

Financial Assistance Scheme Increasing Member Payments Bulletin Issue Number 4 – 14 March 2008

This bulletin is aimed at Trustees and Administrators as a means of providing further information and/or guidance on topics or issues raised during discussions or at meetings. Please make its contents available to colleagues within your organisation.

Subject: Changes to FAS, the Level of Assistance Payments and Additional Data Requirements	Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS) PO Box 702 York YO32 9XR Tel: 0845 6019941 Email: FAS-Operational-Unit@dwpgsi.gov.uk
<p>You will be aware of the Government's announcement on 17 December 2007 to extend the Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS). Some of the key changes to the revised FAS include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Members will be guaranteed 90% of their accrued pension at the date of commencement of wind up, re-valued to their retirement date• Assistance will be paid from the scheme's normal retirement age (NRA), subject to a lower age limit of 60. <p>It is our intention to implement these enhancements ahead of the other changes announced in December. We anticipate that legislation will come into force by the end of May 2008, subject to the Parliamentary process, which will allow the FAS to make payments at the 90% level and from NRA.</p> <p>These changes mean that new groups of members may be immediately eligible for payment from FAS including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Members below 65 who have reached a lower scheme normal retirement age, subject to a lower age limit of 60• Members funded between 80% and up to 90% on FAS levels. <p>It would be appreciated if you would forward data sets on any members in these groups as a matter of urgency so that the FAS can help eligible members as soon as possible following the introduction of the new legislation.</p> <p>When sending form S1 with final member data for all members of the scheme, please also enclose a copy of the agreed Finalised Data Schedule (of secured annuities), provided by the Insurance Company/Annuity Provider. We need this information for Internal Assurance purposes.</p>	

The Finalised Data Schedule should be returned with the S1 by secure courier that requires signature, including the use of tamper evident packaging, recording and tracking to:

FAS Operational Unit, Unit 1, Triune Court, Monks Cross, York YO32 9GZ.

If you are sending an electronic copy of the Finalised Data Schedule, please ensure it is password protected as per the S1 instructions and it is sent to us by the same secure method as the S1.

When returning the S1 and Finalised Data Schedule to FAS it is imperative that you contact the FAS Operational Unit on 0845 6019941 and speak to a Customer Account Manager to advise that an S1 and Finalised Data Schedule have been sent and the date they were issued.

If you require any clarification on any of these matters, please do not hesitate to contact the FAS Operational Unit on 0845 6019941, or at the above address. Alternatively, you may wish to contact your Customer Account Manager (CAM).

Please note there are changes to our Customer Account Managers as detailed below:

- Carole Leech – responsible for schemes that qualified as in wind-up and are administered in London, East, North West and Midlands. Telephone: 01904 605225
- Debbie Jones – responsible for schemes that qualified wound-up and in wind-up schemes administered in Yorkshire and the North East. Telephone: 01904 605227
- Lesley Rees – responsible for schemes that qualified as in wind-up and are administered in the South East and Northern Ireland. Telephone: 01904 605219
- Oliver Mallett – responsible for schemes that qualified as in wind-up and are administered in the South West, Wales and Scotland. Telephone: 01904 605229

We would welcome your feedback regarding this communication and whether you consider it beneficial. If you consider there is a topic or issue you would like included please let us know. Our email address is at the top of this bulletin.

Helping You to Help Us Increase Payments