The United Reformed Church
Ministers' Pension Fund
Scheme guide

The United Reformed Church

May 2024
The United Reformed Church,
86 Tavistock Place WC1H 9RT

The United Reformed Church Ministers' Pension Fund (URCMPF)

The URCMPF is a closed defined benefit final salary (stipend) scheme. All the benefits provided from the Fund are defined within the Rules and the amount of pension you receive is based, very broadly, upon your years of pensionable service and the stipend in payment at the date of your retirement or earlier departure from service. Special provisions apply in respect of members who were contributing members of the URCMPF immediately before 28 February 2023 (Closure Members and the Closure Date) when the URCMPF closed to further benefit accrual.

This guide updates the previous guide, which was issued in December 2018. It describes the scheme provisions for members at the Closure Date and outlines the preserved benefits that it will pay out upon retirement.

As in the December 2018 guide, there are further details of the position of members who were already contributing before January 2013 and for pre-1993 members, who retain different rights. For more information on the different benefits and categories of membership please refer to 'Recap: differences in benefits and in membership'.

Please note that this document aims only to provide a general outline of how the pension scheme is run and the benefits provided; hence much detail is omitted.

Should there be any apparent conflict between this document and the Trust Deed and Rules, a copy of which may be obtained from the Maintenance of the Ministry Office, the Trust Deed and Rules shall govern.

Membership

Prior to the Closure Date, while the URCMPF was open to further benefit accrual, all full and part-time ministers/CRCWs ordained, commissioned or inducted into stipendiary service and remunerated under the Plan for Partnership in Ministerial Remuneration (Plan) of the United Reformed Church were eligible for membership of the scheme.

The scheme no longer accepts new members following the Closure Date.

While the scheme was open to accrual, eligible members of the scheme had the right to opt out of membership and to rejoin it if they so wished, subject to certain conditions. Reflecting this, the Trustees were able, at their discretion, to aggregate different periods of service for the purposes of benefit calculations. The Trustees retain this ability, which means that you can still apply to Trustees for the benefits from separate periods of service to be aggregated.

How much was paid into the scheme?

Before the closure took place, the ministers' contributions for the year 2023 were set at 7.5% of annual stipend, which were deducted from monthly stipend payment. The scheme had a tax relief programme in place.

The URC was, and remains, responsible for paying the balance of the costs of the scheme and pays into the scheme as the main "employer" for pensions purposes, (the URC is responsible for over 99% of the Fund's liabilities).

On the last year of activity of the scheme, the Church was contributing approximately 41% of annual stipend for each active member of the URCMPF. It was also responsible for any contribution towards the Fund deficit, when applicable.

May I top-up my pension?

While it was still open to accrual, the scheme offered the possibility of paying extra contributions, known as Additional Voluntary Contributions (AVCs), to boost the 'final salary' benefits. This was a 'cash balance' arrangement: in simple terms members would pay a level of contribution decided by them, which was invested and at retirement provided a pot of money from which additional pension could be purchased through securing an annuity.

Now that the scheme has closed to future accrual, while any existing AVCs you may have are preserved, it is no longer possible to pay extra contributions to boost final salary benefits.

Can I transfer-in/out benefits from another scheme?

As a closed scheme, the URCMPF can no longer accept the transfer-in of pension benefits.

However, it remains possible to transfer-out the preserved benefits to an alternative pension arrangement. This applies both for the main scheme benefits and the AVC funds that some members have, if the members wish to do so.

Please note that, due to current legislation, if the transfer value of the final salary benefits exceeds £30,000, the member is required to obtain regulated financial advice from a registered Independent Financial Advisor (IFA) in order for the transfer to go ahead.

What are the benefits defined in the Rules?

Date of Retirement

In this document, the date of retirement is the term used for the date from which you start to take pension benefits.

Normal Pension Age (NPA) under the Rules is 68 for both men and women, though some members will have an NPA of 65 for certain periods of service (see below). This is used for the calculation of scheme benefits, but in practice there is flexibility about the actual date of retirement. This means you may be able to put accrued pension benefits into payment while continuing to work. The URC Finance Office can provide guidance on the financial implications of these options.

The level of benefits you receive will be determined by when you choose to start receiving your pension, based on the entitlements earned (for explanation of the calculation see below).

The earliest date you can start drawing benefits from the scheme is currently age 55, with a proportional early reduction applied to the overall pension paid. The reduction is related to how many years you are retiring early.

This is because the pension, payable for life, will have to be paid for a longer period of time. The reduction is calculated using factors provided by the scheme actuaries and these are regularly revised and may change at the discretion of the Trustees.

When can I retire?

In 2012 the members of the scheme were asked for their agreement to raising the scheme's NPA from 65 to 68. Those who did not consent at the time have retained a NPA of age 65, and their benefits are therefore payable unreduced if they retire at 65.

In addition, all members who were active on 1 January 2013 retained the right to have their benefits accrued up until that date payable in full, without an early retirement reduction, from age 65. Benefits accrued after this date have a NPA of 68. This means that, if you want to retire between age 65 and 68, an early retirement reduction will apply in respect of the benefits accrued between 1 January 2013 and the Closure Date.

For more information on the differences in NPA depending on when you were a member of the scheme please see pages 15 and 16 of this booklet.

Should you wish to retire after NPA (either 65 or 68), a proportional late retirement enhancement will be applied, which is dependent on the number of months/years between the NPA and the actual date of retirement.

You should note that at age 75 the HMRC regime for the taxation of pensions changes and you should seek independent financial advice on how this might affect you.

How is my pension calculated?

The 'final salary' pension at NPA is calculated as follows: 1/80 X Stipend at date pension commences X Pensionable Service.

Stipend refers to the level of stipend set out in the Plan. Pensionable Service refers to your period of membership of the scheme while a full-time minister or CRCW.

For example a member retiring in 2022 with a stipend of £26,184 per annum, will secure pension of £327.30 per annum for each complete year of pensionable service.

Pensionable Service ceased at the Closure Date and, with some limited exceptions that apply in respect of members who were active members at the Closure Date, stipend increases on and after the Closure Date are not taken into account for the purposes of the pension calculation.

If at any time you have been a part-time member of the Fund, your retirement benefits will be calculated as follows in most cases. The benefits you have secured during those periods of part-time membership will be reduced by applying a proportionate reduction to calculate the equivalent full-time service. Your pension will be calculated based on the full-time stipend.

For example 2 years of half-time (50%) will secure one full year of Pensionable Service.

What are my retirement options?

While the URCMPF's normal retirement age and the NPA are both 68 (or 65 in some cases), you have flexibility in when you choose to take retirement benefits and in when you stop working. These do not need to be on the same date. The level of benefits you receive is determined by when you choose to start receiving your pension; this may be after you stop work.

1. Taking retirement benefits at NPA

You receive your pension, calculated as above, and any pension arising from AVCs. You may opt to exchange some pension for a tax-free cash sum, subject to any restrictions under the Finance Act 2004.

2. Taking benefits early / Early Retirement

You may currently take your retirement benefits between the age of 55 and 68 with a reduction applied to your pension for each year of retirement prior to NPA (subject to the special rules outlined above regarding NPA). You have the option to take tax-free cash but the amount will be less than it would be if you retired at NPA.

For certain members with 40 years' pensionable service when the pension commences, benefits which were accrued before December 2006 may not be actuarially reduced.

3. Ill-health early retirement

If you were a contributing member prior to the Closure Date, you could before the Closure Date apply for early ill-health retirement at any time, but this was subject to satisfactory medical evidence and would only be approved by the Trustees if you were, for the foreseeable future, too ill to continue working. The illness or injury had to be of a permanent rather than temporary nature. Your pension would not be reduced for early payment but the amount of pension was calculated by reference to your contributory membership:

- If, at the time of retirement, you had 10 or fewer years of service your pension was based on your accrued pensionable service.
- If you had been in contributory membership for 20 or more years, your benefits were based on your prospective pensionable service up to age 65.
- If your contributory membership was between 10 and 20 years, a pro-rata enhancement was made to pensionable service in calculating your pension.

Following the Closure Date, Closure Members can only take ill-health early retirement benefits in certain circumstances. Should a Closure Member meet the eligibility criteria, they will be entitled to an immediate pension calculated by reference to the stipend at the date of retirement. The key difference is that while no early retirement reduction will be made to such a pension, the pension will not be enhanced by reference to prospective service.

4. Taking benefits after NPA / Late Retirement

You are free to postpone taking your pension after your NPA to a date of your choosing.

If you have postponed taking your pension, when the pension does come into payment it will benefit from a late retirement enhancement in respect of the period of postponement beyond NPA.

Since the scheme has closed to future accrual, however, any pension contribution you make while still working, will be to the URC's new scheme for active members and not to the URCMPF.

5. Your AVC Benefits

If you have made additional contributions whilst in active membership, when you take your 'final salary' benefits you can choose between the following options for your AVC fund:

- secure additional pension/annuity, to be paid monthly for the rest of your life;
- draw a tax-free cash lump sum;
- transfer the fund to an alternative pension arrangement;
- leave the funds in the scheme;
- a mixture of the above scenarios;

It is important that members carefully consider the different implications of each of these options and assess which one best meets their needs, seeking appropriate independent financial advice as required. The URCMPF cannot advise on the best course of action.

If the tax-free cash option is chosen, this must be done immediately prior to retirement. Depending on the size of the AVC fund, it might be possible to draw the whole fund as tax-free cash.

6. Taking cash from your pension benefits

When you take your retirement benefits, you have the option to exchange part of your pension for a tax-free cash sum (this is known as commutation).

Taking cash from your pension will reduce the pension you will receive, although this will have no effect upon your spouse's pension which will continue to be calculated based on your total pension entitlement before any cash had been taken.

The amount of tax-free cash which can be taken from your basic pension is determined by HMRC rules which currently allow a maximum of 25% of the value of your pension benefit to be taken as cash. Members can choose to take less than the maximum amount.

7. Provision for your dependent children

If at the date of your retirement you have dependent children under the age of 24 a pension will in most cases be paid in line with children's allowances paid under the terms of the Plan. In some situations the benefit may cease on attaining age 23 due to legislative limitations. In order to comply with legislation, this payment will be made from the Retired Ministers' Fund and not from the URCMPF.

Will my pension increase once in payment?

Pensions will in most cases increase on 1 January each year in line with the Retail Price Index up to a maximum of 5% per annum. (Note that under the terms of the closure to future accrual, the pension uprating for ministers who are Closure Members is linked to the stipend settlement agreed annually. Please see 'Leaving your pension in the Fund' for more details.)

Pensions from the URCMPF are paid in advance and therefore the annual increase is applied to the pensions in payment in December each year, in respect of the month of January.

What happens when I die?

Both a spouse's pension and a lump sum benefit may be payable, as described below. Civil Partners of members are treated as spouses in determining these benefits. The Trustees have discretion as to whom, and in what proportions, any lump sum payment is made on death. This payment is restricted to dependants and relatives (including civil partners), as defined in the Rules.

You may nominate one or more dependants or relatives to receive any lump sum death benefit by completion of an expression of wishes form which can be obtained from the Finance Office.

Once completed this should be returned to the Finance Office in a sealed envelope marked with your name and 'expression of wishes' on the front. This will only be opened in the event of your death. Although this is not a legally binding document it does provide guidance for the Trustees in exercising their discretion.

1. If you die in service with a spouse and/or dependent children

Previously, when the scheme was open to accrual, members who died whilst in active service with the URC were entitled to a lump sum of three times the stipend at the date of death. There were also provisions in place to pay a pension to the surviving spouse and children.

Following the closure of the scheme to future accrual, these benefits are no longer offered through the URCMPF. An increased lump sum benefit of eight times' stipend has been secured through a Group Life Assurance policy put in place by the Church.

2. If you die after retirement

A pension will be payable to the spouse to whom you were married at the date of your retirement. Your spouse will be entitled to receive a pension of 50% of the amount which you are in receipt of at the date of your death. If you chose to take some tax-free cash at retirement, your spouse's pension will be based upon the pension you would have been receiving had you not taken this cash. You should note that if your spouse is more than 10 years younger than you their pension will be reduced.

If at the date of your death you leave any dependent children under the age of 24 a dependant's pension will in most cases be paid in line with the children's allowances paid under the terms of the Plan. In some situations the benefit may cease on attaining age 23 due to legislative limitations.

If you have secured additional pension by payment of AVCs you may have chosen, at retirement, to receive a lower additional pension in order to provide for an additional spouse's pension after your death.

In addition, members' pensions from the URCMPF are subject to a five-year guarantee. Therefore, if you die less than five years after receiving your first pension payment, the balance of the unpaid months in the five years will be paid as a tax-free lump sum, at the discretion of the Trustees, to your dependants or relatives. If you die more than five years after retirement only a spouse's pension, if applicable, will be payable.

3. If you die after leaving stipendiary service but before retirement?

If, on leaving stipendiary service, you left your benefits in the Fund (known as deferment, see below) until your retirement, or if you are a Closure Member, pre-retirement death benefits may become payable.

If your death occurs before your pension comes into payment and before you reach age 65 leaving a spouse, your spouse will receive a pension of 50% of the deferred pension you would have been entitled to receive at the date of your death. If your spouse is more than 10 years younger than you their pension will be subject to a reduction.

If you die on or after you reach 65 but before age 68 leaving a spouse, your spouse will receive (a) in respect of your pensionable service up to and including 31 December 2012, a pension of 50% of the pension you would have received as if you had retired the day before your death and (b) in respect of your pensionable service on and from 1 January 2013 to the Closure Date, a pension of 50% of the deferred pension you would have been entitled to receive at the date of your death. Both elements of pension will be subject to an actuarial reduction if your spouse is more than 10 years younger than you.

If a spouse's pension is not payable and you die before age 65, then a refund of the contributions you have paid to the Fund with 3% compound interest per annum will be paid, at the discretion of the Trustees, to dependants or relatives.

If you die on or after you reach 65 but before age 68 and leave no spouse, there will be a lump sum payable equal to (a) in respect of pensionable service up to and including 31 December 2012, 60 times' the first monthly pension instalment that would have been payable as if you had retired on the day before your death and (b) in respect of pensionable service on and from 1 January 2013 to the Closure Date, a refund of the contributions you have paid to the Fund with 3% compound interest per annum will be paid, at the discretion of the Trustees, to dependants or relatives.

What happens to my benefits if I leave stipendiary service?

1. Leaving your pension in the Fund

Your pension can remain in the Fund (known as deferred) until you retire. At the date of leaving your pension is calculated in line with the formula set out in the 'How is my pension calculated' section but based on the stipend rate in payment at the date of leaving. After you have left your pension will cease to increase in line with stipend but will be subject to statutory revaluation (currently this is in line with the Consumer Price Index, limited to a maximum of 2.5% pa).

For Closure Members who were under age 68 on the Closure Date, their deferred pension will be uprated after the Closure Date by the better of (a) the statutory revaluation requirements noted above and (b) their stipend at the "Stipend Link End Date". The "Stipend Link End Date" is the earlier of (i) when a Closure Member takes their pension, (ii) their NPA, (iii) the date they leave "service" with the Church, (iv) their date of death or (v) the date they take a transfer of their benefits out of the URCMPF.

Specific provisions apply under the rules in respect of pensionable service built up up to and including 31 December 2012.

This means that, for example, a Closure Member who retires aged 68 in March 2026 (three years after the Closure Date) will have a deferred pension based on accrued years of pensionable service up to the Closure Date and stipend as at March 2026 (provided that this provides a better outcome than a deferred pension based on accrued years of pensionable service up to the Closure Date and stipend as at the Closure Date, uprated to March 2026 in line with the existing revaluation requirements under the rules).

2. Transferring your pension to another scheme

You may transfer your benefits to another pension arrangement (such as your new employer's pension scheme or to a personal or stakeholder pension plan) at any time after you leave service, but before you take your pension. The calculation of the amount available for transfer will be undertaken by the Fund Actuaries and a statement of the transfer value can be provided upon request to help you decide.

Recap: differences in benefits and in membership

Contributing members with service before 1 January 2013

Changes to the pension benefits provided by the URCMPF were agreed by General Assembly in 2012. These affected the future accrual of pension benefits and the amount of ill-health pension payable for contributing members.

'Final salary' pension accrued before 2013 was calculated as described in the 'pension calculation' section above, but based upon a pension age of 65. If you retire before age 68, this pre-2013 element of your pension will only be reduced to the extent that you retire before age 65. If you take your benefits between age 65 and NPA (age 68) the pre-2013 element will be paid in full and increased to reflect late payment.

Ill-health pension

The changes introduced from 2013 also reduced the extent to which prospective future service is included in the calculation of ill-health pensions taken prior to the Closure Date. If you retired due to ill-health prior to the Closure Date, your benefits will be calculated in accordance with this rule, but you will also benefit from two forms of underpin, detailed below, to your benefit. As a result you will receive the greater of these two:

- The pension that would have been payable had you retired on ill health grounds on 1 January 2013. This is the pension calculated using service to 1 January 2013 together with prospective full or part-time service up to age 65, and using the stipend at 1 January 2013.
- A proportion of the full prospective pension at the date of ill-health retirement (i.e. the pension based on service up to the date of retirement together with prospective full or part-time service up to age 65, and using the stipend at the date of retirement). This proportion is the ratio of your service to 31 December 2012, to your period of service at retirement (or age 65 if earlier).

The scheme closed to future accrual on the Closure Date. Different ill-health early retirement terms will apply to Closure Members who apply for ill-heath early retirement following the Closure Date (see ‘Ill-health early retirement’ above).

‘Pre-1993’ opt-out

Note that some members who joined the scheme before 10 July 1993 have chosen to have their benefits, past and future, calculated in accordance with the Rules in force before 2013. In broad terms, their benefits differ only to the extent that NPA is 65 throughout service, and ill-health retirement benefits are based upon full prospective service (i.e. the pension based on service up to the date of retirement together with prospective full or part-time service up to age 65, and using the stipend at the date of retirement).

The scheme closed to future accrual on the Closure Date. Different ill-health terms may apply if retiring from deferment after the Closure Date.

Closure Members

Closure Members have retained the right to have their pension benefits calculated using stipend in payment at the “Stipend Link End Date” (see above), thus retaining a link with future increases that the stipend might receive.

Members who had already left active service prior to the Closure Date will have their pension benefits calculated using the stipend at the date of leaving the scheme.

Additional Information

Rights, obligations, limitations

The rights and obligations of members of the URCMPF are set out in the Trust Deed and Rules, which are the formal governing documents of the Fund. This booklet is intended to provide a simpler explanation of the main benefits you are entitled to.

If there is any conflict between the interpretation given in this booklet and the formal Trust Deed and Rules, the legal interpretation of the formal documents will prevail. Copies of the Trust Deed and Rules are available from the Finance Office or from the website –
https://urc.org.uk/urc-ministers-pension-fund.html

The Fund administrators are not permitted to give financial advice. **Any information given to you should be regarded as such and should not be taken to constitute advice.** Care is taken to provide you with accurate information but neither Trustees nor the Church is responsible for the choices you make regarding your financial arrangements. You should seek independent financial advice before making any decisions in connection with your benefits under the URCMPF.

Are my benefits secure?

The benefits within the URCMPF are funded based on the advice of independent actuaries. The contributions payable are reviewed every three years following each valuation of the Fund.

The contributions are held in a separate fund independent of the United Reformed Church. The Trustee is obliged to administer the Fund in accordance with the Trust Deed and Rules and overriding legislative requirements.

The Church, through the General Assembly, has affirmed its commitment to the URCMPF and undertakes to make arrangements to meet any deficits in the funding requirements which may arise from time to time.

The Pensions Regulator (see below) has been set up by the government to protect members' benefits by regulating pension schemes in accordance with legislation.

Members of the URCMPF may be eligible for compensation from the Pension Protection Fund (PPF – see below) in certain circumstances specified in legislation. The levies associated with the PPF are paid by the URCMPF Trust each year.

Amendments or discontinuance

The Church reserves the right to amend or discontinue the Fund, or any part of it, at any time. However, no amendment can be made which will reduce the benefits you have secured up to the date of amendment. In the event of amendment or discontinuance, you will be advised of how this will affect you.

Fund Administration

The administration is undertaken in house by the Church on behalf of the Trustee. The in-house administrator (Pension Fund manager) is responsible to the Church and deals directly with all members of the Fund, including pensioners and deferred members.

The Trustee Company

The operation of the URCMPF and its Trust Deed and Rules is governed by a Trustee Company called 'The United Reformed Church Ministers' Pension Trust Limited' (MPTL).

The MPTL Board makes use of various committees and sub-committees (for example, it taps into the expertise of the URC's Investment Committee for regular investment monitoring and has a benefits sub-committee made up of Board members to consider particular member issues). The Board remains responsible for all strategy and investment decisions, working with its independent external investment and actuarial advisers.

Data Protection Act 2018

The Act is designed to give you rights and protection in respect of the use of your personal data and is the UK's implementation of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The Trustee is the data controller for the purposes of the Act.

Use of personal data: the data provided by you or the Church, obtained with your consent, will be used by the URCMPF or its Actuary to calculate pension scheme benefits, eligibility for benefits and Fund valuation liabilities.

When handling your personal data, the Church ensures that any information provided is:

- used fairly, lawfully and transparently
- used for specified, explicit purposes
- used in a way that is adequate, relevant and limited to only what is necessary
- accurate and, where necessary, kept up to date
- kept for no longer than is necessary
- handled in a way that ensures appropriate security, including protection against unlawful or unauthorised processing, access, loss, destruction or damage

More information about the Data Protection Act 2018 can be obtained through the following website: **https://www.gov.uk/data-protection**

Scheme registration

From 6 April 2006, the Fund is a registered pension scheme for the purposes of Part 4 of the Finance Act 2004.

The Pension Scheme Tax Reference (PSTR) for the URCMPF is 00291455RB.

Annual report

The Scheme's annual report is available on request from the Pension Fund Manager.

The State Pension Scheme and contracting-out

On 6 April 2016, a new single tier state pension came into effect for those reaching state pension age after this point.

Your entitlement to state pension is not affected in any way by your membership of the URCMPF. This is because the Fund is not contracted-out.

Pension Tracing Service

Details of all pension schemes are lodged with the Pension Tracing Service to help individuals trace their pension rights. This is a free government service which will aim to provide you with updated contact details for any pension scheme that you may have been a member of in the past.

Pension Tracing Service, The Pension Service, Post Handling Site A, Wolverhampton, WV98 1AF.

Telephone: **0800 731 0193**
or **+44 (0) 191 215 4491**

https://www.gov.uk/find-pension-contact-details

The Pension Protection Fund (PPF)

The PPF is a fund designed to protect members' rights under company defined benefit pension schemes should the employer become insolvent.

The PPF is funded by a levy on those company pension schemes that are potentially eligible to benefit from it. The levy on the URCMPF will not result in a reduction to your pension.

In general, benefits will be paid from the PPF, as opposed to the URCMPF, if:

- the Church becomes insolvent, or in circumstances where the Trustee or The Pensions Regulator consider this likely and,
- the assets of the pension fund are insufficient, i.e. there is not enough money to pay at least the level of minimum compensation specified in legislation.

Enquiries and Complaints

If you require further information you should contact the Fund administrator / Pension Fund Manager in the Finance Office at the following address:

The United Reformed Church, 86 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9RT

Tel: 020 7691 9869

Email: joao.rodrigues@urc.org.uk

- What if I have a complaint?

In the first instance specific enquiries should be referred to the Pension Fund Manager. If you remain dissatisfied you may at any time write to the Pension Fund Manager who will provide you with the Internal Disputes Resolution which explains the process of submitting a formal application to the Secretary of the URC Ministers' Pension Trust Company at the above address.

The complaint and supporting information will initially be considered by a sub-committee of the Trustee Board who will make a recommendation to the full Trustee Board at one of the scheduled meetings. You will be informed of the Trustee's decision after that meeting. The aim is to give you the result within four months of your initial complaint being received.

Pensions Ombudsman

The Pensions Ombudsman may investigate and determine any complaint or dispute of fact or law in relation to the Fund. The address is: The Pensions Ombudsman, 10 South Colonnade, London, E14 4PU.

Telephone: **020 7630 2200**

Website: **https://www.pensions-ombudsman.org.uk**

Email: **enquiries@pensions-ombudsman.org.uk**

The Pensions Regulator

The Pensions Regulator is able to intervene in the Fund administration where the Trustee, Church or professional advisers have failed in their duties. The address is: The Pensions Regulator, Telecom House, 125-135 Preston Road, Brighton BN1 6AF.

Telephone: **0345 600 1011**

Website: **https://www.thepensionsregulator.gov.uk/**

Email: **customersupport@thepensionsregulator.gov.uk**

Useful Information and Organisations

Money and Pensions Service (MAPS)

The Money and Pensions Service (MaPS) is an arm's-length body sponsored by the Department for Work and Pensions, established at the beginning of 2019, and also engages with HM Treasury on policy matters relating to financial capability and debt advice.

Its aims are to help people – particularly those most in need – to improve their financial wellbeing and build a better, more confident future.

Telephone: **0800 011 3797**

Website: **https://maps.org.uk/**

Email: **contact@maps.org.uk**

MoneyHelper

A government backed organisation, MoneyHelper provides free and impartial money and pensions guidance for people all across the UK.

https://www.moneyhelper.org.uk/

The Pension Wise service is managed by MoneyHelper and offers free, impartial guidance to over 50s, particularly about the options to access defined contribution pension pots.

https://www.moneyhelper.org.uk/en/pensions-and-retirement/pension-wise

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86 Tavistock Place WC1H 9RT