UKAEA Pensions

Issue December 2026



UKAEA Combined Pension Scheme (CPS)

Newsletter for Deferred and Pensioner Members

This version of the newsletter is intended for deferred members of the scheme (i.e. those who have left the scheme with a preserved benefit) and pensioner members (those in receipt of their pension).

Pension Website and Member Self Service (MSS)

The scheme website can be found here:
https://myukaeapension.equiniti.com/

On the website you will find information on the scheme benefits, useful resources and contacts. In addition, you can set up an account on the site and login to view details of your membership. This is known as Member Self Service (MSS). For deferred members this currently allows you to check your service record and obtain general Scheme information, including benefit estimates. It is now possible to provide a nomination for lump sums payable upon death via the MSS. For pensioners and dependents, you can view copies of your pay slips and personal and Scheme information and change personal details such as address and email. We would encourage you to make use of this site.

You should have received a letter with your access codes to the site to log in, either in 2019 when EQ set up the site, or when you joined the scheme if after this. If you wish to get a new set of codes, please contact the administrators EQ at the following contact details:

Telephone: 0345 408 2991

Email : member.web@equiniti.com

Pension Scams

Pensions are a tempting target for fraudsters and due to most people having pensions, fraudsters may contact you on the basis you are likely to have a pension. The main risk is around any funds you may have in the SPPSP or AVCs, which fraudsters may try to get you to move to their scheme. If something sounds too good, it probably is!

Contact Details for Equiniti (EQ)

Telephone: +44(0) 333 207 5961
Email: ukaeapensions@equiniti.com

If you need to send information by post, the address is:
UKAEA Pensions, PO BOX 5130, LANCING BN99 9AP

For EQ Website Queries
Telephone : 0345 408 2991
or Email : member.web@equiniti.com

When contacting EQ, you should always quote your membership number as identification. If you are sending personal information by email then we recommend this is put into a password protected file.



Pensions Increase

Public service pensions such as those paid by the CPS were increased by 3.8% with effect from 6 April 2026 in line with the September to September increase in the Consumer Prices Index (CPI). Any pension which had been in payment for less than a year was increased by a proportionate amount depending on when your pension started during 2025/2026. The 2027 increase will be implemented during April 2027 and will be based on the September 2026 CPI of 3.5%.

Please note that as the increase is applied mid-April each year, the full increase is not included until your May pension payment.

Who qualifies for the increase?

This increase is applied to all UK Atomic Energy Authority pensions where the pensioner is aged 55 or over. Additionally, all pensioners (regardless of their age) who are in receipt of widow's, widower's, children's or invalidity pension or who retired on grounds of ill-health will also receive pensions increase.

Application of Pensions Increase to your UK Atomic Energy Authority Pension

If your pension is based wholly or partly on service between 6 April 1978 and 5 April 1997, it will include a guaranteed minimum amount to cover this period during which the UK Atomic Energy Authority scheme was contracted-out of the State Earnings Related Pension Scheme (SERPS), so may not include the full CPI increase.

GMP

Guaranteed Minimum Pension (GMP) is only relevant for those members who contributed to the scheme prior to 1997. It is the minimum amount of pension that we must provide for CPS members who were contributing between 6th April 1978 and 5th April 1997. It is paid as part of your CPS pension.

There is ongoing GMP work across the industry to ensure that records are correct and if you are affected you will be contacted.

Divorce, Dissolution or Annulment

If you are currently going through a divorce, dissolution or annulment, then please contact the administrators EQ at the earliest opportunity so that they can make suitable arrangements regarding your scheme benefits.

Scheme Rules

The latest rules of the CPS are as of March 2024 and are available on the scheme website.

Compensation Scheme

The Compensation Scheme for Radiation Linked Diseases (CSRLD) is a nuclear industry-wide body. It allows individuals who worked in the industry to apply for compensation if they believe they have contracted a radiation-linked disease as a result of their employment. The CSRLD can also be used by relatives of those who died of such a disease.

The scheme can be contacted at:

Email
csrld.executive.secretary@sellafieldsites.com

Post
Compensation Scheme Executive Secretariat
Sellafield Limited
Sellafield, Seascale
Cumbria CA20 1PG

Annual Accounts

Please note that the scheme produces an Annual Report and Accounts, which are laid before Parliament each year. The 2025/2026 accounts have been laid and are now on gov.uk.

Pension Credit

For any pension credit queries you may have, please contact the Department for Work and Pensions on the number below. The quickest way to apply for Pension Credit is online or by phone.

Further details are here:
https://www.gov.uk/pension-credit

A friend or family member can make the call on your behalf, but you must be with them when they call.

Pension Credit claim line
Telephone 0800 99 1234

Relay UK (if you cannot hear or speak on the phone) 18001 then 0800 99 1234

British Sign Language (BSL) video relay service available, please see above website.

Benefits at Retirement Age for Deferred Members

When you approach your retirement age in the scheme (generally 60 for most members) EQ will contact you around six months ahead to lay out your options of receiving your pension. These include options on converting lump sum into additional pension or reducing your pension for additional lump sum. If you wish to take your pension early (from age 55) then this is possible, subject to a reduction for taking the pension early.

If you have changed your address, we now offer a number of options to update the scheme administrator EQ. The most convenient method is to use the Member Self Service (MSS). It is now also possible to update your address via email, by contacting EQ at the details shown at the beginning of this newsletter. You may need to provide scanned copies of identity documents to make a change via email.

On MSS, you can log in and get up to date estimates of your pension and change your address details etc.

Deferred Members with AVC and SPPSP Plans

The Additional Voluntary Contribution (AVC) and Shift Pay Pension Savings Plan (SPPSP) schemes are insured with Prudential (a trading name of Prudential Distribution Limited, which is a subsidiary of M&G plc).

Annual Benefit Statements (AVC and SPPSP)
Members should now be able to view their AVC and/or SPPSP Annual Benefit Statements as of March 2026 on the EQ Member Self-Service (MSS). If you do not currently have access to the MSS, please contact the administrators EQ by telephone on **0345 408 2991** or via **member.web@equiniti.com** in order to have access codes sent to you.

Online Accounts (AVC only)
AVC members can register on the Prudential website to get an up to date valuation of their current plans – please see here: **https://www.pru.co.uk/existing-customers/mypru/**

You will need the Group AVC policy number A087, and personal details. This option is not available to SPPSP members.

Please also note that communications regarding any changes you wish to make to your plans, or to withdraw funds should be through EQ, as Prudential do not deal with members directly on these matters.

Pension Dashboards

Pensions dashboards will enable individuals to access their pensions information online in respect of all the pension schemes to which they have contributed, securely and all in one place, thereby supporting better planning for retirement and growing financial wellbeing.

Dashboards will provide clear and simple information about an individual's multiple pension savings, including their State Pension. They will also help them to reconnect with any lost pension pots.

A programme of work across the UK pensions industry to deliver dashboards is nearly complete. The government will decide when Pension dashboards will become available to the public. This may be in late 2027. The Pension dashboards will initially be introduced on behalf of the Money and Pensions Service (MaPS).

Pensions already in payment will not be shown on the Pension dashboards.

Scottish and Welsh Income Tax

Scottish taxpayers will have their Tax codes prefixed with the letter 'S', and Welsh taxpayers with 'C'. We are unable to operate a tax code prefixed with the letter 'S' or 'C' unless advised to do so by HMRC. If you believe your code is incorrect you should contact HMRC.

Further information on the subject can be found on the following websites:

https://www.gov.uk/scottish-income-tax or
https://www.gov.uk/welsh-income-tax

Normal Minimum Pension Age (NMPA) is changing

The UK Government has confirmed that the Normal Minimum Pension Age (NMPA)—the earliest age at which most people can access their pension—will increase from age 55 to age 57, effective from 6 April 2028.

This change applies to most pension schemes, including the UKAEA Combined Pension Scheme (CPS) and the Civil Service alpha scheme. There are some exceptions to this change. If you joined either the AVC scheme or the Shift Pay Pension Savings Plan (SPPSP) prior to 4 November 2021, you may still be able to ask to receive benefits from those parts of the scheme from age 55. Special rules also apply for Ill Health Retirement.

These changes do not affect pensions already in payment.

If you ask to receive pension benefits from the UKAEA Combined Pension Scheme before the Normal Pension Age (60 for most members), you will receive a reduced pension and lump sum, to reflect the fact it is being paid early and that you will be receiving it for a longer period of time.

The Nuclear Industry Benevolent Fund

The Nuclear Industry Benevolent Fund (TNIBF) is a registered charity supporting those working or who have worked in the UK Nuclear Industry through the provision of support, signposting and financial assistance.

The Fund can provide assistance to cover short or long-term problems, where help cannot be obtained from any other source. Assistance is tailored to individual needs and circumstances. All you need to do is provide details of your income and expenditure and the type of assistance you require. You need not be a contributor to the Fund and assistance can include dependent family members.

More information about the Fund is available at www.tnibf.org. If you have any queries, you can get in touch via the 'Contact' section of the website, email info@tnibf.org or telephone 07985 164049.

Applications for assistance can be made using the online application form, by post or telephone. All enquiries are treated in the strictest of confidence and with empathy and respect.

Death of a Pensioner

The entitlement to pension ceases on the death of a pensioner. A dependant's pension will then be paid to an eligible spouse or child/children under the terms of the scheme rules. A pension does not pass to any other relative or to somebody holding a Power of Attorney. It is therefore essential (to avoid any overpayment of pension which will need to be recovered) that EQ is advised immediately when a pensioner dies. EQ will then be able to ensure that any spouse's or child's pension is brought into payment promptly.

Other bodies, such as Registrars and banks, do not notify EQ when a pensioner dies. Please also note that the CPS scheme does not currently get informed by the 'tell us once' service on the gov.uk website. We are reviewing this with Government.

Tax Queries

Please note that it is your responsibility to ensure that you are paying the correct amount of tax on your pension. EQ cannot help you with queries about your tax coding.

If you have any queries regarding the tax on your pension, you should contact HMRC at the following address, quoting UK Atomic Energy Authority pension scheme, the PAYE reference number 475/FB90592 and your own personal National Insurance number.

Pay As You Earn and Self-Assessment
HM Revenue and Customs
BX9 1AS

Telephone the Call Centre on **0300 200 3300 (outside UK +441355359022)** from 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday

It is an HMRC requirement that EQ must provide them with your personal data, gross pay and tax details on a monthly basis during the lifetime of your pension.

Pensions and Inheritance tax changes

New legislation which takes effect from 6 April 2027 will increase the scope of inheritance tax (IHT) to cover certain pension payments. This will potentially impact CPS main scheme benefits, the CPS AVC and the Shift Pay Pension Savings Plan (SPPSP) benefits.

If the value of the estate exceeds a certain threshold, inheritance tax may then be payable, so executors and beneficiaries should consider the impact of the new legislation.

One of the impacts in the CPS main scheme will be on lump sum payments made where a member dies with a deferred benefit or as a pensioner. Where that sum is paid to someone who is not the spouse or civil partner of the member, it may need to be included in the calculation of the value of the member's estate.

The impact in the CPS AVC and SPPSP will be similar to the above, where the value of an unused pension pot is passed to a beneficiary who is not the member's spouse or civil partner.

The above does not constitute financial or tax advice.

Pension Payments and Payslips

Your pension is paid monthly in arrears directly into your bank or building society account. The pension is transferred on the 28th day of each month (except during December when payment is made earlier). Payments to overseas accounts take a few extra days to reach the destination account. The exact length of time depends on the provider of your overseas account. This is outside our control.

A pension payslip is sent to you when your pension starts and when there is a change of £1 or more in the monthly amount of net payment due. In addition, you will receive a payslip in April and May detailing the amount of the pension payable. You will also receive a P60 certificate for tax purposes towards the end of May, which will provide details of your gross pay and tax paid in the previous tax year.

Please note that, for security reasons, we will not include your National Insurance number on your payslip, nor print your full bank details. This will not affect the payment of your pension.

Your payslips for all months and P60 each year are also available on the scheme website MSS.