



Good news to pass to your current or former TPS members

By way of background.

Back in 2015 the government changed public service pensions, which included the Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS). As a result of these changes most of its workers were moved into a new pension scheme in 2015.

The 'protection' which was offered to certain members closer to retirement, was subsequently found to be discriminatory to younger members.

Therefore, the difference in treatment between different members needed to be addressed for members with relevant service. You might know this as the McCloud or Sargeant cases.

This discrimination issue was identified for some legacy members who were in one of the pre 2015 final salary schemes as a 31 March 2012 (NPA 60 or NPA 65 members).

Removing the discrimination will take time, however, the government has stated its commitment to ensure all eligible members are treated equally.

So, what is involved?

The first good news is that these changes will allow eligible members to choose under which scheme (former final salary or current career average) they want their benefits to be calculated on between the period 1 April 2015 and 31 March 2022 (known as the 'remedy period').

The second good news is that members will not have to make a decision now, they will be able to make it at the time they retire. By which time they will know the facts and not have to make assumptions (guesses) on matters including – at what age they will retire and what their pensionable earnings will be in the future. This should therefore mean that members will be in a better-informed position to make the decision which is right for them.

In the meantime, all eligible members will accrue benefits in their legacy scheme for the remedy period.

In order to be eligible, you must have been in service on or before 31 March 2012 and on or after 1 April 2015 (including if you've had a 'qualifying break' over this period of less than 5 years). This choice will continue to apply to all eligible members regardless of whether their school has left / is leaving the TPS or already receiving their pension.

The decision teachers will be asked at retirement makes it more important than ever that the scheme administrator has up to date contact details for members. Therefore, all members should register for **[My Pension Online](#)** on the TPS website.

Members should review their pay and service history records now (and throughout their career) as it can sometimes be difficult for this to be checked at a later date.

It will also be good practice for members to retain paper copies or access to financial information from the tax year 2015/16 onwards including tax returns, P60's, pension statements etc. as the pension tax position could change for those retrospectively moving between different teachers' pension schemes.

More detail on the proposals can be found in [here](#) in the 'Public Service Pension Schemes' document.

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