



Look for the following icons which highlight relevant news for different types of members.



IN THIS ISSUE





Scheme updates	4
News	6
Scheme Funding Valuation	9
Investment updates	12
Tax updates	14
Who manages APS?	15
Memories of BA	17
Good to know	18
Contact us	20





Discretionary Increases – proposed settlement

Subject to obtaining the approval of the High Court, the Trustee Directors of the Airways Pension Scheme have unanimously agreed with British Airways Plc (BA) terms for an out-of-court settlement. This would bring to an end the litigation that commenced in 2013 and which is otherwise due to proceed to appeal at the Supreme Court later this year. Under the terms of the proposed settlement, the APS Trustee will be permitted, subject to some affordability tests, to award Discretionary Increases so that APS pensions are increased up to the annual change in the Retail Prices Index (or RPI) from 2021 with interim catch-up increases. BA will cease paying further deficit recovery contributions, including cash sweep payments, and the Trustee will withdraw its appeal to the Supreme Court.

The APS Trustee will seek the High Court's approval of this proposed settlement before it can be implemented. This will include a review of the APS Trustee's decision that the terms better serve the interests of the APS members than continuing with the appeal to the Supreme Court.

The court process to seek approval for this settlement will be started now but, given the timeline for securing a hearing date, the settlement may not receive approval until Summer 2019 at the earliest. If approved, the proposed payments for 2019 will be made as soon as practicable, backdated to 8 April 2019.

The full news article is available online at mybapension.com/aps/news/other-news

More than £4 billion of pensioner benefits insured

Your APS Trustee has invested just under £4.4 billion in an insurance policy with Legal & General Assurance Society Limited (LGAS) to protect pensions that are already being paid.

This is known as a 'buy-in' and improves the security of your benefits. It insures APS against potential increases in liabilities in case our pensioners live longer than currently expected. It also removes financial risks such as interest rate and inflation charges.

This does not change the way your pensions are calculated or paid, and you're not directly affected by this

arrangement except that we believe this insurance makes your pension even more secure. All pensions will continue to be paid by the team at British Airways Pensions in the same way they have always been.

We have updated our Privacy Notice to include LGAS. It explains that we may share your personal data with LGAS and its reinsurers who will act as data controllers when handling information we share with them.

You can see the full LGAS privacy notice on our website.

Changes to your Additional Voluntary Contribution (AVC) funds

We've carried out a review of our AVC funds and made changes to the Equity-Biased Fund (EBF).

This could affect you if you've ever made extra contributions to your pension and have money invested in an AVC account. We have contacted you if you have an AVC account to tell you about these changes. Visit the winter online bulletin if you'd like to see the full story at mybapension.com/aps/news/trustee_seasonal_bulletin



News

We value your feedback

You've given us some great ideas on how to improve our communications with you and we are making some of these changes. Please look out for our invitations to take part in future surveys.

Your feedback really helps us to make sure we give you the best information about your APS pension when you need it.

You can see the results from our recent pension increase survey at mybapension.com/aps/news/trustee_seasonal_bulletin

In 2019 we're planning some focus groups to find out what information you'd like to read about your APS pension in the coming months and years.

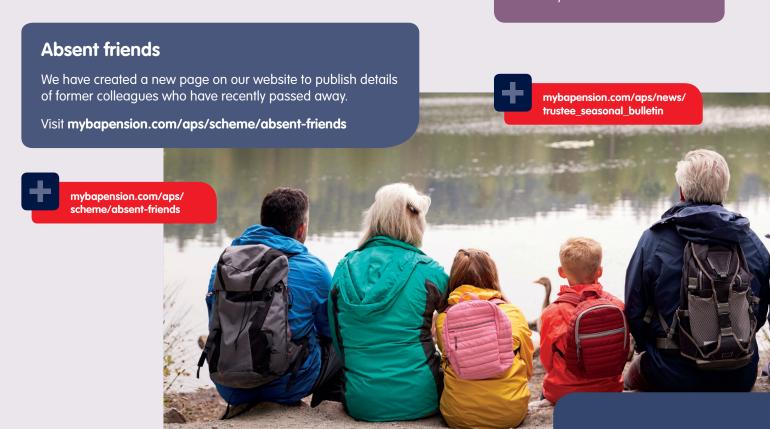
To take part, register your interest by emailing **feedback@bapensions.com**

Our service to you over the past year

In the year to 31 March 2018, your BA Pensions team handled almost 50,000 pieces of work.

Your hotline team also spoke to thousands of you in more than 48,000 telephone calls.

Our aim is to answer **95%** of all enquiries within 10 working days. We're pleased to report that we achieved this for the whole year to 31 March 2018.



Managing your pension online

Between 1 October 2017 to 30 September 2018 you:



Viewed **2,670,880** pages on **mybapension.com**



Viewed or downloaded **96,574** statements, forms and articles



Submitted **14,350** online forms to the Pensions Team



ONLINE – NOT YET REGISTERED?

Register for the latest updates

It's easy to register and it means you'll get the latest updates from us as soon as they're available. Just visit **mybapension.com/users/ sign_up**

Not sure how to get online? Visit mybapension.com/aps/video/index to watch our video guide 'How to login'.



- mybapension.com/users/sign_up
- mybapension.com/aps/video/index

News

New: online bulletins

Since the last edition of In Focus, we've launched new-look online bulletins to bring you the latest information about the Scheme and what your Trustee has been doing for you. We've also asked you what you think of the new format and what you would like to read about in future editions. We'll include the results of that survey in the spring 2019 bulletin.

The new layout makes it easier for you to see all of the Trustee updates on one page rather than opening a separate document. And we've reduced the jargon.

If you're registered for online communication then we'll send you an email when the latest bulletin is available. See the latest at **mybapension.com/aps/news/trustee seasonal bulletin**

Online forms

Our range of easy-to-use online forms on **mybapension.com/users/sign_in** makes managing your pension simple. You can:





 Fill out a Notice of Wish form to register your dependants for any lump sum death benefits.





• Update your postal address.







- Complete a Surviving Dependant registration form to register a dependant for an Adult Survivor's pension if you're not married or in a civil partnership.
- Manage your AVC investments in APS.



 Change your bank details for pension payments.

Need advice?

You can contact Pension Wise at **pensionwise.gov.uk** or the Pensions Advisory Service at **pensionsadvisoryservice.org.uk** for free and impartial guidance. Don't forget, if you have an AVC account, you can put your AVCs towards the cost of getting retirement financial advice.

Pension scams and transfers

Don't let someone else enjoy your retirement.

Cold calling about pensions is now illegal, but we still want you to stay vigilant.

If you're thinking about transferring your pension to a different scheme, do the following to protect yourself:

- 1 Check who you're dealing with make sure the company is FCA approved before discussing your pension details. Visit FCA at register.fca.org.uk
- Don't be rushed or pressured take your time to make checks, even if this means turning down 'an amazing deal'.
- Get impartial information and advice – see the 'Need advice?' panel to the left.

Pension scams in numbers

£91,000

average lost per victim in the UK

55%

what you might have to pay in tax if you fall victim to a pension scam

Visit **mybapension.com/aps/scheme/financial-advice** to find out more.

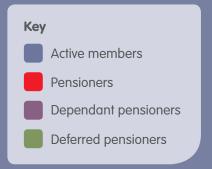
Scheme Funding Valuation

A financial health check, known as a valuation, is carried out every three years by the Scheme's Actuary. BA (the Company) contributes to the Scheme as agreed at the last valuation so your benefits can be paid when they're due.

The 2015 valuation was put on hold until the outcome of a court case into the discretionary increase awarded to pensioners (see 'Discretionary Increases' on page 4). As soon as the legal process is complete, the APS Trustee and BA will work to agree and finalise the 2015 and 2018 valuations on a basis consistent with the proposed settlement.

In between the formal valuations the Actuary provides an interim update and we continue to monitor the development of the funding position.

Based on the latest figures (as at 31 March 2018), the Scheme is in good health, mostly due to BA's contributions, assets performing strongly and liabilities decreasing due to lower than expected inflation.



The Scheme in numbers

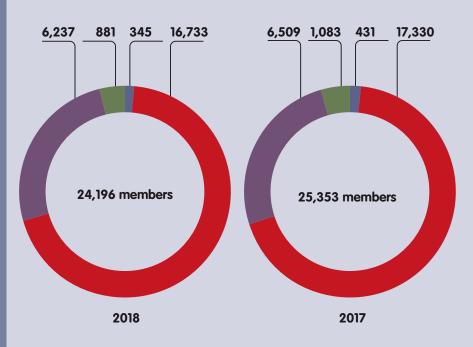
The last valuation was as at 31 March 2012.

The funding level was 91.5% and the funding shortfall was £680 million.

In the year to 31 March 2018:

- BA paid £95.1 million into APS, including employee salary sacrifice contributions, and members paid £0.1 million in Scheme contributions plus £0.5 million salary sacrifice contributions and £2.3 million in AVCs.
- £400.9 million was paid to members in benefits, including transfers out of £34.4 million.
- The Scheme's assets therefore decreased from £8 billion to £7.6 billion.

Membership



Scheme Funding Valuation

Interim update

This is the Scheme Actuary's update to show how the funding position improved between the 2012 valuation to 31 March 2014.

	Funding shortfall	Funding level
31 March 2012	£680m	91.5%
31 March 2013	£547m	93.5%
31 March 2014	£409m	94.7%



How the shortfall is being addressed

The Scheme has a recovery plan so there will no longer be a shortfall by 2023.

The plan includes BA paying additional contributions on top of normal contributions.

Other measures

The Scheme Actuary also provides an estimate of the cost of getting an insurance company to 'buy out' the benefits built up so far. This is known as the solvency level and in simple terms is the theoretical cost of buying a guarantee to pay the benefits already built up in the scheme. It is different to the 'buy-in' mentioned on page 5.

This doesn't mean there are any plans to wind up the Scheme, it simply helps us to understand the Scheme's financial position.

There has been no change since the last edition of In Focus.

How are my benefits protected?

Pension providers are regulated by a watchdog called The Pensions Regulator. It can intervene and issue directions to trustees and companies to ensure the employer pays money to a scheme or puts another form of financial support in place.

The Pensions Regulator has not issued any such directions to the APS Trustee in the year to 31 March 2018, nor has the Scheme made any payment to the employer. This means APS is under strong management.



VALUE AS AT 31 MARCH 2018 £7,678.4 million 31 MARCH

VALUE AS AT

2017

£8,010.3 million

Money going in and out of the Scheme

The Scheme's annual report and financial statements for the financial vear to 31 March 2018 were finalised in October 2018 and showed that at 31 March 2018. APS had assets of over £7.6 billion.

This is different to the full valuation – the report and statements show the position on a particular day rather than whether benefits can be paid in the longer term.

	Million
Income (member and employer contributions and investment income)	£179.5
Outgoings (such as payment of pensioner and dependant benefits, and the cost of running the Scheme)	£(407.7)
Change in market value of investments	£(103.7)

Brackets indicate money paid out of the Scheme

Investment updates

The Trustee, along with British Airways Pension Investment Management Limited, invests BA's and members' contributions.

Investments are measured against a target benchmark set by the Trustee. Over the year to 31 March 2018, investments performed well and included:

- Property;
- Equities (shares); and
- Bonds.

What is a benchmark?

A standard or point of reference against which investment performance can be compared.

How investments performed against the benchmark

Financial years to 31 March 2018		APS returns (% a year)	Benchmark return (% a year)	Relative performance (% a year)
2018	1 year	2.34	1.77	0.56
2016/2018	3 years	5.88	5.80	0.08
2013/2018	5 years	5.76	6.03	(0.25)
2008/2018	10 years	7.23	7.03	0.19





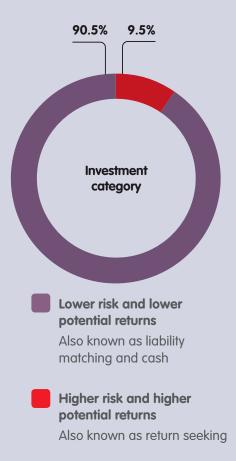
The strategy and maximising gains

Due to the improved funding level the Trustee has been able to continue reducing the Scheme's exposure to investment risk.

This means looking for opportunities to move money out of riskier investments into ones that behave a bit more predictably so there's a good mix of growth and security.

To do this, contributions are invested in a mix of assets. As at 31 March 2018 the Scheme's investments were split between these two broad categories (see right).

The Trustee monitors its investment approach and is considering setting out a new de-risking strategy. Keep up to date on the BA pension website, visit mybapension.com/aps/news/index



mybapension.com/aps/ news/index

Want to know more?

The full Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ending 31 March 2018 are available at mybapension.com/aps/ documents/index

Tax updates

The Government has updated pensions tax relief allowances. These changes may affect your retirement savings. Visit **mybapension.com/aps/scheme/tax-allowances** to find out more about allowances.

There are three allowances to be aware of:

Lifetime Allowance (LTA)

The total amount you can save for retirement and still benefit from tax relief.

Annual Allowance (AA)

The total amount you can save in a single year and still benefit from tax relief.

Money Purchase Annual Allowance (MPAA)

The total amount you can save in a single year and still benefit from tax relief if you have already accessed your retirement savings through a separate defined contribution scheme.

LTA is **£1.055 million** for 2019/20

AA is currently £40,000 a year but will be lower if you're affected by the Tapered AA (see right).

MPAA is £4,000 a year



Active members

The AA

The value to compare against the AA is the growth in your APS pension each tax year, plus any AVCs you've saved. We'll send you a statement in the summer if your APS benefits exceed the standard AA.

Tapered AA

If your taxable income is more than £110,000 a year and your 'adjusted income' is over £150,000 a year, then your AA is tapered. This means for every £2 your adjusted income is over £150,000, your AA goes down by £1, to a minimum of £10,000.

See examples on **mybapension.com/ aps/scheme/tapered-aa**

Contact the BA Pensions Team to request a statement if this affects you.

ΜΡΔΔ

If you're affected by the MPAA, the AA for your APS pension will reduce to £36,000. If you make DC pension savings that exceed the MPAA in any tax year, you'll have to pay a tax charge.

Making it easier to pay the AA tax charge – Scheme Pays

If you've exceeded the AA or Tapered AA, you can ask the Trustee to pay any tax charge relating to your APS pension for you in return for a reduction in your benefits. This is known as 'Scheme Pays'.

New: this can now be requested even if the tax is less than £2.000.

To request Scheme Pays, simply log into **mybapension.com** to use our online Scheme Pays Agreement e-Form and 'click' to send to your Pensions Team.



Deferred members

Your APS benefits don't count towards your AA, but you'll need to check any pension savings you're making elsewhere.



Who manages APS?

APS is managed by a Corporate Trustee, called Airways Pension Scheme Trustee Limited. The individual trustees are Trustee Directors of the Corporate Trustee. APS and New Airways Pension Scheme (NAPS) have always existed under separate Trusts. However, until recently there was some overlap in the Trustee Directors.

Trustee Directors

There have been some changes so APS and NAPS each now have 12 entirely separate Trustee Directors.

The APS Trustee's new Chair

As part of the changes we welcomed Roger Maynard as new Chair of the Trustee from 15 October 2018.

Introducing Roger

Roger first served as Chair of the APS Trustee and NAPS Trustee from 2005 to 2009 and re-joined us as APS Chair on 15 October 2018.

As well as his previous BA pensions experience, Roger has been an aviation consultant to international governments and commercial businesses.

His experience includes more than 24 years with British Airways, including as Director of Strategy and Director of International Business and Alliances.

Fast facts

Roger has three sons, six grandchildren and is a keen cricketer, playing for Surrey and England over 70s.





Changes to the Trustee Board

In July, APS welcomed two new Employer-Nominated Trustee Directors. Zoe Davis (Group Chief Procurement Officer, International Airlines Group - IAG) and Steven Showell (Finance Controller, BA). They replace Sian Davies and Bill Francis on the Board. Sian and Bill will continue in their roles on the NAPS Trustee Board. In February 2019 APS also welcomed Dave Shepherd (Director, Digital Ventures, IAG Cargo). Dave replaces Rebecca Napier.

Who manages APS?

Your Trustee Directors are:

Employer-Nominated Directors



Roger Maynard Chair – Independent Trustee



7oe Davis Group Chief Procurement

Officer (IAG)



Andrew Fleming Head of Legal and Company Secretary (BA)



Dave Shepherd **Director Digital Ventures** (IAG Cargo)



Steven Showell Finance Controller (BA)



Jude Winstanley Head of Brand and Customer Experience Effectiveness (BA)

Member-Nominated Directors



Frances Axford Pensioners



Paul Douglas Pensioners



Ian Heath Pensioners



Phil Hogg Pensioners



Stephen Mallett Pensioners



Tom Mitchell Active Members and Pensioners





What it's like to be a Trustee

The role of a Trustee is a rewarding one. Yes, it carries some responsibility, but duties are wide-ranging and fulfilling.

Find out more about the commitment. responsibilities and support on our website at mybapension.com/aps/ about-us/become-trustee



mybapension.com/aps

Memories of BA





BA Heritage Museum volunteer, Keith Hayward, who's just turned 90, shares his fondest memories of BA

My interest in aviation began during WW2. Living close to RAF Northolt, low-flying Spitfires were a regular highlight.

I started as a traffic apprentice for British South American Airways (BSAA) in November 1945 and witnessed the first departure of BSAA to Buenos Aires in January 1946. My earliest memory is on Northside, where we operated Lancaster bombers after the war, removing the gun turrets so they could transport 13 passengers, mail and cargo.

My fondest memories include handling a number of Royal flights and working with Concorde charters in the late 1980s. I also received the Royal Victorian Medal for services to Royal flights in 1978. Overall, my fondest memory was the comradeship – we all grew up together and had similar interests.

Having travelled all over the world during my career, these days my wife and I enjoy regular coach trips across the UK. I've never appreciated how beautiful some parts of the UK are until now – we especially love Dorset.

I really feel that aviation is in my blood, so when I retired it was important for me to keep busy and remain active in aviation.

As well as being a pastoral visitor for my church, I am also Chair of the Chiltern Aviation Society and Save the Children (Hillingdon branch). I volunteer two days a week at the BA Heritage Museum at BA's Waterside headquarters too. We have lots of interesting and unique memorabilia on show from British Overseas Airways Corporation (BOAC), British European Airways (BEA), BSAA and the pre-war Imperial Airways, as well as British Airways. We are currently celebrating our 100th anniversary at BA and it's nice to think I have been a part of it for 70 of those years.

The BA Heritage Collection is open Monday to Friday during normal office hours. Visit **ba.com/heritage** for more information.



Good to know

Update your Notice of Wish



If you die while you are still working for BA, your beneficiaries could receive a lump sum broadly equal to three times your pay, plus any AVCs you have made. If you work part time, the lump sum is three times your part-time pay, plus any AVCs.







If you die and we don't pay an adult survivor's pension from APS (either because you haven't left a legal spouse or partner, or you didn't pay contributions towards this cover), your beneficiaries could be entitled to receive a lump sum made up of your pension contributions with interest up to the date of death, plus any AVCs.

More than 4,000 members updated their wishes using the online Notice of Wish form over the last year. We'd encourage you to keep your Notice of Wish regularly updated. If you haven't sent one to us for at least a year, please log in and update it.

Any new wishes you provide will automatically replace those you may have sent to us in the past. Remember, to also update your wishes for any other pension arrangements that you hold.

Updating your Notice of Wish is easy

- Log into the mybapension online section of our website at mybapension.com/users/sign_in
- Fill out the online Notice of Wish form within 'Your e-forms'.
- 3 Click '**submit**' to send it to the BA Pensions team securely.

What to do when someone dies

Although it's a very difficult time, it's very important that someone tells us straight away when one of our members or pensioners dies. Simply call the team on **020 8538 2100 (Mon to Fri, 9am to 5pm)**. As soon as we're notified, we can make sure that any survivor's benefits are paid as promptly as possible.

Pension Giving

Give to charity tax free from your pension

The BA Pension Giving scheme allows you to give regularly, tax free, to charities and good causes of your choice.



Pension Giving donations are deducted from your pension before tax, so every £1 you give only costs you 80p. If you're a higher rate tax payer, it will only cost you 60p.

Did you know?

If you're a higher rate tax payer, Pension Giving is the only way to pass on your 40% (or 45%) tax to your chosen charities. Charities can only reclaim up to 28% tax from donations made in other ways.

You can start, change or stop how much you contribute at any time by visiting **bapensions.givingonline.org.uk**



Equal treatment of Guaranteed Minimum Pensions (GMPs) for men and women

There has been a ruling in regard to GMPs recently.

For pensions earned from 17 May 1990 (the date of an earlier equal treatment judgment in the case of Barber v Guardian Royal Exchange), pension schemes have had to provide equal benefits and equal retirement ages for men and women.

However, like most UK schemes, pensions built up by APS members between April 1978 and April 1997 included a GMP. This was because APS was 'contracted out' of part of the State Pension arrangement (called the State Earnings Related Pension Scheme - 'SERPS', later renamed as the State Second Pension - 'S2P'). This meant that members of schemes paid lower National Insurance contributions as they were building up a pension in a company scheme instead of SERPS. The State Pension age (SPA) differed for men and women so GMPs were due at different ages. SPA is now equal for men and women, but the ages that GMPs apply from have stayed the same (age 60 for women, age 65 for men).

The Government believes that GMPs should be treated equally. In October 2018, Lloyds Banking Group Pensions Trustees Limited asked the Court to clarify the position for its schemes. The Court decided its pension schemes should equalise GMPs built up between 17 May 1990 and 5 April 1997 for men and women. However, the ruling affects all pension schemes where GMPs have been built up.

The Court suggested several significant methods that could be used to achieve this so it's possible it could take several years to agree on an acceptable method. It will also take time for schemes to identify which members are affected and recalculate benefits that have already been worked out and paid.

For APS members, this might result in a small, backdated adjustment to pensions paid out over the last 20 years.

We've added some useful FAQs to our website which provide more information about this and the types of pension that could be affected.

You can find these at mybapension.com/aps/scheme/amp

BA Welfare & Benevolent Fund

This fund helps current and former employees who are experiencing financial hardship. If you need financial support for necessities contact the fund in confidence:



bawelfare&benevolentfund@ba.com



BA Welfare & Benevolent Fund c/o BA Clubs The Orchard Hatton Road Bedfont TW14 9QT

Former Staff Liaison Council (FSLC)

The FSLC is a long-standing group that BA formally consults with and which represents the views of pensioners and former employees. It meets four times a year. To join, contact the council by email on liaison.1.council@ba.com



mybapension.com/aps/scheme/amp

Contact us

The BA Pensions Team's move to a new, secure office space at BA's Waterside headquarters means our postal address has changed:

British Airways Pensions PO Box 2074 Liverpool L69 2YL

Using a PO box helps ensure our post is handled confidentially and securely. Our PO box is in Liverpool because the company that handles our post is based in Liverpool. We're still completely independent of BA, so using a PO box means any mail you send us will be scanned off site and sent to us electronically and securely.

Our phone number and email address remain the same:



020 8538 2100



enquiries@bapensions.com



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