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## JSS Pensions Administration

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Polaris House, North Star Avenue, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN2 1UY

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

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#### RCPS Reform Update

##### What Do I Need To Know

This is an update for all members about the future of the RCPS and administration changes expected to be implemented by April 2018.

As you will know we have been working with government since 2013 to develop and agree reforms to the Research Councils' Pension Scheme. Reform concentrates on the requirement for all of the public sector to introduce new career average earning pension schemes in accordance with the Public Service Pension Act 2013 and for by analogy schemes to close and move to the public sector scheme they are 'by analogy' with.

The work has progressed with government and reached the stage where we are able to share a summary of what will happen to the RCPS. We already have permission from what was BIS (now BEIS - Department for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy) to continue as is until 31 March 2018 at the latest.

In April 2018 eligible members will be enrolled into a new pension scheme and begin to accrue pension benefits in that scheme. The new scheme is expected to be Alpha; the scheme introduced by Cabinet Office in April 2015 as part of their reforms to the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS). Alpha is similar to the current Nuvos scheme that new starters are currently enrolled into within the RCPS. Alpha pension age is linked to the State Pension Age (Nuvos is 65) and the accrual rate is 2.32% (Nuvos is 2.3%).

Eligible members are those who had more than 10 years to their scheme pension age as at 1 April 2012. Active members who had less than 10 years to their scheme pension age as at 1 April 2012 are protected and will not be enrolled into the new scheme.

As well as eligible members being enrolled in to Alpha, which is administered by MyCSP under contract to the Cabinet Office, it's expected that all RCPS members will transfer to the Civil Service pension arrangements, which includes active members, pensioners and preserved members as well as closed schemes administered by JSS. This will see a change of pension administrator for everyone and ultimately the closure of the RCPS and JSS, which is expected to take place in April 2018.

This is a summary of the major changes and there are still finer details and terms to work through with government. JSS will continue to share news and information with RCPS members and employers via the JSS website, as well as continuing to visit organisations to share updates and discuss changes with members. We will also develop a specific section on our website to help members understand these changes, including what happens to benefits already accrued in the RCPS. We have created a dedicated mailbox for reform enquiries. Please see the links below, including a link to our Contact Page.

JSS remain committed to providing the high levels of service our members are used to receiving and will also work hard to ensure these changes are implemented successfully.

Here is a link to a news item published by us which explains these changes and background in more depth:  
Pension Reform Update June 2016: <http://jsspensions.nerc.ac.uk/news.asp#n131>

Email JSS about pension reform:  
<mailto:jss.reform@bbsrc.ac.uk>

JSS Website – Reform pages:  
<http://jsspensions.nerc.ac.uk/reform/>

Contact JSS: <http://jsspensions.nerc.ac.uk/contact.asp>