



f focus:



The UK voted to leave the European Union on 23 June 2016.

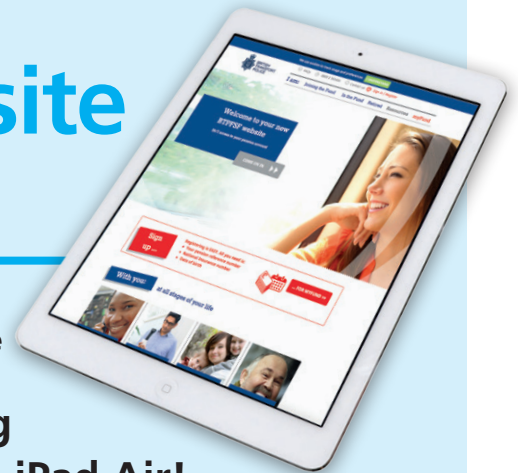
Although we don't yet know the full impact for pensions, please be assured we will keep you informed on any matters that affect your Fund membership, and are here to support you through any potential changes. You can read more on page 2.

I'm happy to say your new website has now launched at www.btp pensions.co.uk. You can register for your own personal myFund account which will help you manage your pension more easily and plan for the retirement you want.

JOHN CHILMAN
Trustee Chairman

Your new Fund website is here!

... and if you register at www.btp pensions.co.uk before 25 September 2016, you could win £350 of shopping vouchers or an Apple iPad Air!



Your new and improved Fund website launched earlier this summer and offers lots of handy tools and information to help put you in control of your retirement planning.

The site has a fresh look and feel, and can be used on smartphones and tablets.

There's plenty of useful information for all members, including:

- details about your Fund benefits and options
- FAQs
- useful forms
- Read as you Need guides, and
- news updates

Registering

You need to register at www.btp pensions.co.uk to get access to a secure area of the website known as **myFund** where you can:

- view your own personal Fund account
- nominate (see page 3),
- check any BRASS funds
- use a lifestyle calculator to work out how much you'll need when you retire, and
- check the planner to see if your pension savings are on track

What's more, if you register before 25 September 2016, you'll automatically be entered into a draw to win £350 in high street shopping vouchers or an Apple iPad Air – don't miss out! Terms and conditions can be found on the website.

inside this issue:

- EU referendum update
- Are you saving enough?
- Nominate online today

To register you'll need:

- your pension reference number
- your National Insurance number
- a personal email address

It's easy – just select the red **'Register now'** button at www.btp pensions.co.uk

EU referendum update



The outcome of the European Union (EU) referendum on 23 June 2016 has dominated the news in recent months. In this article, we consider the impact it may have on pensions.

Most importantly, pensions from the Fund will continue to be paid as usual and we do not expect any interruption to either our administration of your pension or our investment services.

The UK voted to leave the EU and although the timing and terms of a withdrawal may not be known for some time, we expect the result of the referendum to influence pension developments in the future.

There are many items of law governing pension schemes such as the Fund which are influenced or dictated by EU legislation.

In the short term, the UK remains a member of the EU and pension laws will remain in place, whether they are based on EU legislation or not.

In the longer term, once the UK exits from the EU, the UK government may have the

freedom to gradually amend legislation which has been influenced by Europe.

However, a significant amount of EU pension-related legislation is also written into UK law so there would need to be both a good reason and an appetite to amend this legislation as changes would cost time and money.

Therefore, there may not be any immediate or significant reduction in legal requirements for UK pension schemes.

So, for now, we do not expect the result of the EU referendum to impact your Fund benefits. We will, however, keep you informed of any developments, both in future editions of Focus and online at www.btppensions.co.uk.

Lifetime Allowance: 2016 protections

HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) is offering two protections to pension scheme members who may be affected by the new Lifetime Allowance, which reduced from £1.25 million to £1 million on 6 April 2016.

These protections are:

- **Fixed Protection 2016** – This allows the previous Lifetime Allowance of £1.25 million to be retained, but no further benefits can be built up after 5 April 2016, so is not relevant for active Fund members; and
- **Individual Protection 2016** – This provides a bespoke level of Lifetime Allowance to those people who already had pension savings with a value of more than £1 million on 5 April 2016.

Applications for either of these protections can now be made online. You can read more and find out how to apply at www.gov.uk/tax-on-your-private-pension/lifetime-allowance.

Valuation latest

The Scheme Actuary has calculated the preliminary results of Fund's 31 December 2015 valuation and presented them to the Management Committee's Valuation Working Party.

The next step is for the employer and the Trustee to agree the methodology and assumptions and we will update you in the next edition of Focus.

Moving house?

If you change address, please remember to give your new contact details to your employer. They will then update your record with the Fund's administrator, RPMI, to make sure you continue to receive important information about your pension.

Be scam-smart

Learn the warning signs of pension fraud by visiting www.btppensions.co.uk/pension-scams or www.thepensionregulator.gov.uk/pension-scams



A little goes a long way



What would you sacrifice for a better future?
A monthly album download? A weekly takeaway latte?

We all enjoy a few treats now and then. After all, they don't add up to much – just a few pounds a week usually.

But did you know that for the same price – just £2 per week or £10 per month – you can join an Additional Voluntary Contribution (AVC) arrangement and help make your retirement that bit more comfortable?

Just like your normal Fund contributions, the money you pay into AVCs is deducted from your salary before tax. The money

you pay in will be invested in the funds you choose from the range on offer.

There are two AVC arrangements available to Fund members:

- AVC Extra, and
- BRASS

You can learn more about AVCs and find out which arrangement is suitable for you by visiting www.btpensions.co.uk (look under 'In the Fund').

Committee changes

There have been some changes to the membership of the Management Committee over the past few months.

The Committee, which oversees the governance and running of the Fund, is now made up as follows:

Employer-appointed

Andrew Figgures
Mark Newton
Emma Norman
Marie Daniels

Stephen Field
Charlotte Vitty

Member-nominated

John McBride

John Bryant
Martyn Ripley
Nigel Goodband
Darren Townsend
Graham Poyser

Are you saving enough?

Have you worked out what your retirement might cost and whether you should be putting more aside? Don't leave it too late!

Sign in at www.btpensions.co.uk (or register if you haven't already), and use the Lifestyle Calculator in the 'Planning my future' section of myFund. This will help you estimate what you might need for the retirement you want.



Nominate online today

Nominating has never been easier – just log into your myFund account at www.btpensions.co.uk and follow a few simple steps.

If you die before you claim your benefits from the Fund, a lump sum could be paid to your loved ones, charities or organisations.

By nominating, you tell the Trustee who you'd like your beneficiaries to be. It only takes a few minutes and helps avoid delays to payments and unnecessary anxiety for those you care about.

What's more, when you nominate online, you'll be able to see a record of your nominations whenever you log in in future, making it easy to keep them up to date.

How to nominate...

- 1 Sign in to your myFund account (or register if you haven't already) at www.btpensions.co.uk.
- 2 Go to 'My nominations', then 'Manage nominees'.
- 3 Enter the names, addresses and dates of birth for your nominees.
- 4 Say how much of the lump sum you want them to receive.

Alternatively, you can download a paper form at www.btpensions.co.uk/forms.

Tell us your thoughts

Complete our short survey at www.surveymonkey.com/r/FocusAug16

How the Fund performed in 2015

Key facts and figures on the Fund's performance during 2015.

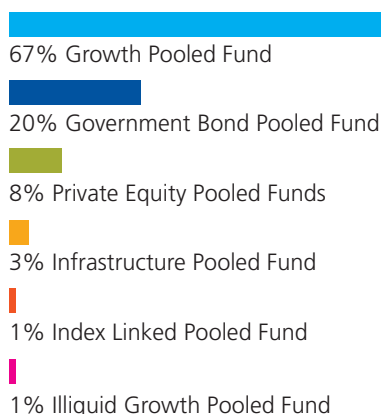
You can view a full copy of the 2015 Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements online at www.btpensions.co.uk/reports, or request a copy by writing to: **Customer Services Team, RPMI, PO Box 300, Darlington DL3 6YJ.**

		£000
Net assets on 1 January 2015		1,037,881
Section income	Members' contributions including BRASS	12,843
	Employer's contributions and benefit support	26,325
	Transfer values in	5,284
	Bank interest	14
Total income		44,466
Section expenditure	Pensions	(39,123)
	Lump sums	(11,198)
	Transfer values out and payments to and on account of leavers	(1,336)
	Administration fees	(2,101)
Total expenditure		(53,758)
Investment returns (net of fund managers' fees)		48,889
Net movement in the year		39,597
Net assets on 31 December 2015		1,077,478

(Brackets indicate negative figures)

Section membership	Number at 31/12/2015	Number at 31/12/2014
Members	2,931	2,806
Preserved pensioners	695	696
Pensioners	2,756	2,645
	6,382	6,147

Distribution of assets by Pooled Fund



Get in touch:

Visit: www.btpensions.co.uk
Telephone: 0800 2 343434
 (Monday to Friday, 8am-5pm)
Email: csu@rpm.co.uk

2015 investment strategy

During 2015, the BTPFSF continued to be invested mostly in the Growth Pooled Fund (Growth Fund). The Growth Fund holds different types of investments, including shares, bonds and property. The fund achieved investment returns of 3.9% in 2015 which was below the RPI+4% target.

The Private Equity Pooled Fund (Private Equity Fund) is made up of direct holdings in companies that are not quoted on any stock exchange. During 2015, the Private Equity Fund produced a return of 16.6%.

The Government Bond Pooled Fund (Government Bond Fund) is expected to be less volatile. Over the course of 2015 it produced returns of 1.6%.

2015 investment returns for each section

Section	2015	Three years (per annum)
1970 Contributory Section	4.8%	7.9%
1970 Preserved Section	1.1%	6.7%
1968 Section	1.5%	7.2%

The 1970 Contributory Section is largely made up of serving BTPFSF members. The 1970 Preserved and 1968 Sections are made up of those who have left service but remain members of the BTPFSF, and pensioners, and are therefore more mature sections. These last two sections follow an investment strategy which has a higher allocation to bonds and more defensive assets.

2015 investment markets

It was a mixed year for investment returns during 2015. The performance of investments in growth assets like equities (shares in companies) was modest. They ended the year broadly flat, with investor concerns about the performance of the Chinese economy leading to an increase in volatility (short-term changes in the price of shares).

The global economy experienced moderate growth in 2015. Two trends seen in recent years continued with a decline in Emerging Market economies, and a slow recovery in developed economies. Both Europe and the US continued to recover, and the US Federal Reserve became the first major central bank to raise interest rates.

Recent years have been broadly positive for many investments, but the outlook is for a more challenging investment environment.