

Did you know that your Will doesn't cover your pension?

You may think that once you've made your Will, everything is covered.

However, your pension savings are not covered in your Will. This is because your workplace pension is held outside of your estate, in the pension scheme trust.

The Rules of the Fund set out who pensions can be paid to if you die, but there is also often a separate cash lump sum that can be paid to those you care about if you die before taking your pension (or within 5 years of taking it). You can have a say in who that payment goes to.

Making a nomination

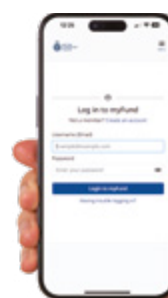
To make the Trustee aware of the people, charities, or organisations you would like your lump sum to go to, you need to complete a nomination. This will then be considered by the Trustee.

The easiest way to do this is by logging in to (or registering for) your myFund account. Once you're logged in, go to the 'myFund Account' menu and select 'My Nominations' from the 'My Pension' dropdown menu.

Check your choices are up to date

Not only is it important to make your nominations, but it's also vital that you update them regularly too. Your circumstances may have changed and the people you once nominated may not be the ones you would choose now.

Log in to your myFund account today at btppensions.co.uk/login to ensure your loved ones are taken care of.



NEED TO KNOW



If you have multiple periods of membership in the Fund, you can choose to nominate different people for each one if you want to.

Log in to your myFund account and head to the 'My Nominations' section.

Message from your Trustee Chair



2025 marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of the modern railway and the original 26-mile journey on the Stockton and Darlington Railway. With a year-long series of events taking place across the UK, it's a chance to honour the past and present, while looking ahead to the future too. You can find out more at btpensions.co.uk/rail-200.

We've revitalised your newsletter after getting direct member feedback. This kind of input is invaluable when helping shape our services. If you'd like to share your thoughts, please complete the newsletter survey and consider joining our member group, Platform. Details for both of these are on the [back page](#).

This will be your last issue of Focus for 2025.

From 2026, you'll start getting your newsletter annually – please see below for more information on this and our new e-bulletins.

Recently we've made some significant updates to your website so why not take a look. The changes include a content overhaul with a fresh, modern design - please let us know what you think by emailing railpencommunications@railpen.com.

There's an accessibility tool to help you access information about your pension effectively and in a way that works best for you. The tool – a blue circle with a person icon – is available on all pages of your website on the right-hand side. It can make text bigger as well as change the colours and spacing. There are a variety of 'accessibility profiles' for you to choose from, so whether you have vision loss, motor impairment or other preferences, you can browse easily and comfortably.

With best wishes

Christine Kernoghan,
Trustee Chair

The new Focus

Hopefully you're enjoying your new-look newsletter. Its makeover is a direct response to member feedback, and we're grateful to everyone who has shared their views.

Whether you're reading Focus in print, or via the new digital versions, we're keen to hear what you think: surveymonkey.com/r/FocusAug25.

This will be your last issue of Focus for 2025 and you'll start getting the newsletter annually, each summer, from 2026.

We're also introducing regular e-bulletins, so you can get pension news direct to your inbox from autumn this year.

If you're registered for a myFund account, you'll get the e-bulletins automatically.

If you've opted into print for your newsletter, you can still get the e-bulletins.

Register for a myFund account or log in to check your email address is up to date.

Both the newsletters and the e-bulletin articles will also be available on your website, without having to log in.

See the [back page](#) for more details on how to tell us about your communication preferences.





Introducing your new-look website

We've made some changes to your member website to make it easier for you to find and get to grips with the information you need.

What's changed and why

The look and feel

The fresh, modern design makes it clearer and easier for you to scroll your website; whichever device you visit it on.

The new menu, layout and links make it easier for you to find the information that's relevant to you, at any stage of your saving journey.

The website is fully compatible with all accessibility requirements, but if you do have any concerns or issues, please email railpencommunications@railpen.com.

The content

The information on the website has been written with your needs in mind. We've cut out jargon and listened to feedback provided by members – making the information as clear, accurate and relevant to you as possible.

Using your myFund account

Your myFund account hasn't changed. You don't need to re-register and there are no changes to the logging in process.

Please tell us what you think

We understand it might take you a little while to familiarise yourself with the changes to the site, but when you feel ready, we'd really appreciate it if you could share your thoughts with us.

The revamp was based on feedback from members, so we'd really love to hear what you think of it. Email us at railpencommunications@railpen.com.

FIND OUT MORE

Visit your new-look website today at btppensions.co.uk.



You can also log in to or register for your myFund account at btppensions.co.uk/login.



ACTION NEEDED

You can log in to or register for your myFund account at btppensions.co.uk/login to make sure you've added or updated your nominations.



Nominating if you have multiple periods of membership in the Fund

You can nominate different people if you choose to

The quickest way to make a nomination is through your myFund account. If you have already made a nomination and you have multiple periods of membership in the Fund, your nomination covers all periods of membership.

But if you make a new nomination using your online account, you can choose whether to make one nomination for all periods of membership or a separate nomination for each.

If you also have membership in the Railways Pension Scheme, you need to make a separate nomination at railwayspensions.co.uk.



When can you retire?

FIND OUT MORE

Please contact BTP's pension manager via **Pension-Queries@btp.police.uk** if you have any questions.



British Transport Police, you will either need a break in service of 6 months to return to an operational role, or 1 month to return to a materially different role.

If you claim one period of membership before age 55, then take on another job role and re-enter the Fund, you would not be able to claim your new benefits before age 55.

Alternatively, Railpen, your pension administrator, will contact you a few months before you reach your 30 years' membership date and offer you two options:

- Carry on contributing and accruing more membership within the Fund
- Stop paying contributions and stop accruing membership but maintain death-in-service cover

Getting your pension at age 55 and staying in work

At 55, you can take your pension while you're employed and carry on working.

...as a 1970 section member

If you were an active member on 5 April 2006, you can take benefits from age 50 as long as you leave employment with the Force. However, your benefits will be reduced if you retire before age 55 and do not have 30 years' membership.

If you retire before age 55 and would like to return to

...as a 2007 section member

The earliest age you can retire is 55, and benefits will not be reduced if you take them as soon as you leave service.

You can take your benefits from age 55 without leaving employment with the Force, but they will be reduced because you will be taking them before age 65.

This section has a maximum membership of 35 years for all ranks.

Leaving service and not taking your benefits straight away

If you leave service and choose not to take your benefits immediately, or are not eligible to, your benefits will become payable from age 65 and won't be reduced. You can take them from age 55 but they will be reduced as part of this option.

...as a CARE section member

From age 60, you can take your benefits without any reductions if you leave employment at the same time. Whereas if you take them from 55 up to 60, they will be reduced to reflect their early payment.

With no maximum membership, you can accrue benefits for as long as you are employed as an officer up until age 75.

Upon leaving service, your benefits will become preserved within the Fund, will become payable from age 65 and won't be reduced. You can take them from age 55 but they will be reduced as part of this option.

For more information on maximum pension age and maximum membership, go to btpensions.co.uk/maxpa-membership.

Mid-service retirement course

The sooner you start to prepare for life after work, the better.

To help you plan ahead, a pre-retirement seminar is available for you to join on Wednesday 19 November 2025, from 9am to 1pm.

Topics include:

- planning and budgeting
- income and tax in retirement
- short to medium-term and medium to long-term financial considerations
- Wills and estate planning

To book your place, email seminars@pmas.co.uk. We'll let you know if there are more dates available in the future.

NEED TO KNOW

The information shown in this newsletter is not financial advice. You should take independent financial advice before making any decisions.

New Retirement Living Standards figures and the cost of life after work

In June, Pensions UK published new figures in the Retirement Living Standards (RLS), to help you understand how much you'll need to save for life after work.



The RLS, shown in the table below, take into account if you live alone or with another person, and consider things like the current cost of living and lifestyle choices such as holidays and clothing.

The 2025 RLS updates

The changes are due to a fall in the energy price cap until October 2024, and food price rises.

Based on research-backed information, they provide real-life examples for people to aim towards, encouraging you to take action by showing the level of expenditure required for different standards of living. They're there to be used as a guide as everyone's circumstances are different.

Secure the future you deserve

On your member website, you can:

- use the **Retirement Budgeting Calculator** to guide you on how much you'll need for life after work
- request an estimate of your current savings
- view your Annual Benefit Statement
- make Additional Voluntary Contributions
- use the MoneyFit tool

You can find out more at <https://pensions.co.uk/knowledge-hub/news-and-views/news/2025/06/04/the-new-cost-of-retirement-2025>.

	MINIMUM	MODERATE	COMFORTABLE
SINGLE	£13,400 a year	£31,700 a year	£43,900 a year
COUPLE	£21,600 a year	£43,900 a year	£60,600 a year
What standard of living could you have?	Your basic day-to-day needs, with a little money left over for fun	More financial security and flexibility, in your day-to-day needs and extras e.g the opportunity for one foreign holiday a year	Financial freedom in your day to day needs, plus a few luxuries on top

Figures quoted are from the Retirement Living Standards, see retirementlivingstandards.org.uk for details.

Life events and how they can affect your pension

Saving for retirement can take time, and a lot can happen along the way – having a child, or falling ill and being away from work for an extended period.

Here are some questions you may be thinking about:

Will my pension benefits be affected if I take leave from work?

They may be, depending on the nature of your time away from work, terms agreed and legal obligations. You can find out more in the Read as You Need guides at btppensions.co.uk/read-as-you-need-guides.

Will my membership continue while I'm on family leave?

Your membership will continue as long as there's an expectation that you will return to work and the contributions due are paid.

Will my contributions change while I'm on family leave?

If you're on family leave, your contributions are calculated as a percentage of pensionable pay whatever pay you get, but you continue to earn pension benefits as normal.

What will happen to my BRASS and AVC Extra contributions?

Your BRASS and AVC Extra payments will continue while you are getting enough pay, but you can stop these if you want to. If you get BRASS matching and you decide to stop your BRASS contributions, then matching will not restart when you return to work.

What will happen for other periods of absence?

If you are away from work, and you have not agreed a career break with BTP, you will continue to make contributions as long as you are getting contractual pay and there is an expectation you will return to work.

How will arrears of contributions for my pension be paid?

When you return to work after long-term sickness, deductions will be taken to make up your contributions. This is in addition to your normal pension contributions at a rate of 50% of your normal contribution rate.

What will happen if I don't return to work?

You will be treated as if you have left the Fund, and be classed as a 'preserved' member. You must then repay the contributions made on your behalf while you were off, or the Fund can request Railpen recovers the contributions from your pension benefits.

What happens if I take a career break?

A career break must be contractually agreed between you and BTP. During the career break, your contributions and benefit accrual will be paused, but you remain covered for death in service and incapacity retirement. When you return from the career break, BTP will give you the option to buy back the gap in your membership.

FIND OUT MORE

If you have any questions, please contact the pensions manager at Pension-Queries@btp.police.uk.





Pension news round-up

Legislative and government developments

The government introduced the first draft of the Pension Schemes Bill on 5 June 2025, and its second reading took place on 7 July 2025.

The Pension Schemes Bill is a proposal for new laws to reform how workplace and private pensions operate, aiming to help people plan for their life after work by making pensions simpler to understand and easier to manage, along with driving better value and security in the long term.

When it comes to planning for life after work, currently nothing will change. Check the news page of your website for any further announcements.

You can read the article in full at btpensions.co.uk/knowledge-hub/news-and-views/news/2025/07/11/pension-schemes-bill.

Renationalisation of the railways

The renationalisation of the UK railways is currently underway. On 4 December 2024, it was announced that South Western Railway (SWR) would be the first train operator to be nationalised. SWR returned to public ownership when its existing contract with the Department of Transport (DfT) expired on 25 May 2025.

Trenitalia C2c Limited, which operates between London and Essex, was nationalised on 20 July 2025. Greater Anglia, which operates in the East of England, will return to public ownership in Autumn 2025. All DfT-contracted operators

are expected to be in the public sector by October 2027. DfT Operator Limited, a publicly-owned company, will assume ownership of train operators in England.

Market fluctuations and how they affect your benefits

President Trump announced trade tariffs in early April which caused uncertainty among investors about how companies would perform in future.

As a defined benefit (DB) member, your pension is based on your salary and how long you've worked, rather than on daily market movements. So even though markets can go up and down, your main DB pension remains unchanged.

When you pay into BRASS or AVC Extra, you invest your money into funds to try to build your savings over time. How these funds perform plays a significant part in determining how much money will be in your pot.

If you're paying Additional Voluntary Contributions (AVCs), then investments do play a more significant role in determining the value of your AVC pot, and it's normal for this value to change over time.

As always, value of investment funds is likely to change over time – it can go down as well as up.

Most members won't need to do anything, but it's important that you monitor your investment choices regularly to make sure they're still right for you. You may also want to speak to an independent financial adviser, who can help you make the right decision for your situation.

Your news, your way

As outlined on [page 2](#), there are now more ways than ever for you to get your pension news.

If you get Focus by post and need a copy in large print, please email format@railpen.com.

This is a separate request to opting in to print, which can be done via the communication preferences web page or by calling **0800 012 1117**.

Alternatively, you can access Focus via the news area of your website, where you'll also find the latest news updates and content from the e-bulletins when they launch in Autumn.

The website does have an accessibility toolbar to make it easier to use for those with additional needs.

If you want the new e-bulletins direct to your inbox, you'll need to be registered for a myFund account and make sure your email address is up to date.



Get on board

Member feedback is really important to us. It played a huge part in revamping Focus, and our other newsletters, and will continue to help shape our services moving forward.

Don't forget, you can let us know what you think about this newsletter by completing the short survey surveymonkey.com/r/FocusAug25.

And if you would like to share your views about other things we're working on, please consider joining our member feedback group, Platform. It's open to all Fund members and if you join now, you'll be entered into a prize draw and could win £150 of shopping vouchers at the end of the year.

Join Platform



Scan the QR code below to join.



Get in touch

You can find lots more information about your pension on the member website, btppensions.co.uk, and in your secure myFund online account.

If you can't find the answer you need there, please contact us directly and we'd be happy to help.

You can reach us by:

- emailing csu@railpen.com
- calling the Helpline on **0800 012 117 (UK)** or **+44 1325 342 800** (international)

Our offices are open Monday to Friday, 8am to 5pm, excluding Bank Holidays.

Please remember to include some security information so we can identify you, such as your:

- full name
- full address
- Pension Reference Number or NI number
- date of birth



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