

A message from the Chair of BCSSS

Dear member,

I hope you are having a lovely summer.

I wanted to update you about the Trustees' call for the Scheme's £2.3 billion investment reserve to be transferred to members. This would allow the Trustees to improve BCSSS pensions so that members and their families can benefit from a boost to their income.

I would also like to share with you why the regional meetings have moved to November and December.

In May, I told you about the work the Trustees have done since the government announced that the MPS investment reserve would be transferred to its members last Autumn. Since then, with the support of BCSSS members who have written to their MPs about changing the Scheme, this work has continued.

In June we met with Sarah Jones MP, the Minister for Industry, to discuss the Scheme's finances and strong funding position. We then met with over 50 MPs and their representatives in Westminster in early July.

I believe that we are now close to what I hope will be a complete and lasting resolution to this issue. In July, along with James Grant and Bleddyn Hancock, I met with Sarah Jones MP again. Sarah told us that she has now made a recommendation to HM Treasury regarding the investment reserve transfer to members.

She is unable to share the details until HM Treasury responds to her proposal, but she is happy for her team to work closely with the Trustees over the summer to prepare for a possible transfer. Ideally, we would like a resolution faster, but we understand a decision is expected in Autumn. In the event of a positive decision, the Trustees are planning to improve members' pensions by the end of this year.

This explains why we have changed the dates of the regional meetings. We have moved the meetings from October to November and December as we expect to know more and should be able to answer your questions then.

On the next page, you will find further details of the steps that the Trustees have taken since May.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow Trustees and the Trustees' support team for their ongoing commitment and support. I believe some of them have been on the road more than at home recently.

In the meantime, I am looking forward to seeing many of you in November and December.

With thanks and best wishes,



Cheryl Agius
Chair, BCSSS

The next steps on our journey

Since May the Trustees have continued to meet with and write to MPs and ministers to raise the BCSSS investment reserve issue. The investment reserve continues to be discussed in the national press, debates have been held, and questions have been asked in Parliament. This timeline includes just some of this activity from the last three months.

15 May

Trustees James Grant and Bleddyn Hancock meet with Steve Yemm, the MP for Mansfield.

3 June

The Trustees write to Sarah Jones MP, stressing the widespread support for providing equal treatment for BCSSS members.

11 June

The Trustees, represented by Chair of the Trustee Board Cheryl Agius, Bleddyn and James, meet with Sarah Jones MP to discuss the investment reserve transfer.

After the 11 June meeting, the Minister also spoke during a parliamentary debate on the BCSSS. She made positive remarks about the government's commitment to resolving the injustice.



2 July

Cheryl, Bleddyn and James along with members of the Scheme (Derek Stewart, Robert Jardine, Sue Bullock and Ken Wright) meet with over 50 MPs and their representatives in parliament at an event sponsored by Grahame Morris MP.



11 July

James and Bleddyn attend a meeting in Mansfield, organised by Steve Yemm MP, attended by over 100 members.



15 July

James and Bleddyn meet with Nick Smith MP in Parliament.



21 July

The Trustees write to Darren Jones MP, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, and Sarah Jones MP.

22 July

The Trustees, represented by Cheryl, Bleddyn and James, meet with Sarah Jones MP the Minister for Industry to discuss the investment reserve transfer.

23 July

James and Bleddyn attend a meeting in Baddesley, organised by Rachel Taylor MP, and attended by over 30 members.



24 July

James and Bleddyn attend a meeting in Leigh, organised by Jo Platt MP, attended by a group of members.



Over the coming weeks, the Trustees have been invited to attend member meetings with several MPs including Jake Richard (Rother Valley), Amanda Hack (North West Leicestershire), Clive Betts (Sheffield South), and Chris Evans (Caerphilly). They will also meet with Nick Smith (Blaenau Gwent and Rhymney) and Liz Twist (Blaydon and Consett).

If you live in one of these constituencies, look out for a letter providing more details of how to attend.

This is a political matter, and the government has the final say, not the Trustees. But you can still play your part. To those of you who have already written to MPs and ministers, thank you. If you have not yet had the chance, now is the time to make your voice heard. Please consider writing or emailing Darren Jones MP (Chief Secretary to the Treasury), asking for equal treatment for BCSSS members and the transfer of the whole of the investment reserve to members. Remember to copy in your own local MP. You can find out who your MP is by visiting **members.parliament.uk**

For more information on the Scheme and the journey so far, visit **bcsss-pension.org.uk/news**