

Reform News Archive

This document contains historical information and links to reform updates that have been previously published on the JSS website.

The original links are still available via the News Archive Page

Contents

Copies of previous reform news items	2
31 January 2022 RCPS Reform Update - No changes in April 2022.....	2
25 February 2021 RCPS Reform Update - continuation to 2024/25.....	3
28 July 2020 RCPS Reform Update - Continuation until 2022.....	4
18 July 2019 RCPS Reform Update - Government denied appeal by the Supreme Court	5
23 January 2019 RCPS Reform Update - Court of Appeal judgement.....	6
11 October 2018 RCPS Reform Update - Continuation until April 2020.....	7
29 November 2017 RCPS reform update; continuation until 1 April 2019	8
6 January 2016 Pension Reform Update.....	9
Links to individual pdf documents regarding reform	10
15 March 2017 Update on Pension Scheme Reform	10
13 October 2016 Update on Pension Scheme Reform	10
9 June 2016 Update on Pension Scheme Reform	10
29 January 2015 Update on the future of the RCPS	10
20 October 2014 Update on the future of the RCPS	10

Copies of previous reform news items

31 January 2022 [RCPS Reform Update - No changes in April 2022](#)

JSS have received a few questions from RCPS members asking what is happening to their RCPS pension in April 2022. The answer is nothing.

The main public service pension schemes are implementing changes in April 2022 in order to remedy the 'McCloud' age discrimination issue. This issue stems from the changes that those schemes brought in during 2015 where some people were moved into a new scheme based on their age. Although the RCPS operates by-analogy to the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS) the RCPS did not introduce any changes in 2015; it is not a reformed scheme and therefore is not required to move any members into a new arrangement in April 2022.

If you are an active member in the RCPS your pension will continue to accrue as is. JSS will continue to administer the scheme and continue to pay the pension benefits. **Your pension arrangements will not change in April 2022.**

If you have been in one of the reformed schemes and your pension is affected the scheme administrator will write to you directly.

If you have any concerns or questions about your RCPS pension, please email: reform@jss.ukri.org.

25 February 2021 RCPS Reform Update - continuation to 2024/25

On the 28 July 2020 we told you about the government's consultation on the proposed changes to remedy the McCloud age discrimination issue. The government have published [the outcome of the consultation- external link](#) - explaining what changes will be made.

This [leaflet- external link](#) - provides a brief summary including the options some scheme members may have.

Due to the complexity of the work involved it is unlikely that the RCPS will be in a position to move into the Civil Service Pension Scheme for some time, possibly until around 2024/25. In the meantime JSS will continue as is and members will remain in the RCPS and pensions continued to be paid by JSS.

Some RCPS members have asked how the McCloud changes affect them. **If you have only ever been in the RCPS then the changes have no impact whatsoever on the pension you have accrued or continue to accrue while you remain in the RCPS.** This is because the RCPS has not reformed and therefore no members are exposed to the McCloud issue. But, if you were a member of one of the reformed public pension schemes from 2012 to 2015 the changes could affect the pension you accrued in that scheme. You should contact the appropriate scheme administrator for further information.



JSS Pensions Administration

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

28 July 2020 [RCPS Reform Update - Continuation until 2022](#)

A [Pension Reform Update \(PDF, 130KB\)](#) has been published which shares information about a public service pension consultation and impact on the RCPS reform plan.

18 July 2019 **RCPS Reform Update - Government denied appeal by the Supreme Court**

In January 2019 we told you about the Court of Appeal ruling that determined some of the changes made in the judges and firefighters pension schemes in 2015 amounted to unlawful age discrimination against some staff. The government applied to the Supreme Court to appeal the ruling, but their application was denied. The government have subsequently decided that the age discrimination situation will need to be remedied in all public service pension schemes that introduced similar age-related changes. This includes the Civil Service pension scheme arrangements, whose scheme was reformed in April 2015 with the introduction of the Alpha pension scheme.

Please read the [Written Statement- external link](#) presented to the House of Commons for more detail.

The age discrimination issue only affects reformed public service pension schemes, it doesn't affect the RCPS because it has not reformed.

The RCPS Management Board have unanimously agreed that the RCPS should continue as it is past April 2020 while the government works through its proposals with its stakeholders to address the age discrimination issue. The timescale for this is not clear.

As the RCPS continues as it is then so will JSS continue to administer the scheme.

We will update you when more information is available. If you do have any reform related questions please visit our website or contact us using the email address jss.reform@bbsrc.ac.uk.

23 January 2019 RCPS Reform Update - Court of Appeal judgement

In October 2018 we told you about the RCPS continuing as is until April 2020, in part due to ongoing litigation between the Government and the firefighters and judiciary.

These cases were heard at the Court of Appeal from the 05 to the 09 November 2018 and the judgement handed down on 20 December 2018. In summary the Court found that the Government had unlawfully discriminated against younger members of both the firefighters and judicial pension schemes in respect of changes that were introduced in 2015.

The changes introduced meant that older members would stay in one pension scheme but younger members had to move to a new scheme, deemed worse by the claimants. These changes are very similar to those introduced in many other public sector pension schemes in 2015 under the provisions set out in the Public Service Pension Act 2013.

The full judgement can be accessed on the [Courts and Tribunals Judiciary- external link](#) webpage.

What does this mean for the RCPS and its members?

Unfortunately, at this moment in time we cannot say what the impact is on our scheme members, but we wanted to share the Court of Appeal decision as it is already in the public domain and many members may be asking what the outcome was. As the Court didn't state how the situation should be remedied it is difficult to say with any certainty what that might be.

The RCPS Management Board will continue to monitor this situation and review this once the Government has announced how it plans to react to the judgment. There is the option for the Government to appeal the judgment which would then be heard by the Supreme Court. Whatever happens it is possible that the reform timeline for the RCPS will need further review and then we can communicate anything we will do.

In the meantime it is continuation 'as is' for the RCPS and for JSS, if you have any reform related questions please visit our website or contact us using the email address jss.reform@bbsrc.ac.uk.



JSS Pensions Administration

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

11 October 2018 **RCPS Reform Update - Continuation until April 2020**

An update on [RCPS reform \(PDF, 420KB\) - opens in new window](#) -has been published which explains why the RCPS is continuing as it is until April 2020 at the earliest.

If you have any questions, please use the jss.reform@bbsrc.ac.uk email address or visit the [Pension Reform page](#).



JSS Pensions Administration

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

29 November 2017 **RCPS reform update; continuation until 1 April 2019**

HM Treasury and BEIS have confirmed that the RCPS can delay its scheme reform changes until 1 April 2019. This means that the RCPS will continue as is beyond 31 March 2018, with JSS continuing to administer the scheme for active, deferred and pensioner members until at least 1 April 2019.

This delay is a consequence of continuing actuarial discussions with HMT, the ongoing litigation by the judiciary and firefighters pension schemes and to help minimise disruption to those organisations already implementing significant change in April 2018.

If you have any questions, please use the jss.reform@bbsrc.ac.uk email address or visit the [Pension Reform page](#).

6 January 2016 Pension Reform Update

Many of you will have read previous updates from JSS about the reform of the Research Council's Pension Scheme. At present it has still not been decided whether the RCPS will continue as a separate scheme implementing its own reforms or whether it will move in to the Civil Service pension arrangements and be reformed under their pension schemes. These remain the two possibilities for the RCPS.

HM Treasury have been working with the relevant Government departments to establish the mechanisms needed to enable the RCPS to transfer to the Civil Service pension arrangements. This is taking them a considerable length of time which is why we haven't been able to tell you what the future looks like for the RCPS. JSS have also been dealing with HM Treasury and BIS and are expecting to work towards a reform date of April 2017, where either the RCPS will implement its own reforms or will move all members to the Civil Service arrangements. The absolute deadline for reform of the scheme is April 2018.

"Reform" means eligible members moving in to a new career average earning pension scheme that is aligned to the state pension age; this is a requirement of the Public Service Pension Act 2013. The Civil Service reformed their pension arrangement by implementing a new scheme in April 2015, called Alpha. If the RCPS continues then we would expect to mirror the Alpha arrangements. Alpha is very similar to the current RCPS default scheme, Nuvos, in that it is based on pensionable earnings but with a slightly higher accrual rate of 2.32% (Nuvos is 2.3%) and has a scheme pension age identical to the state pension age (Nuvos pension age is 65).

Anyone that was in the RCPS and had less than 10 years to their scheme pension age (60 for Classic, Premium and Classic Plus, 65 for Nuvos) as at 1 April 2012 is protected from moving in to a reformed scheme. Members with more than 10 years and less than 13.5 years to their scheme pension age will move in to the reformed scheme between the date of reform and 2022 latest. Those members with more than 13.5 years to their scheme pension age will be enrolled to the new scheme when the reforms are implemented, earliest April 2017, latest April 2018.

We will update you on the future of the scheme and what it means to members as soon we have more information to share.



Links to individual pdf documents regarding reform

15 March 2017 Update on Pension Scheme Reform

[Update on pension scheme reform \(PDF, 150KB\)](#)

13 October 2016 Update on Pension Scheme Reform

[Update on pension scheme reform \(PDF, 100KB\)](#)

9 June 2016 Update on Pension Scheme Reform

[Update on pension scheme reform \(PDF, 112KB\)](#)

29 January 2015 Update on the future of the RCPS

[Update on the future of the RCPS \(PDF, 98KB\)](#)

20 October 2014 Update on the future of the RCPS

[Update on the future of the RCPS \(PDF, 99KB\)](#)