

No.145/26

8th May 2026

Dear Colleague,

Royal Mail: Collective Plan Spring Newsletter and Pensions Presentation at Postal Conference

Branches and Representatives are advised that the Collective Plan Spring Newsletter (copy attached) has now been sent to members electronically. Branches are encouraged to remind members of the Collective Plan they should register for the Member Self-Service (MSS) Portal via www.rmcollectiveplan.com/member-self-service for an overview of benefits built up so far, to nominate beneficiaries and check annual benefit statements.

Collective Plan Executive Team – Availability at Conference

Members of the Collective Plan Executive Team (totally independent from Royal Mail) will be available at the Bournemouth International Centre (BIC) from Tuesday next week to answer any questions Branches or Reps may have in regard to the Collective Plan (note they will not be able to provide any information regarding the other Royal Mail pension schemes including the RMPP and RMSPS). Please look out for posters signposting the Collective Plan Executive Team's whereabouts in the BIC.

Pensions Presentation – Tuesday 12th May at the BIC

There will be a presentation on the Collective Plan including a Q&A session on Tuesday from 2pm-3pm which will be led by the DGS(P) and myself and will also involve the Collective Plan Executive Team. Further details will be provided by the Chair during Conference that morning.

If you have any queries in relation to this LTB, please contact Samantha Nicholas – snicholas@cwu.org or Heidi Maughan at hmaughan@cwu.org

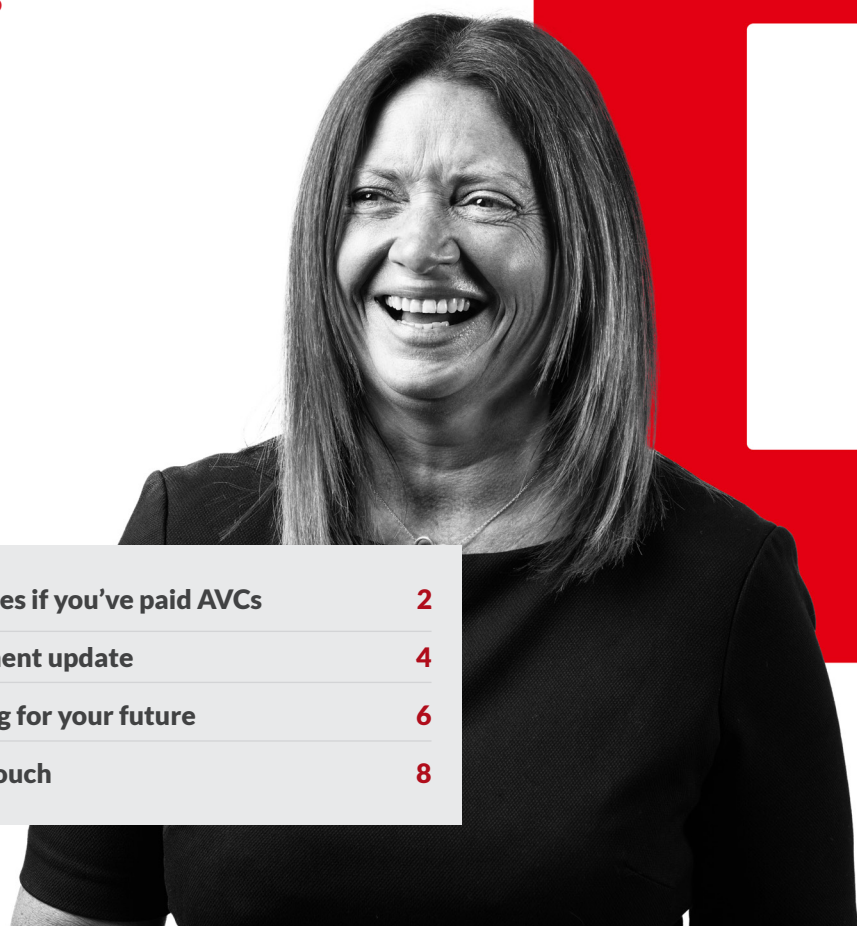
Yours sincerely

Andy Furey
Assistant Secretary


Your spring newsletter

Keeping you up to date
with the latest news

May 2026



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If you have **Additional Voluntary Contributions (AVCs)**

**there are new rules on who
can receive your money when
you die**

The Collective Plan has new rules that only impact you if you have paid AVCs or decide to pay AVCs in the future.

What's changing?

If you die before getting the money from your Collective Plan AVC account, there are new rules on who that money can be paid to.

If you don't have a "Dependant", which is:

- a spouse
- a civil partner
- a qualifying child (a child under 18 or up to age 23 and in full time education)
- someone who is financially dependent you or in a financial relationship of mutual dependence with you
- someone who is dependant on you because of physical or mental impairment

The new rules state that the money in your AVC account could be paid to an “AVC Beneficiary”, which is:

- any brother, sister, uncle or aunt of the Member (whether of the whole or half-blood)
- any of the Member’s ancestors or descendants or those of his sisters, brothers, uncles or aunts (whether of the whole blood or half-blood), including any individual who is conceived, but not yet born
- any child of the Member who is not a qualifying child at the date of the Member’s death
- any beneficiary who is named in the Member’s will or who benefits under the rules on intestacy
- any person who is identified by the Member to the Trustee in writing to receive the benefit of the Member’s AVC account on his death

Remember, this only applies to the money in your Collective Plan AVC account and is payable at the discretion of the Trustee. The rules on who can be paid benefits if you die have not changed for the main lump sum (including any lump sum booster benefits) and income for life sections of the Collective Plan.

Tell us who you’d like your AVC money paid to



If you have AVCs and think these new rules apply to you, please go to <https://forms.office.com/e/wn03mzgLHM> (or scan the QR code and tap the link) then follow the instructions on screen.

An update on the **Collective** Plan's investments



The Collective Plan has seen positive investment over the last year. This is despite some ups and downs (volatility) in investment markets following the war in Iran and geopolitical tensions.

Full details will be available in the Report & Accounts which will be published on the Collective Plan's website in October.

Ups and downs are normal

It's important to remember that investment volatility is expected and the Collective Plan has been designed with this in mind. The Collective Plan targets higher return investments that might go down in the short-term but are estimated to deliver higher growth over the long-term.

Although investment performance has an impact on benefit adjustments, the impact is not directly proportional. For example, a 10% fall in the value of the assets would not mean a 10% reduction in benefits.

How does this impact my Collective Plan benefits?

Your income for life can go down, but if the value of the assets were to fall, this doesn't mean your income for life would go down. This is because investment performance is just one of the things which determines your income for life adjustments. You'll get your next annual adjustment letter in early 2027, letting you know how much the adjustment will be.

As for your lump sum, this is guaranteed, so it cannot go down.

If you pay Additional Voluntary Contributions (AVCs)

AVCs are directly impacted by investment performance. Again, volatility is expected. The default AVC investment strategy is designed to invest in higher return investments when you're a long way from retirement and then protect the savings that you've built up by gradually moving your money from higher risk investments to lower risk investments as you get closer to retirement.

How do the annual adjustments work?

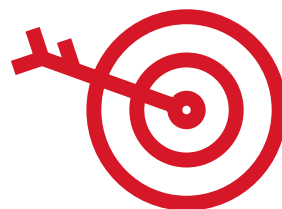
If you'd like to know more about how the annual adjustments work, Venetia Trayhurn, the Collective Plan Chair, has written a blog which can be found on our website:



Go to www.rmcollectiveplan.com/articles/our-first-collective-plan-valuation or scan your smart phone's camera over the QR code and tap the link that appears.



Planning for your future



Are you on track for retirement?

Whether you're close to retirement or just started your working life, it's really important you think about your financial future.

The Collective Plan is designed to provide you with a secure income for life when you retire but it's probably only one part of your financial future. Here's some simple checks you could make to help with your planning:

1. **Check your State Pension** - The State Pension will be a crucial part of your overall retirement income, but how much you'll get depends on how many years you've been paying National Insurance when you reach your State Pension Age.



You can check your State Pension Age and get a State Pension forecast at www.gov.uk/check-state-pension

2. **Check how much you might get from the Collective Plan**

You can get a projection of what you might get from the Collective Plan at age 67 by logging into the Member Self-Service Portal at <https://securermcollectiveplan.com/>



If you need help getting online



Whether that's registering for an account or getting a reminder of your details, we've got a step-by-step guide here: www.rmcollectiveplan.com/member-self-service

If you've already registered, it won't accept your PIC when you enter it - try clicking on "Forgotten Username?" from the Login page and typing in your username to get a reminder of your email.

Once logged in:

- click on 'Benefits Quotation'
- select 'What you might get at retirement' from the dropdown menu under 'Select a calculation type'
- hit 'Generate Quote' and your quote will download as a PDF. Select 'open' to view it.

3. Check other Royal Mail pensions you might have



You can find out more about other Royal Mail pension schemes, including some information to help you understand which ones you may be a member of, and where to go for more information about each one at www.rmcollectiveplan.com/other-pensions

4. Check any other pensions you have

If you've worked somewhere else before or after Royal Mail, you may have other workplace pensions to think about. If you've lost contact with them, you might be able to track them down at www.gov.uk/find-pension-contact-details



If you would like to save more into the Collective Plan, there are various ways you can do this. Go to www.rmcollectiveplan.com/pay-more or scan the QR code and tap the link.

Get in touch



Collective Plan Helpline

We have a helpline team dedicated to the Collective Plan. Contact them for any queries about your income for life and lump sum in the Collective Plan.

Call them on: 0345 604 3741

Opening hours are Monday to Friday, 9AM to 5PM
(excluding Bank Holidays)

Email them at: collectiveplanhelpline@royalmail.com

Please have your member number, pay number or National Insurance (NI) number to hand if you call the Helpline, or include one of them along with your full name and date of birth in your correspondence if you email. This is so the Helpline can verify your identity.

You can find your NI number on your payslip.

HR Services

We cannot deal with queries about your pay and payments into the Collective Plan. For this, you still need to contact Royal Mail's HR services as your employer:

Call them on **0345 6060 603** or message HR Services on the Royal Mail People App or My PSP.