



Chapter 5: Consultation arrangements



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- 5.1 An electronic version of this document can be found at www.dwp.gov.uk/pensionsreform.
- 5.2 The proposals for reform set out in this paper are informed by an extensive programme of Government consultation with key stakeholders and the National Pensions Debate – involving nearly 10,000 members of the public in face-to-face debate and via our website. A list of those consulted is available on the website alongside this paper.
- 5.3 Our proposals are accompanied by Regulatory Impact Assessments and technical appendices which are also available at the above website address.
- 5.4 We welcome comments on any aspect of our proposals. Our consultation arrangements are in line with the Cabinet Office's Code of Practice on Consultation. A copy of the Code can be found at www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/regulation/consultation. The six consultation criteria set out by the Cabinet Office are:
 - Consult widely throughout the process, allowing a minimum of 12 weeks for written consultation at least once during the development of the policy.
 - Be clear about what your proposals are, who may be affected, what questions are being asked and the timescale for responses.
 - Ensure that your consultation is clear, concise and widely accessible.
 - Give feedback regarding the responses received and how the consultation process influenced the policy.
 - Monitor your department's effectiveness at consultation, including through the use of a designated consultation co-ordinator.
 - Ensure your consultation follows better regulation best practice, including carrying out a Regulatory Impact Assessment if appropriate.

How to respond

- 5.5 When responding, please state whether you are responding as an individual or representing the views of an organisation. Where possible, please supply evidence in support of your views. If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please make clear who the organisation represents and – where applicable – how the views of members were established.

- 5.6 The closing date for receiving comments is **Monday 11 September 2006**. Please ensure that your response reaches us by this date. Your response can be submitted by letter, fax, or email to:

Pensions Reform White Paper Team
Department for Work and Pensions
Level 3, The Adelphi
1–11 John Adam Street
London WC2N 6HT

Telephone: 020 7712 2855
Fax: 020 7962 8591
Email: pensions-white-paper@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

- 5.7 We will publish a summary of the comments we receive, along with a response from the Government on how we intend to proceed, within three months of the close of this consultation.

Additional copies and alternative formats

- 5.8 Additional printed copies of this document can be ordered from:

The Stationery Office
PO Box 29
Norwich NR3 1GN

Telephone: 0870 600 5522
Fax: 0870 600 5533
Email: book.orders@tso.co.uk

- 5.9 The Welsh version of this document can be found at www.dwp.gov.uk/welsh/pensionsreform.
- 5.10 The Executive summary of this document is available in English, Welsh, Braille, large print, and on audio cassette. These are free of charge and can be ordered by contacting:

Pension Guide
Freepost RLXH-JUEU-GZCH
Northampton NN3 6DF

Telephone: 08457 31 32 33
Textphone users: 0845 604 0210

Confidentiality

- 5.11 The information you send us may need to be passed to colleagues within the Department for Work and Pensions and published in a summary of responses received in response to this consultation, along with a response from the Government.
- 5.12 Because of the Freedom of Information Act (2000), all information contained in your response, including personal information, may be subject to publication or disclosure. By providing personal information for the purposes of the public consultation exercise, it is understood that you consent to its disclosure and publication. If this is not the case, you should limit any personal information which is provided, or remove it completely. If you want the information in your response to the consultation to be kept confidential, you should explain why as part of your response, although we cannot guarantee to do this. We cannot guarantee confidentiality even if your IT system claims it automatically. The contact point to discuss this is:

Geoff Ashton
DWP Consultation Co-ordinator
5th Floor East, Trevelyan Square
Leeds LS1 6EB

Telephone: 0113 23 27 107
Email: geoff.ashton@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

- 5.13 More information about the Freedom of Information Act can be found on the website of the Department for Constitutional Affairs at www.dca.gov.uk/foi/index.htm.

Help with your queries

- 5.14 Our proposals do not affect your current state pension entitlements. If you have queries about your future state pension entitlements, you should contact The Pension Service on 0845 30 001 68.
- 5.15 If you have any queries about the proposals set out in this paper, and would like to discuss these before sending us your comments, please contact the Pensions Reform White Paper Team.
- 5.16 DWP values feedback on how well it consults. If you have any comments on the process of this consultation (as opposed to the issues raised) please contact the DWP Consultation Co-ordinator. In particular, please tell us if you feel that the consultation does not satisfy the criteria set out at paragraph 5.4. Please also make any suggestions as to how the process of consultation could be improved further. Please contact:

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