

Spring 2025 | royalmailpensionplan.co.uk

Pensions News 2025



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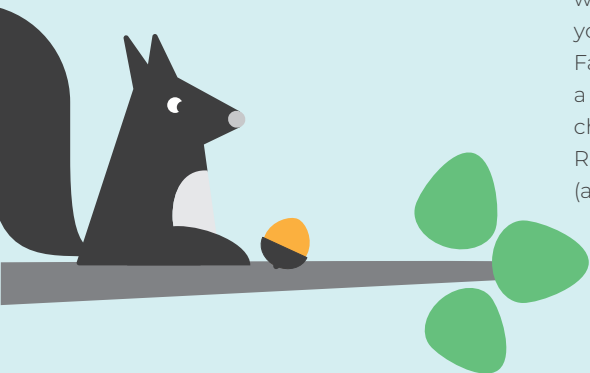
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Welcome from the Chair

Hello and a warm welcome to this year's Pensions News, bringing you updates on a range of topics I hope will be of interest. Inside you can get to know the newest addition to your Trustee Board.



The government is increasing the minimum age at which you can take your pension from 55 to 57, from April 2028. We've covered some of the details in case you are thinking about taking your Age60, Age65, or both parts of your pension in the next few years.

If you haven't yet taken your pension, it's always important to be on the lookout for potential scammers and fraudsters who might try and get their hands on your hard-earned pension benefits. Fans of TV soap Eastenders might recall a recent storyline involving one of the characters who fell victim to such a scam. Read about how you can protect yourself (and your pension) inside.

Finally, for those members who paid additional voluntary contributions (AVCs) before the RMPP closed in 2017, a reminder to keep any investments you haven't yet taken under review. It's important to understand how they are invested and when you are expecting to take them.

I hope you find the newsletter informative and if you have any questions about your benefits, you can contact the Pensions Service Centre – their contact details are on the last page.

Joanna Matthews

Chair of the Trustee,
Royal Mail Pension Plan

Change to earliest retirement age

The normal retirement age in the RMPP is 60 for benefits built up before 2010 and 65 for benefits built up after then. It's possible to take early payment of your benefits at any time from the age of 55 – but the amount you get will be reduced to reflect the longer time they will be paid. The government sets the 'normal minimum pension age' and may change it from time to time. In 2014, the government announced it planned to increase the minimum pension age to age 57 in 2028 to coincide with the rise of state pension age to 67. The change will happen on 6th April 2028, meaning from that date, you must be 57 or over to take any pension benefits early.

Note:

This does not affect people who successfully apply for early payment of their pension on ill health grounds. In such cases, there is no minimum age, but you will need to qualify under the Rules of the RMPP.





Getting to know Kevin Carey your new Member-Nominated Trustee

Kevin was appointed to the Trustee Board in October 2024. Here, in his own words, he has answered a range of questions put to him by the Trustee Executive.

What's your day job?

I've been with Royal Mail as a delivery postman since 1997, currently I am the CWU Area Rep for North London, and my day-to-day role would be supporting CWU members in North London.

What motivates you most in your role as a Trustee?

I've always believed that pensions are a crucial part of financial security, especially for people that have dedicated years of their life to a company, years of hard work, it motivates me as a Trustee to have a positive impact, in that I can be part of securing members futures and ensuring that they can retire with dignity, with a pension plan they can rely on.

What aspect of the Trustee role do you most enjoy?

I am enjoying the meetings, whether these are at board or sub-committee level. As a Trustee you feel you can make a difference being a part of the decision making that ensures a scheme remains strong and secure. I also value the engagement with members and helping them understand their pensions.

Has anything surprised you about the Trustee role?

As a Trustee I've learned how complex and dynamic pension governance really is, but I've been pleasantly surprised by how collaborative the process is, working alongside experts, advisors, professional Trustees and fellow member-nominated Trustees to make decisions that genuinely impact members' futures.



What aspect of the Trustee role have you found most challenging?

More of a challenge to myself than challenging in application, is keeping up with the ever-evolving landscape of pensions. As a Trustee, this means there is always something new to learn.

What financial advice would you give your younger self?

I would stress the importance of understanding pensions early on, (I started taking a real interest in my late 30s), understand how they work, what contributions mean and why they are a crucial part of long-term financial security. I'd also remind myself to budget wisely and avoid unnecessary debt.



What is your hometown?

North London, is where I'd say my hometown is. It's where I was born and where I grew up, but I now live in Potters Bar in Hertfordshire, with my wife Donna and two kids Elle and Kian.

What is your perfect weekend?

My perfect weekend is spending time with my wife and kids, together watching our daughter Irish dance, our son play football for the local team I coach, getting together with our wider family and friends for a gathering of some sort, and now and again fitting some time in to watch the best football team in North London Tottenham Hotspur.



What do you plan to do in retirement?

In retirement I'd like to travel more, see other parts of the world, experiencing new cultures and lifestyles, creating more memories with my family and taking the opportunity retirement gives to step outside of the daily working routine.

Head to our website to find out more about our other Trustee directors, their duties and responsibilities. You'll find details at royalmailpensionplan.co.uk – look under 'About the RMPP'.



How to stay scam-proof in 2025

“It’s gone. Every fiver I’ve put aside. Every penny I’ve put in the piggy bank. Everything I’ve ever worked for.”

That was Jean Slater’s anguished reaction when, on a recent episode of EastEnders, she found out she’d been the victim of a pension scam. It was a dramatic scene but, with pension scam fraudsters having stolen over £17 million from UK savers in 2023, it’s a sadly familiar story.

Your scam-proof sidekicks

The team at the Pensions Service Centre (who manage the RMPP’s administration), are scam-aware. Also, the Trustee has added information on avoiding scams (including a video) to the Plan’s website – select your section and then ‘Life Events’, ‘Leaving the Plan’, ‘Transferring out’. In addition, there are lots of organisations out there providing resources to help you stay scam-proof. If you really want to make sure your defences are rock-solid, why not look at their websites?

You can find more information and useful websites on the ‘Pension Fraud - Don’t be a victim’ page, on the Post Office Section of the website: royalmailpensionplan.co.uk/post-office/



Four steps to stay scam-proof

We want you to know the signs of a potential scam and what to do if you suspect you’re being targeted. Here are four things to keep in mind to help you have a scam-free 2025.

- 1. Be cautious!** A legitimate financial adviser or pension provider will never contact you out of the blue. Be wary of cold calls, phishing emails and high-pressure sales tactics such as limited time offers.
- 2. Stay protected!** Make sure you’re using strong passwords and keeping them confidential. Keep your devices and browsers up to date so that you have the latest software to guard against attacks.
- 3. Know your pension!** Understanding how your pension works will help you detect a suspicious offer. Generally, you can only take money from your pension when you’re 55 or over (rising to 57 from April 2028).
- 4. Check the register!** Always make sure you’re dealing with someone genuine. The Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) keeps a register of authorised advisers. Go to register.fca.org.uk to check it.





Get in touch



You can always get in touch with us by phone, email or post.

If you have a question about your pension, please tell us your full name and date of birth along with your National Insurance or Pension Plan number. This helps us find the information we need to help you more quickly.



pensions.helpline@royalmail.com



0345 603 0043

Mon to Fri, 9.00am to 5.00pm



**Pensions Service Centre,
PO Box 5863, SHEFFIELD, S98 6AB**

royalmailpensionplan.co.uk

For questions about RMSPS benefits
visit **royalmailsp.co.uk**