

Update

For members of the Amey OS Pension Scheme November 2017

Trust us to keep you informed



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Introduction from the Chair

Welcome to your Autumn 2017 newsletter.

In it, you'll find out what has been happening in the Scheme since the last newsletter, together with an update from the wider world of pensions.

At the end of April 2017, we welcomed the members of the Amey Pension Scheme into our Scheme – you can find out more about this merger on page 4. Also, the Trustee has changed its name from Pitmans Trustees Ltd to PTL Governance Ltd. I am the Director responsible for the Amey OS Pension Scheme with support from Matt Riley as Secretary to the Trustee.

Meanwhile, in the wider world the Brexit negotiations continue but, as we noted last year, the decision to leave the EU shouldn't affect your pension. This is because it is a long-term investment, invested in such a way as to help ensure the assets are protected from the ups and downs of the stock market. Of course, we also have the formal agreement with the Company that it will make good any shortfall in the Scheme.

A Summary Funding Statement, showing the funding position of your Scheme section, will be sent to you later in the Scheme year.

Yours sincerely



Kim Nash
For and on behalf of the Trustee



Your Trustee Board

The Trustee during the 2016/2017 Scheme year was Pitmans Trustees Limited represented by Kim Nash. After the end of the Scheme year and with effect from 7 July 2017, Pitmans Trustees Ltd changed their name to PTL Governance Ltd.

Pensions News

How the Scheme is doing

This table shows how the value of the Scheme changed during the year to 31 March 2017.

The figures are taken from the latest audited Trustee Report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2017 for the Amey OS section and the Accord section. If you would like more detailed information than this summary shows, you can ask the Scheme Administrators, RPMI to send you a copy of the full Report and financial statements.

	Amey OS section	Accord section	Total
Scheme's assets at 1 April 2016	£46,236,526	£91,410,427	£137,646,953
+ What's been paid in	£454,018*	£1,577,621	£2,032,159
- What's gone out	£1,914,191	£3,808,142	£5,722,333
+ How much the Scheme's investments have grown	£3,708,144	£9,190,547	£12,898,691
= Scheme's assets at 31 March 2017	£48,485,017	£98,370,453	£146,855,470

*Includes £520 of member AVCs

Membership numbers

	Amey OS section		Accord section		Total	
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
Active members	59	40	103	71	162	111
Deferred members	163	151	762	728	925	879
Pensioner members	289	307	707	749	996	1,056
Total	511	498	1,582	1,548	2,083	2,046

Expression of wish form

Keep us up to date

Do you remember completing an Expression of Wish form? Do you remember who you named on the form? Why not take a minute to make sure the Trustee knows who you'd like the tax-free lump sum paid to if you die whilst an active member? All you need to do is complete an Expression of Wish form and return it to the Scheme administrator, RPMI.

This will help ensure that this benefit can be paid to the right person with the minimum of delay and free of Inheritance Tax.



A new section in the Scheme

As mentioned in the Chair's introduction, in April this year a new section was set up for members of the Amey Pension Scheme, and the Amey Pension Scheme was merged into the Amey OS Pension Scheme. The merger arose out of the Company's wish to consolidate common activities wherever possible, to gain economies of scale. The Amey Pension Scheme members, together with the assets, moved into the new section on 30 April 2017. No payment of any monies went from the Scheme to the Company. The Amey Pension Scheme then started the process of winding up – that is, to cease to exist.

Your benefits, as an existing member of the Amey OS Pension Scheme (whether in the OS or the Accord section) are not affected by the merger. The same is true for the members of the Amey Pension Scheme section. However, the hope is that, by merging the two schemes, there is the potential to generate future cost savings. This should improve the overall funding position of all sections of the Scheme.

Like the Amey OS section and the Accord section, the Amey Pension Scheme section is a separate section within the Amey OS Pension Scheme, and is separately funded. At the completion of the merger the Company made an immediate contribution into the section of £5m, to further improve the funding of the benefits due under the Amey Pension Scheme section. The Company remains responsible for funding any shortfall in the Amey Pension Scheme section, and to pay existing contributions to the section as agreed with the former Trustees on the advice of the Scheme Actuary. Only in the event of a wind up of the entire Amey OS Pension Scheme would the assets of the three sections be used to fund the benefits of all the members, rather than each section funding their own members.

Taking cash from the Scheme at retirement



Under the Scheme, you've always had the option of taking up to 25% of your pension benefits as a tax-free cash sum, and the rest as pension (in addition to any cash sum that forms part of your normal benefits). However, the pension freedoms introduced in April 2015 give you more options when it comes to taking cash.

If the value of your pension benefits when you come to take them is less than £10,000, you can choose to take all your benefits as cash. Up to 25% will be paid to you free of tax, with the rest taxed as income. If appropriate, we will remind you of this option, known as 'trivial commutation', when we write to you as you approach retirement age.

Similarly, if the value of your benefits is between £10,000 and £30,000 you can take it all as cash at retirement unless you have pension benefits elsewhere and the total of all your benefits is greater than £30,000.

Otherwise, if you want to take more or all of your benefits as cash, you need to transfer your benefits to a defined contribution (DC) pension arrangement. We strongly recommend that you take financial advice so you understand the potential pros and cons of transferring your benefits. If your fund value is greater than £30,000, by law you must get advice and the Trustee has an obligation to check that you have done so.



Don't let your pension fall into the wrong hands



An unfortunate effect of the pension freedoms is the rise in the number of unscrupulous people who are trying to scam others out of their hard-earned pension. As a member of a defined benefit scheme, you may be tempted to transfer your benefits into a defined contribution (DC) pension arrangement to take advantage of all the freedoms, in particular the right to take more cash.

If you are tempted, or are contacted by someone offering to help you 'release your pension', apart from taking financial advice, please check that the offer is legitimate. Many people have lost some or all of their benefits by falling prey to scammers, who encourage them to transfer their benefits from the security of their pension fund into unsuitable investments or the pockets of the scammers themselves.

The Pensions Regulator has published a handy five-point plan to help you protect yourself.

- 1 If you think you've been scammed – act immediately
- 2 Cold called about your pension? Hang up!
- 3 'Deals' to look out for – if it looks too good to be true, it probably is!
- 4 Using an adviser? Make sure they're registered with the FCA
- 5 Don't let a friend talk you into an investment – check everything yourself

For more information go to www.thepensionsregulator.gov.uk and click on the 'Individuals' tab.

Contact details – yours and ours

We need to know how to contact you when we need to send you important documents, such as the Summary Funding Statements, or tell you about your benefits.

It's also important that you keep your Expression of Wish form up-to-date so that the Trustee will know who you would like to receive any benefits in the event of your death.

If you're still working for Amey, you should let us know about any changes to your address or personal circumstances by contacting the Amey HR Service Centre.

Tel: 01865 713101

Email: HRHelpdesk@amey.co.uk

Amey HR Service Centre

Amey

The Matchworks

142 Speke Road

Liverpool

L19 2PH

If you no longer work for Amey, please make sure you contact RPMI, the Scheme Administrators.

Tel: 0845 299 6996

Email: amey@rpmilimited.co.uk

RPMI Limited

Amey Pension Scheme

PO Box 193

Darlington DL1 9FP

Please also contact RPMI if you have any questions or comments about this newsletter, a query about the Scheme, or would like a copy of any of the Scheme documents.

Neither the Trustee nor the Scheme Administrators can give you financial advice specific to your own personal circumstances. You can get in touch with a financial adviser in your local area by visiting www.moneyadviceservice.org.uk, and looking for the Retirement Adviser Directory, under Pensions and Retirement.

We have taken every effort to ensure that the information in this newsletter is accurate. In the event that there is any difference between this information and the Trust Deed and Rules, the Trust Deed and Rules take priority.