

POWERHOUSE ESPS GROUP NEWSLETTER

April 2020

Dear Fellow Member

Welcome to our latest Newsletter.

CONTENTS

- **COVID-19 Impact on Pensions**
- **2020 Pensions Increase**
- **2019 Actuarial Valuation**
- **Group Funding**
- **GMP Data**
- **Update on Investments**
- **Update on Capita Performance**
- **2019 Scheme AGM**
- **Annual Meeting of Members**
- **Your Group Trustees**
- **Accessing your pension record on-line**
- **Company pensions website**
- **Lump Sum Death Benefits**
- **Feedback**

➤ **COVID- 9 IMPACT**

You will all beware that in the light of the COVID-19 pandemic the Government has introduced measures advising people to stay at home and are restricting travel to work.

The Group Trustees have taken steps to ensure that the day to day running of our Group is maintained. In particular we have sought and received assurances from our administrator Capita that pensions and other payments due to members will continue to be paid on time.

We have also received assurances from our key advisers/suppliers that they have suitable Business Continuity Plans in place to ensure that business as usual will continue.

The Group Trustees will hold additional meetings by conference/video calls to deal with any emergency issues posed by COVID-19 pandemic.

In terms of the potential financial impact of on the Group Funding we are in the fortunate position of being a mature and solvent scheme where the financial arrangements mean there is a high resilience to market volatility.

➤ **2020 PENSIONS INCREASE**

The ESPS pension increase which will be applied from 1 April 2020 will be 2.4% (based on the rise in the Retail Prices Index over the 12 month period to September 2019).

Where part of your pension is derived from contracting out of the State Earnings Related Pension Scheme then different increases are applied after State Pension Age.

➤ **2019 ACTUARIAL VALUATION**

The Group Trustees are still in discussion with the Company on the valuation results but hope to get these signed off in the near future. Our intention is to attach the Group Summary Funding Statement to the next Newsletter in the Autumn.

➤ **GROUP FUNDING**

Based on the information from the Group Actuary the Group's funding position continues to remain positive at over 100% as at middle of March 2020.

➤ **GMP DATA**

We have made good progress on this project. The next stage is to update our records to ensure that, following the work we have done with the National Insurance Contribution Office (NICO), all records are correct. For a few members of the Scheme this may mean a small adjustment to the pension in payment and those members will be contacted later in the year.

GMPs (Guaranteed Minimum Pensions) are the minimum pension that must be provided in the Scheme for members where the Scheme replaced the earnings related, second tier of the State Earnings Related Pension Scheme.

➤ **UPDATE ON INVESTMENTS**

As at 31 December 2019 the value of the Group's investments, which are held in Legal & General Pooled funds, was:

	<u>£m</u>	<u>%</u>
World Equity	13.3	5.7
Corporate Bonds	17.8	7.7
Index-Linked Gilts	174.5	75.3
Cash	<u>26.1</u>	<u>11.3</u>
	231.7	100%

➤ **CURRENT MEMBERSHIP OF THE GROUP at 31 DECEMBER 2019**

Pensioners: 1,651
Deferred: 210
Dependants: 167
2,028

➤ **2020 SCHEME AGM**

The 2020 Scheme AGM will be held on 23 November 2020 at 1pm. Venue to be confirmed.

➤ **ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS**

Due to insufficient interest from members the Group Trustees did not hold a local Meeting of Members during 2019.

As in previous years the Group Trustees are willing to arrange, with your support, an Annual Meeting of Members in November/December 2020 at a venue to be arranged in the High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire area.

As you know the Trustees will only arrange a meeting if at least 25 members express an interest in attending, **so please do let the Group Administrator now by Monday 19 October 2020 if you would like us to arrange one.**

➤ **YOUR GROUP TRUSTEES**

Your Group Trustees currently consist of two Elected Group Trustees who are in receipt of a pension from the Group:

Howard Whisker
Craig Breeze

Craig Breeze was returned unopposed in January 2020 and will now serve a further 5-year term of office.

In addition, there are two Appointed Group Trustees:

Nigel Burnett (Chair)
(In receipt of a pension)

Marc Boone
(HeidelbergCement – Treasury Manager)

Nigel Burnett also serves as an Appointed Director on the Board of EPTL and Howard Whisker as Reserve Director.

You can contact the Group Trustees direct, or through the Group Secretary,

Susan Smith (Pi Consulting) on 020 8879 6525.

Please note that the Group Trustees do not personally hold or have access to member data.

➤ **ACCESSING YOUR PENSION RECORD ON-LINE**

Hartlink Online, which is Capita's online portal, allows real-time access to your pension record. This will enable you to:

- *view Payslip and P60 information (Pensioners only).*
- *amend personal details*
- *complete or update a Beneficiary Nomination form.*
- *access a range of Group/Scheme documents.*
- *access links to relevant websites helping you to better understand your benefit entitlement.*
- *check that the information we hold for you is accurate and up to date.*

Hartlink Online website is available at:

www.hartlinkonline.co.uk/powerhouse

To access the site, enter this web address into the address bar of your web browser.

If you have any problems with the registration process, please use the 'Contact us' button on the site. Alternatively, you can contact our Group Administrator at hanson@capita.co.uk or via Hanson Schemes admin team on 0345 600 0591 or by post to:

Lee Siddall, Group Administrator
Powerhouse Retail ESPS Group
Capita
PO Box 555, Stead House, Darlington,
DL1 9YT

➤ **COMPANY PENSIONS WEBSITE**

For your information Hanson UK has set up a website for its various pension schemes which provides Scheme/Group and general pension information. This can be accessed at the following link: <http://www.hansonpensions.co.uk/en/powerhouse>

➤ **LUMP SUM DEATH BENEFITS**

I would like to remind you that the Scheme provides for the payment of a lump sum death benefit in the event of a member's death. This will apply:

- a. if you are a Deferred Member and your pension is not yet in payment, or
- b. if you are a Pensioner Member within the first five years of retirement.

We ask you to complete a Beneficiary Nomination form setting out details of who you would like to receive any benefits. Whilst the Trustees are not required to follow your wishes having a form in place helps the Trustees pay any benefits due in a timely way. Please therefore ensure you have submitted an up to date form.

➤ **FEEDBACK**

If you have any queries or comments on any items covered in our Newsletter or ideas for items in future Newsletters, please let me know by emailing me as below.

nigel.p.burnett@gmail.com

Stay Safe

Kind Regards and Best Wishes

Nigel

Nigel Burnett, Chair of Group Trustees