

## Information for members of the Research Councils' Pension Scheme

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### Pension Reform Update

**Please note: this update on public sector pension reform is being provided to RCPS members for information – no action is required\*.**

In July 2019 (<http://jsspensions.nerc.ac.uk/news.asp?t=news2019&a=n176>) we told you that the Government had their appeal denied in respect of the age discrimination case, also known as the McCloud case. HM Treasury have been working with member and employer representatives to develop proposals for resolving the age discrimination issue and have now announced a consultation on the remedies.

As a brief reminder, this was the culmination of a case that dealt with claims of age discrimination of members in the judicial and firefighters pension schemes resulting from changes made to those schemes in April 2015. The changes saw some members being moved to a different scheme based on their age. The Courts judged that treating people differently based on their age was unlawful. The Government subsequently decided that the ruling applied to all public sector pension schemes that introduced the 2015 changes. **It is important to remember that the RCPS did not introduce those changes in 2015 or subsequently and therefore very few, if any, members\* of the RCPS are exposed to the age discrimination issue, or the remedy being proposed.**

#### Public Service Pension Consultation

The open consultation invites responses to the two different proposals for members that are affected. Those affected will have been in one of the reformed public sector schemes on or before 31 March 2012 and on or after 1 April 2015. The proposal is to give affected members a choice of receiving old scheme or new scheme benefits for the period 2015-2022. The proposal also states that all members would be moved into the new (2015) scheme on 1 April 2022. More information can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/public-service-pension-schemes-consultation-changes-to-the-transitional-arrangements-to-the-2015-schemes>

If you were in a public sector scheme that reformed in 2015 and think you may be affected, please read the consultation documents. You can also contact the scheme administrator for further details.

**Remember, RCPS members have not experienced these age-related changes introduced elsewhere in the public sector in 2015.**

#### Impact on the RCPS

Whilst the proposals for addressing the age discrimination issue don't affect RCPS members the outcome is likely to influence the reform plans for the RCPS. For some years now JSS and the RCPS have been



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## JSS Pensions Administration

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working with various Government departments to introduce pension reform in line with Government policy and one means of achieving this would be to move the RCPS into the Civil Service Pension Arrangements. This approach still remains possible but would need to take account of changes in the Civil Service Pension Arrangements arising from the Consultation. It is therefore anticipated that no changes will be made within the RCPS, or to RCPS members' pension arrangements, before 1 April 2022 at the earliest and that in the meantime JSS will continue to administer the RCPS on an 'as is' basis.

If you have any further queries please email [reform@jss.ukri.org](mailto:reform@jss.ukri.org).

*\*This update is focused on RCPS members. If you have previous membership in a reformed public sector pension scheme you may be affected. You may want to contact the administrator of that scheme for further details.*

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