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September 2023

Dear <E>

SECURING YOUR SCHEME BENEFITS: UPDATE SEPTEMBER 2023

We last wrote to you in March 2023 to advise that we have started the process of formally winding up the Scheme.

As you know from previous communications, the Trustee secured terms for annuity contracts with Phoenix Life Ltd (now trading as Standard Life), covering all pensioner and deferred members. The administration of the Scheme benefits will be transferred to Standard Life in November 2023.

This update gives you more information about what will happen over the next few months. At the end, we have included a timeline showing planned communications and key dates, although you may not receive all of these communications as some may not be relevant to you.

Please remember, you can find more information on the Scheme website:

<https://pensioninformation.aon.com/pgl>

or you can contact the Scheme Administrator using the contact details at the end of this update.

YOUR FINAL SALARY SECTION BENEFITS

You will have received a Statement recently summarising your benefits under the Final Salary section of the Scheme. If you have any queries or concerns regarding the information in the Statement, please get in touch.

As we have noted, your Final Salary benefits are due to be transferred to an annuity policy with Standard Life in November.

Some members have asked whether the benefits secured with Standard Life will be the same as those currently provided under the Scheme. We can confirm that this is the case, the benefits secured under the annuity policies were designed to match the benefits to which members are entitled under the Scheme. You will receive your individual annuity policy towards the end of the year, after the administration transfer has taken place.

Remember: You should consider seeking advice from an independent financial adviser (IFA) if you are thinking about taking your benefits from the Scheme. The Scheme previously provided free financial advice from their selected IFA, however, this facility is no longer available to members. Your IFA will be able to explain the options available and the implications of any decisions that you make, so the Trustee would strongly encourage you to seek advice at an early stage.

Continued

WINDING UP LUMP SUM (WULS) OFFER

In previous updates we noted that some members, whose benefits in the Scheme were relatively small, would be offered the option of exchanging their benefits for a one-off lump sum – known as a winding-up lump sum (WULS).

Letters have been sent to members who met the criteria for this offer, and the deadline for accepting the offer has now passed.

If you did not receive a letter, this means that you did not meet the criteria for a WULS and so were not eligible for this offer.

TRANSFER OF REMAINING ADDITIONAL VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION (AVC) AND DEFINED CONTRIBUTION (DC) FUNDS TO STANDARD LIFE

If you held an AVC or DC fund that remained in the Scheme, we have written to you recently outlining the options available to you in respect of these funds. For most of this group of members, the funds will be transferred to an insured arrangement with Standard Life known as a MasterTrust. This transfer took place in August and follows a past transfer of DC funds held for other members to the same MasterTrust.

If, following the transfer of your funds to the MasterTrust, you decide to take your retirement benefits, and you wish to use your AVCs to fund some of your overall tax-free cash lump sum, you may be able to do this by arranging for the funds to be combined with the Final Salary section benefits. Full details of how you can do this will be provided when you request your retirement quote. This facility will still be available after your Final Salary benefits have been secured through the individual annuity policy at the end of the year.

For a few members, their AVC funds are being retained in their existing investment with Phoenix Life, where this was the more appropriate outcome for the member.

If you think you paid AVCs or hold a DC fund that had not previously transferred to the Standard Life MasterTrust, but you have not received a letter recently, please get in touch with us.

GUARANTEED MINIMUM PENSION (GMP) BENEFITS

If you were a member of the Scheme between May 1990 and April 1997, you will have been ‘contracted out’ of the upper tier of the State Pension Scheme (SERPS) and earned an entitlement known as Guaranteed Minimum Pension or GMP. In previous updates we have noted that GMP benefits must be recalculated to reflect the equalisation of state pension ages between men and women.

The calculations for members already in receipt of pensions are almost complete. The adjustments are likely to be a small increase or, for most members, no change to pension.

If you are already receiving your pension, we will be writing to relevant members in October this year to advise you of the adjustment to be made to your pension and any back-payment to be paid. We will also confirm to all members subsequently that this step has been completed.

If you are not yet receiving your pension, your GMP benefits will be equalised when they come into payment.

If you were not a member of the Scheme between May 1990 and April 1997, you will not be eligible for any adjustment and so will not receive a letter from us.

What happens next?

If you have received a WULS offer letter and you have chosen to take the lump sum, you will receive your payment shortly. You will receive a letter after the payment has been made confirming the amount paid and how much tax was deducted. After that, you will no longer have any benefits in the Scheme and you will receive no further correspondence from the Trustee.

What happens next?

If you hold an AVC or DC fund and you have not elected to take your benefits or transfer to another arrangement, you will receive a welcome pack from the Standard Life MasterTrust showing the funds received and how these have been invested. You will also receive a statement from the Scheme confirming the amount transferred to the Standard Life MasterTrust.

What happens next?

Pensioner members

If you have a GMP entitlement in the Scheme we will be writing to you towards the end of October to advise you of the adjustment which will be made to your pension in November 2023. Any back-payment which we calculate to be due will be paid to you in October with your regular pension.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Please remember that it's very important to keep us informed of any changes in your life relevant to your pension, especially if you change address.

In particular, if you live overseas, please look out for a letter from the Scheme which asks you to confirm your current details. Please can you make sure that you respond to this quickly and let us know that you are still living at the same address. This will help us ensure that the correct information is passed across to Standard Life in November.

We will write to you again just before the transfer of your benefits to Standard Life in November.

Yours sincerely



Keith Jones, Chairman of the Trustee

On behalf of the Trustee of the PGL Pension Scheme

- **Call:** 0330 678 0412 or +44 330 678 0412 from overseas (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm)
- **Email:** pgladmin@aon.com
- **Write to:** PGL Pension Scheme, c/o Aon, PO Box 196, Huddersfield, HD8 1EG
- **Website:** <https://pensioninformation.aon.com/pgl>

PGL PENSION SCHEME – TIMELINE

Remaining AVC/DC funds transfer to Standard Life MasterTrust	August
AVC/DC transfer – Scheme closing statement for relevant members	August/September
Winding-up Lump Sum payment made for members who were eligible for and accepted this payment	Payments being made between 31 August and 6 October
AVC/DC transfer – Welcome pack from Standard Life MasterTrust for relevant members	Early September
GMP equalisation back-payment for relevant members in payment	Payments being made in payroll runs between 30 September and 6 October
Pre-transfer letter from the Trustee	October
Administration transfer to Standard Life for Final Salary section	November
Welcome letter from Standard Life	November
Individual annuity policies issued	November/December
Final communication from the Trustee	January 2024

- Communications from the Trustee
- Communications from Standard Life