

Coronavirus

The Covid-19 Pandemic and Your Pension

As the impact of the coronavirus is felt across the globe, we want to reassure members that looking after their pension is our top priority.

How does this affect my Defined Contribution (DC) / Additional Voluntary Contribution (AVC) savings?

The global spread of the virus has been an important contributor to the recent volatility in investment markets. Markets tend to react to uncertainty, so as new cases arise and the situation evolves, it's likely that global markets will be impacted further – potentially for a prolonged period of time. While the Trustee Board and its advisors continue to monitor the situation and to keep an eye on markets and investments, it is worth bearing in mind that pensions is a long-term savings plan.

It's important to consider these changes in the context of your long-term investment objectives. For anyone who is a long way from retirement, fluctuations in fund price should be expected and we would expect over the long term that the markets would recover from this current turbulence, although there are no guarantees. If you are close to retirement and planning to access your DC/AVC savings, you should monitor your investments and review your current plans to check you are on target. You should also consider contacting your financial adviser if you have one – if you don't have a financial adviser you can find one at unbiased.co.uk.

You can view the current value of your DC savings by logging on to the pension portal: <https://www.buckhrsolutions.co.uk/basf>

How does this affect my Defined Benefit (DB) Pension?

The DB pension being built up or the value of regular pensions currently being paid out to pensioners, is not determined by the ups and downs of the stock market. This means that any turbulence to financial markets caused by the current situation, will not affect the benefits to be paid out or the regular pensions that are currently being paid out to members. The pension administrator has a long-standing business continuity plan, which has been followed and there are robust processes in place to ensure pensions will be paid.

Be Careful – Pension Scams

Many people have been targeted by pension scams, offering seemingly attractive 'investment opportunities'. These scams can be more common or seem more attractive, particularly in times of uncertainty, such as the current coronavirus situation. Please continue to be careful and look out for potential scams. These scams could result in the loss of your entire pension savings and you could also face significant tax penalties. To find out more, you can visit the Pensions Regulator's scams website (<https://www.thepensionsregulator.gov.uk/pension-scams>) for details of what to look out for.

This update is provided for information only and does not constitute financial advice. If you need advice, you should contact a regulated financial adviser.