



RET MEM BUL

Bulletin for Retired Members

Online successor to WiseEye from the RMG National Committee

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MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE (MAY 2026)

Greetings to our union's Retired Members on behalf of the RMG National Committee. This is a special edition to inform Retired Members about avenues for seeking assistance from Prospect and clarify the issues with which Prospect can assist. Our January Conference instructed us to do that in the bulletin once a year.

This bulletin comes from the Retired Members' Bulletin Editorial Group, which consists of myself, Arthur Bavister, Julian Hayhurst and Tim King. We are also grateful to Janice Turner and Group Secretary Mike Macdonald for their contributions.

Andrew Ruffhead, Group President

HOW PROSPECT CAN HELP RETIRED MEMBERS

This article summarises what Prospect offers Retired Members. For full details, you should download the Retired Members Guide: <https://union.prospect.org.uk/resource/retired-members-a-guide-to-prospect-organisation-2025.html>

Benefits available to Retired Members. These include:

- access to expert advice from headquarters;
- a 24-hour helpline offering free legal advice on non-employment matters;
- joining a vibrant network of retired members through area groups, coordinated by friendly area representatives;
- pensions guidance (see below);
- assistance from the union's Benevolent Fund, a small charity independent from Prospect that supports those facing short-term, acute financial hardship: for more details, see <https://members.prospect.org.uk/member-benefits/index#benevolent-fund>;
- access to additional Prospect membership perks, such as a free will-writing service offered through our legal partners;
- guidance on entitlement to state benefits.

Pensions Advice And Support. Prospect continues to advise on your current and future pension entitlements. It can represent you in any dispute with your former employer over your pension, for example dealing with the pension administrator such as MyCSP or with the social security appeal tribunal. Prospect expertise is based on the union's knowledge and dealings with more than 120 pension schemes in both the private and public sectors and our experience of dealing with personal cases taken out on behalf of members.

If you have a problem, contact your Area Secretary. He/she will refer your problem to the Area's Full Time Officer or, if it relates to a civil service pension, the Group Secretary.

Getting Advice From Prospect

Prospect provides advice to its Retired Members through its regional office network and through its local full-time officers (listed in the Retired Members Guide). If the issue requires specialist advice the regional office will obtain it on behalf of the member.

(For more on how Prospect can help members, see page 3.)

RMG'S FIRST-EVER CONFERENCE STALL

The Prospect National Conference at Brighton on 6-9 June will have its first-ever Retired Members' stall. Behind the table there will be a newly-commissioned RMG stand. It was designed by Simon Crosby in line with specifications from the Participation-Stimulation Work Group.

See the result in glorious technicolour in the right-hand column, albeit one eighth of its actual height (2.1 metres which is approximately 6'11").

In case the text in the middle is too small for you to read, what it says is "Prospect continues to support you in retirement and connects you with a vibrant network of retired members through friendly locally-coordinated area groups."

Our entry under "Prospect stands at Brighton" in the Conference Agenda Booklet will tell delegates:

"Benefits of retired membership include access to expert advice from HQ, a 24-hour helpline offering free legal advice on non-employment matters, pensions advice & guidance, a free will-writing service, and guidance on entitlement to state benefits.

"The Group campaigns for pensioners' interests which are as much to do with future Retired Members as ourselves.

"We have an Annual Delegate Conference and a National Committee. We send delegates to Prospect's National Conference and meetings of the National Executive Committee. Please visit our stand to meet us and find out more."



prospect
Retired Members' Group

your union for life

Prospect continues to support you in retirement and connects you with a vibrant network of retired members through friendly locally-coordinated area groups.

We are working for your future, not just ourselves.



How Prospect can help Retired Members (continued from page 1)

The Prospect Member Contact Centre can be contacted 0300 600 1878 for general issues. The contact centre is open from 8:30 am to 7 pm, Monday to Friday. You can also reach them via email at helpdesk@prospect.org.uk for further assistance.

LegalLine

Through Prospect's solicitors, members can seek free initial legal advice on any non-employment legal issues. LegalLine is open 24/7 for general advice. Your query will be directed to an appropriate lawyer who will phone you back. This service is available to all Prospect members, their spouse, partner or any of their children under 19.

The LegalLine only provides initial legal advice. The advisers will not be able to give detailed, lengthy or complex advice. They will research legal information and consider a few documents where necessary, but members should be aware the assistance is limited. Members in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, phone LegalLine on 0808 28 193 28 and have your membership number and background information to hand.

Check with your Prospect full-time officer or the union's legal team on 020 7902 6624 for more information on the service in these areas.

MAKING CONTACT WITH YOUR LOCAL RMG AREA

There is plenty of scope for Retired Members to become more involved in the Group. Besides working for pensioners' rights, we are able to contribute to the policy-making side of Prospect. The recommended first-point-of-contact are the **Area Secretaries**. They are listed below, and you can identify your Area from your postcode.

D309 Scotland North (ZE, KW, IV, AB, PH, DD, FK7 upwards, KY, PA20 upwards): John Taylor, 07949 313281, eljo73@icloud.com

D310 Scotland South (G, KA, ML, EH, TD, DG, FK 1-6, PA1-19): Graeme Walker, 07790 739127, southscotrmg@btinternet.com

D311 Wales (SY17-SY25, SA, LD, CF, NP): Graham Clarkson, 07887 952688, grahamclarkson188@btinternet.com

D312 Northern Ireland: Local POC: Allan Buchanan, 07720 321197, ad.buchanan@btinternet.com

D313 North West (CA, LA, BB, PR, FY): Fran Butler, 07306 367210, fran_butler@blueyonder.co.uk

D314 North East (NE, DH, SR, DL, TS): Mike Dixon, 07922 471448, dixon4474@gmail.com

D315 Yorkshire (BD, HG, YO, LS, HX, HD, WF, S, DN, HU): Brian Clayton, 07710 279071, abclayton02@btinternet.com

D316 Cheshire, Manchester, Merseyside, Deeside, North Shropshire & North Wales (CMMDN) (L, CH, WN, BL, WA, MCW, SK, OL, LL, SY1-SY5, SY10-SY16): John Wright, 07597 366966, jkeithwright@gmail.com

D317 East Anglia (EN, NR, IP, PE, CB, CO, CM, LU, RM, SG, SS, IG, MK except MK18): David Mills, 07973 617769, d.n.mills.69@gmail.com

D318 East Midlands (NG, LN, LE, NN, DE, CV): Mike Collins, 07553 849201, mikec.emrmg@gmail.com

D319 West Midlands (ST, TF, WV, WS, DY, B, WR, HR, SY6-SY9): Tim King, 07511 899872, tking999888@gmail.com

D320 South West Midlands (GL, OX, MK18): Steve Phillips, 07894 084894, steve_h_phillips@yahoo.co.uk

D321 Central Southern (PO, SO): David Robinson, 07484 279060, gosportdave5@gmail.com

D323 London Central (HA, UB, NW, WC, WD, TW, SW, KT, SM, W, N, E, EC, SE, CR, BR): Ireen Goulding, 07939 201857, ireen.goulding@gmail.com

D324 Thames Valley (AL, HP, RG, SL, GU): Arthur Bavister, 01635 46947, a.bavister@btinternet.com

D325 South East England (BN, TN, CT, DA, ME, RH): Stephen Blunden, 07377 526946, sljblunden@outlook.com.

D326 Avon Valley (BS, SN, BA, SP): Kevin Warden, 07435 962139, warden_kevin@yahoo.co.uk

D327 Southern (TA, DT, BH): Adrian Francis, 01278 428376, prospect.rmg.southern@gmail.com

D328 South West (TR, PL, EX, TQ): Steve Barber, 07977 932892, steve.barber@btinternet.com

MONITORING OF PUBLIC-SECTOR PENSIONS

The "April Highlights" newsletter from Prospect had the headline "House of Lords Votes to Undermine Public Service Pension Schemes". In March, the House of Lords supported an amendment to the Pension Schemes Bill that would "require the government to publish a review of the affordability and fiscal sustainability of unfunded public service pension schemes". Prospect urged MPs to reject the amendment on the grounds that it would break promises about public service pension reform and threaten the future of these schemes. Our thanks to members who contacted their MPs over the then Bill.

The final Pension Schemes Act was less threatening, but did contain a provision for actuarial assessment. The Government Actuary must – within 12 months – prepare and publish a document setting out cash flow projections for each of the next 50 years that cover the public service pension schemes (not counting those in local government). The document must be provided to the Treasury and the Office for Budget Responsibility, and the Treasury must lay the document before Parliament. ("Cash flow" refers to expenditure on benefits and income from member contributions.)

Prospect will keep a watching brief on the situation, and will make vigorous representations if there are any proposed changes which are detrimental to current or future pensioners.

The next edition of the Retired Members Bulletin will include a report on the 6-9 June Prospect National Conference, from an RMG perspective.

