

Draft pensions note for accounts – for employers participating in BPS only (April 2015)

The Church is an employer participating in a pension scheme known as the Baptist Pension Scheme (“the Scheme”). The Scheme is a separate legal entity which is administered by the Pension Trustee (Baptist Pension Trust Limited).

The Minister(s) [and some members of the church staff] is / are eligible to join the Scheme, which is not contracted out of the State Second Pension.

From January 2012, pension provision is being made through the Defined Contribution (DC) Plan within the Scheme. In general, members pay 8% of their Pensionable Income and employers pay 6% of members’ Pensionable Income into individual pension accounts, which are operated and managed on behalf of the Pension Trustee by Legal and General Life Assurance Society Limited. In addition, the employer pays a further 4% of Pensionable Income to cover Death in Service Benefits, administration costs, and an associated insurance policy which provides income protection for Scheme members in the event that they are unable to work due to long-term incapacity. This income protection policy has been insured by the Baptist Union of Great Britain with Unum Limited. Members of the Basic Section pay reduced contributions of 5% of Pensionable Income, and their employers also pay a total of 5%.

Benefits in respect of service prior to 1 January 2012 are provided through the Defined Benefit (DB) Plan within the Scheme. The main benefits for pre-2012 service were a defined benefit pension of one eightieth of Final Minimum Pensionable Income for each year of Pensionable Service, together with additional pension in respect of premiums paid on Pensionable Income in excess of Minimum Pensionable Income. The Scheme, previously known as the Baptist Ministers’ Pension Fund, started in 1925, but was closed to future accrual of defined benefits on 31 December 2011.

A formal valuation of the Defined Benefit (DB) Plan was performed at 31 December 2013 by a professionally qualified Actuary using the Projected Unit Method. The market value of the DB Plan assets at the valuation date was £162 million.

The valuation of the DB Plan revealed a deficit of assets compared with the value of liabilities of £84 million (equivalent to a past service funding level of 66%). As a result of the valuation, in addition to the contributions to the DC Plan set out above, it has been agreed to increase the standard rate of deficiency contributions from churches and other employers involved in the DB Plan from 11% of Pensionable Income / Minimum Pensionable Income to be based on a 12% rate from 1 January 2016. The contributions will be based on each church’s or other employer’s position at March 2015. Some churches and other employers that were only involved in the DB Plan for a short period will pay less than 12%. The Recovery Plan envisages deficiency contributions continuing until 30 June 2035.

The key financial assumptions underlying the valuation were as follows:

Type of assumption	% pa
RPI price inflation assumption	3.60
CPI price inflation assumption	2.85

Minimum Pensionable Income increases (CPI plus 1.0% pa)	3.85
Assumed investment returns	
- Pre-retirement	5.10
- Post retirement	3.95
Deferred pension increases	
- Pre April 2009	3.60
- Post April 2009	2.50
Pension increases	
- Main Scheme pension Pre April 2006	3.40
- Main Scheme pension Post April 2006	2.30

As there is a large number of contributing employers participating in the Scheme, the Church is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the scheme. Accordingly, due to the nature of the Scheme, the profit and loss charge for the period represents the employer contributions payable. The total pension cost for the Church is £xxxx (2013 £yyyy).

Use the following paragraph if required

[Consequent upon the departure of the Minister from the church in [year], the Church had a cessation event under Section 75 of the Pensions Act 1995. This makes the Church liable for the proportion of the overall deficit (assessed by reference to the cost of securing benefits by the purchase of annuities) applicable to its previous Ministers who were members of the Scheme. It is not possible to quantify this debt without an actuarial calculation. In order to avoid the cost of such a calculation and because the church may not be able to continue its charitable activities following payment of the employer debt which arises upon a cessation event, the Pension Scheme Trustee (after consulting the Pensions Regulator) is not currently pursuing the employer debt, but is instead permitting the church to pay the ongoing deficiency contributions outlined above. However, the Pension Scheme Trustee has the right to quantify and seek payment of the debt at any time at its discretion.]

The next actuarial valuation of the DB Plan within the Scheme is due to take place not later than as at 31 December 2016.