more aware of Environmental Social and Governance (ESG) issues. UPS is no different, and our investment advisers have identified a suitable ESG fund. The Trustee Board has therefore agreed to offer this ESG fund as an additional option for members and this will be introduced alongside the changes to the default investment strategy.

To help staff with these changes, Scottish Widows have produced a very helpful short explanatory video which is hosted on the University's pension pages, search Warwick University DC Pension changes ([warwick.ac.uk](https://www.warwick.ac.uk)). This video not only covers the proposed changes but other useful information in a non-technical manner.



## Stock Market Volatility

Global events such as the current conflict in the Ukraine, Britain leaving the EU and the Coronavirus pandemic, can all have an impact on the stock market. Scottish Widows have put together information and insight to support you during times of market volatility. For more information, please see the University's pension pages from this link <https://www.scottishwidows.co.uk/save/universityofwarwick2016/>

# The State Pension

From April 2022, the State Pension increased by 3.1%. Check out the table below to see what you might expect to receive from State Pension Age with a full national insurance history to help with your financial planning. These indicative figures are in addition to the benefits arising from your membership of the UPS Defined Contribution Section (Heritage and Enterprise Defined Contribution Sections), with Scottish Widows.

	2021/2022 weekly payment	2022/23 weekly payment	Weekly increase	Annual increase	Annual payment
New State Pension if you reached State Pension Age on or after 6 April 2016	£179.60	£185.15	£5.55	£288.60	£9,627.80
*Old Basic State Pension if you reached State Pension Age before 6 April 2016	£137.60	£141.85	£4.25	£221.00	£7,376.20

\*Recipients of the Old Basic State Pension might qualify for extra payments depending upon their circumstances.

## Guidance

The amounts included in the table above should be used as a guide, as the payment you receive depends on your individual circumstances. For example, if you are single and you receive the Basic State Pension, this is how much you can expect, however if you are married you may be entitled to more.

### RESOURCES

Get more information on State Pension

 [www.gov.uk/state-pension](http://www.gov.uk/state-pension)

Contact the Pension Service at

 [www.gov.uk/contact-pension-service](http://www.gov.uk/contact-pension-service)

State Pensions Information

 [www.which.co.uk/money/pensions-and-retirement/state-pension](http://www.which.co.uk/money/pensions-and-retirement/state-pension)



More information at:  
[www.gov.uk/yourstatepension](http://www.gov.uk/yourstatepension)



## Contact point

We encourage you to use the Warwick Pensions website to help with general queries. You will find lots of useful information including links to the Scottish Widows portal and a link for updating your expression of wishes form.

If you need help then please email [hr.pensions@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:hr.pensions@warwick.ac.uk)

## Keep up to date

Remember if your home address changes whilst in employment then please keep your employer up to date. If you leave employment then please notify your pension provider Scottish Widows. They will write to you on leaving employment. Remember we cannot pay your benefits if we cannot locate you!

# Scams

Scammers can be articulate and seem financially knowledgeable, with credible websites and testimonials that can seem difficult to distinguish from the real thing.

gettyimages  
Dobriša Vignjević

Scammers design attractive offers to persuade you to transfer your pension pots to them. It is then often invested in unusual and high-risk investments or simply stolen. You should note that only in very rare circumstances, such as incapacity can you access pension funds before age 55 so if a website is promising easy access be very wary! In most cases, promises of early cash are likely to be bogus and can result in serious tax consequences for you.

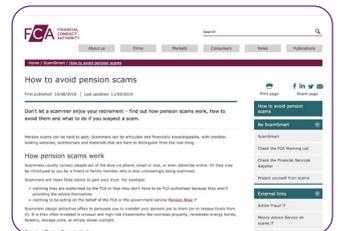
You should know that the government has introduced new regulations which require pension schemes and their administrators to follow certain procedures before sanctioning a transfer payment. The Trustees can refuse to make a payment if they believe that it would be unsafe to do so, i.e. have reason to believe that it could relate to a scam. At the same time this should not distract the member from carrying out their own due diligence by following the guidance shown in this update from the various agencies cited.

If you need any information about your pension, please contact us direct. Remember, whilst we can only provide information, we can't give advice. If you need to take advice, please find a suitable independent financial adviser. The Financial Conduct Authority FCA website provides lots of helpful information.

The first link below provides you with a means of checking that the financial adviser is authorised

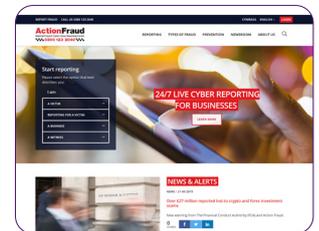
<https://register.fca.org.uk/s/>

Only use the contact details provided on the register to help prevent picking up bogus contact details from criminals that are cloning genuine sites. The other link below provides advice on how to avoid scams.



[www.fca.org.uk/scamsmart/how-avoid-pension-scams](https://www.fca.org.uk/scamsmart/how-avoid-pension-scams)

Scams continue to pose an increasing threat to your retirement benefits. The Pensions Regulator has joined forces with the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) in producing a TV advert to renew the awareness campaign. If you have not yet seen it, you can watch it online. Go to YouTube and search for "ScamSmart".



If you think you may be a victim of a pension scam, contact Action Fraud immediately. Phone **0300 123 2040** or go to their website and fill in an online fraud report.

[www.actionfraud.police.uk](https://www.actionfraud.police.uk)