

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000
PUBLICATION SCHEME

Freedom of Information Act 2000

Pension Protection Fund publication scheme

Introduction

1. The Pension Protection Fund was established to pay compensation to members of eligible defined benefit pension schemes, when there is a qualifying insolvency event in relation to the employer and where there are insufficient assets in the pension scheme to cover Pension Protection Fund levels of compensation.
2. The Pension Protection Fund is a statutory fund run by the Board of the Pension Protection Fund (**the Board**), a statutory corporation established under the provisions of the Pensions Act 2004. The Pension Protection Fund became operational on 6 April 2005.

Freedom of Information Act 2000

3. The Freedom of Information Act 2000 (**FOIA**) places a requirement on all public authorities to make as much information as possible available proactively through a publication scheme. The Board has produced this publication scheme in accordance with the Information Commissioner's guidelines.
4. This publication scheme sets out:
 - the classes of information the Board publishes or intends to publish
 - how this information is published or intended to be published; and
 - where charges are made for information.
5. Under the FOIA, individuals and companies also have a right to ask the Board to provide any information it holds that is not exempt under the Act.
6. More information about the FOIA is available from the Information Commissioner's website – www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk
7. The Information Commissioner has granted approval for this publication scheme. The publication scheme is reviewed annually to ensure that the Pension Protection Fund is providing information consistent with the principles of the FOIA. The Pension Protection Fund website will also be regularly updated.

What sorts of information does the Board publish or make available?

8. In drawing up the publication scheme, the Board has considered the sort of information that it publishes or makes available and the categories it falls into (classes of information). These categories are described below.

Classes of Information

9. General information about the Board and the Pension Protection Fund
 - Annual reports and accounts. The Board is required under the Pensions Act 2004 to produce an annual report which is laid before Parliament by the Secretary of State.
 - Biographies of the Chairman, Chief Executive and other members of the Board.
 - Statements of Investment Principles
 - Memoranda of Understanding with other regulators and public bodies.
 - Press releases
 - Information about the functions of the Board
 - Speeches, statements and presentations
10. Published documents
 - Guidance for trustees of pension schemes, insolvency practitioners and actuaries
 - Actuarial factors to be used in calculating compensation payable
 - Guidance on Pension Protection Fund levies
 - Answers to “Frequently Asked Questions”
11. Information about pension schemes
 - List of pension schemes which are in assessment periods (the time when the Board looks to determine whether a scheme is eligible for entry into the Pension Protection Fund).
 - List of schemes which have entered the Pension Protection Fund.

How information is made available

12. Information that the Board publishes will be available free on the Pension Protection Fund website: www.pensionprotectionfund.org.uk. If the information cannot be found on the website or a hard copy of the

information is required, the Pension Protection Fund's Helpline will be able to assist. A single hard copy of information will be provided on request, but multiple copies may incur a charge for photocopying and postage.

13. The Pension Protection Fund is located at:

Knollys House
17 Addiscombe Road
Croydon
Surrey
CR0 6SR

Tel: 0845 600 2541
Text phone: 0845 600 2542
Fax: 020 8633 4903
Email: information@ppf.gsi.gov.uk

Why is some information not on the publication scheme?

14. The Board aims to be open and transparent about its work but there are some limitations to the information that we can publish. For example, information will not be published where, in the Board's view, doing so would raise issues of:
- Compliance with the Pensions Act 2004. Section 197 prohibits the disclosure of "restricted information" except in certain limited circumstances. Restricted information is defined in the Act but is broadly information obtained by the Board which relates to the business or other affairs of any person.
 - Commercial sensitivity
 - Unwarranted invasion of privacy
 - Confidentiality
 - Public interest

What about information not listed in the publication scheme?

To request other information not included in the Publication Scheme please contact the Helpline. Information will be provided as soon as practicable and requests will be replied to promptly. Where information cannot be provided an explanation will be given. Further information about the requesting information is available at

http://www.pensionprotectionfund.org.uk/foi_procedures.pdf

Complaints under the FOIA

17. If you have any complaint about the way your request for information has been handled, you can complain by writing to the Board Secretary at the Board of the Pension Protection Fund (contact details above).
15. If you remain dissatisfied you have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner may be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Website: www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk

Email: mail@ico.gsi.gov.uk

Phone: 01625 545 745

Fax: 01625 545 510

Updated March 2007