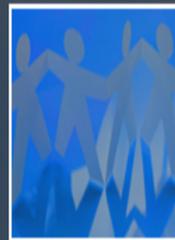




Pensions In Partnership



Mar 2014

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Linking up

We would suggest that employers **have a policy** on allowing deferred benefits to be linked up to current pensionable service after an employee has been in post for 12 months. This will meet challenges to their discretion under Admin reg 13 (8) (a) (a).

Automatic enrolment

The government has announced that it will develop proposals to allow employers to have no automatic enrolment obligations to:

- employees who have **recently opted out** of a qualifying scheme that they were contractually enrolled into and
- employees who have **given notice of their intention to retire**, see https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/279225/automatic-enrolment-exceptions-to-employer-duties-government-response.pdf

eComms

We have rolled out two further phases of our eComms project. **All deferreds and all new entrants** have received an SPFOnline activation key. New entrants are now encouraged to access their welcome pack from SPFOnline. Members can still have a hard copy welcome pack if they contact us to request one. The plan is for 2014 deferred benefit statements / In Touch to be made available in the same way in August.

Member contributions 2014 / 2015

We will issue this information as soon as we have it. The SPPA provide us with tables once the pensions increase order is law. The existing tables are adjusted for price inflation.

Year end posting as at 31 Mar 2014

Guidance about this is in the Employers / Year end area of our website. The deadline is **16 May**.

Other news

Our website has a News story about the 3 March Strathclyde Pension Fund **Committee meeting**.

The LGPC has issued **Bulletin 111**, see:

<http://www.local.gov.uk/web/workforcelibrary/lgpc-bulletins>

It details a decision from the Pensions Ombudsman that makes it **unwise to use two independent registered medical practitioners from the same occupational health provider** in the same ill health case.

Chris' email of 27 Feb to local authority employers detailed the process for obtaining pensions information for insertion in their 13/14 accounts **remuneration reports**.