

APS Members and Pensioners Ballot Results

APS Rule 25 (b) contains provision for Members and Pensioners to request the Trustees of APS to undertake a postal ballot. As per the requirements of Rule 25 (b) 100 written requests for a ballot were received from APS Members and Pensioners. The requests detailed the three questions to be included in the ballot to be sent to all active Members and Pensioners in receipt of their pension. The ballot papers were despatched by post on 15 July 2011 with a close date of 17 August 2011.

The report of voting from the Scrutineers, Electoral Reform Services Ltd, for the ballot is as follows:

Number of eligible voters:		26,257
papers returned by post:	12,116	
Total number of papers returned:		12,116
Turnout:		46.1%
Number of papers found to be fully invalid (spoilt or no response to any question):		21
Total number of valid papers to be counted:		12,095

Question 1: Annual increases in APS pensions have been based on the Government's Annual Review Orders which, until the June 2010 Budget, used the year-on-year increase of the Retail Price Index (RPI) in September to increase pensions. In the 2010 Budget the Chancellor changed the index he used from the RPI to the Consumer Price Index (CPI). CPI was only introduced in 1996. Since its introduction, CPI has only been higher than RPI during September on four occasions. Accepting that in the occasional year CPI may exceed the RPI, but that the history and the expectation is that RPI will usually be higher than CPI (last September it was 1.5% higher), do you agree that it is in the best interests of APS beneficiaries that the Trustees should amend the APS Trust Deed and Rules so that in future annual increases are not determined by the Government but are "hard-wired" to RPI so that APS beneficiaries in Part VI can continue to receive RPI increases?

Result

Number voting YES	11,362	(93.94% of valid papers)
Number voting NO	620	(5.13% of valid papers)
No vote	91	(0.75% of valid papers)
Spoilt vote	22	(0.18% of valid papers)
TOTAL.....	12,095	(100% of valid papers)

Question 2: During the period covering privatisation from 1983 to 1990 there were, amongst other matters, numerous amendments made to the APS Trust Deed and Rules at meetings which were inquorate for amendment purposes. One such amendment was made "to bring APS into line with NAPS" which gave British Airways extensive powers to order the spending of APS surplus as it emerged. This depletion of APS funds may have contributed to the present APS deficit. Do you agree that it is in the compelling interest of APS beneficiaries that the APS Trustees should commission a full and transparent legal review into the Governance of the APS Trust between 1983 and 2001?

Result

Number voting YES	10,827	(89.52% of valid papers)
Number voting NO	1,115	(9.22% of valid papers)
No vote	132	(1.09% of valid papers)
Spoilt vote	21	(0.17% of valid papers)
TOTAL.....	12,095	(100% of valid papers)

Question 3: Do you agree that Captain Mike Post, who successfully led the opposition to the APS/NAPS merger in 1999 and who has recently resigned after eleven years as a pensioner-elected trustee of APS, should be appointed as the APS beneficiaries' representative in any future High Court hearings related to the RPI/CPI and the APS Governance issues?

Result

Number voting YES	11,410	(94.34% of valid papers)
Number voting NO	609	(5.04% of valid papers)
No vote	71	(0.59% of valid papers)
Spoilt vote	5	(0.04% of valid papers)
TOTAL.....	12,095	(100% of valid papers)*

* - due to rounding the % figures don't add up to exactly 100%