



June 2020

To all members of the Fund

Dear Member

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### **The Port of London Authority (Upper Division Staff) Widows', Widowers' & Orphans' Pension Fund ("the Fund")**

I am writing to you on behalf of the Committee of Management, who are responsible for the running of your pension fund. The purpose of the letter is to provide you with an update on how the Committee of Management is reacting to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and issue your annual funding statement.

#### **COVID-19**

As you will have seen from the media's coverage of the Coronavirus (Covid-19), the UK and beyond is facing a period of uncertainty.

You may be aware of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on recent financial markets.

I would like to reassure you that the Committee is working closely with its advisers and the Authority to consider any appropriate actions to take for the Fund in these challenging and fast changing times.

The Committee would like to provide you with the following assurances:

- Your pension will continue to be paid. However, as mentioned in the March payslip, the production of payslips has been suspended with effect from April 2020.
- The Committee is monitoring the impact on the assets of the Fund. The value of the assets has fallen but the important thing is that money is available to pay benefits.
- The Committee and its advisers are able to continue to operate despite the restrictions resulting from the spread of COVID-19.
- **Note that there is a heightened risk that scammers and unscrupulous financial advisers will try to take advantage of the current COVID-19 situation by targeting pension scheme members.** You can find out more about pension scams at [www.fca.org.uk/scamsmart](http://www.fca.org.uk/scamsmart). Use the [Financial Services Register](#) and [Warning List](#) to check who you are dealing with.

#### **Annual Funding Statement**

To comply with legislation, you will receive an annual statement from the Committee of Management providing details regarding the Fund's funding position. This statement will be based on calculations carried out when the Fund had its last formal valuation. Such valuations are typically carried out every three years and, for your Fund, the last valuation was as at 31 March 2019. The next actuarial valuation of the Fund is due as at 31 March 2022.

This valuation was carried out in accordance with the government's funding regime, overseen by the Pensions Regulator. The Regulator issues guidelines for trustees on funding their pension schemes. The Committee of Management intend to be fully compliant with the Regulator's guidance.

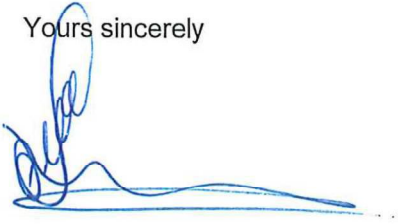
The attached statement also details what would happen to your benefits if the Fund were to wind-up. Please note that it is a legislative requirement that all trustees of defined benefit pension schemes include such a section in the

summary funding statement. Therefore, this information is designed to be informative – it does not mean that the Port of London Authority is thinking of winding up the Fund.

If you have any questions regarding this, please write to me at the above address.

Finally, we hope that you and your family keep safe and healthy.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'D Bottacchi', written over a horizontal line.

D Bottacchi (Miss)  
Fund Secretary



# Port of London Authority (Upper Division Staff) Widows', Widowers' and Orphans' Pension Fund (the "Fund")

Dear Member

June 2020

## SUMMARY FUNDING STATEMENT FOR 2020

It is the responsibility of the Committee of Management to make sure that a full valuation of the Fund is carried out every 3 years. In addition, the Committee of Management must, by law, provide you with an annual statement of how the Fund is funded and remind you of the results of the last full valuation.

### How is my pension funded?

The Port of London Authority (the "Authority") pays contributions so that the Fund can pay pensions and other benefits to members. All the Fund assets are in one common fund. Members do not have separate individual holdings.

The Committee of Management obtains regular valuations from the Scheme Actuary which provide an estimate of the assets needed today to meet the payment of benefits allowing for future investment returns. Using this information, the Committee of Management and the Authority come to an agreement on how much the Authority should pay to keep the Fund's funding on track against this funding target.

The Pensions Regulator has powers to direct matters affecting the funding of the Fund in certain circumstances. No such directions have ever been made in relation to the Fund.

### Results of the last Valuation

The latest valuation of the Fund showed that on 31 March 2019 the funding position was as follows:

Assets	£27.181m
Amount assessed as needed to provide benefits ("Liabilities")	£26.592m
Surplus / (Deficit)	£0.589m
Funding level	102%

Following discussions between the Committee of Management and the Authority, it was agreed that no contributions would be payable to the Fund. The rate of contributions payable by the Authority will be reviewed as part of the next actuarial valuation due as at 31 March 2022.

### Change in funding position between 31 March 2018 and 31 March 2019

The Committee of Management monitors the funding position between valuations. The previous report by the Scheme Actuary showed that as at 31 March 2018, the funding level of the Fund was estimated to be 101% with a surplus of £0.189 million.

The funding position has improved slightly since 31 March 2018, largely due to changes to some of the assumptions for valuing the liabilities and the Fund's assets achieving a higher than expected return during the period. These items have been partially offset by changes in market conditions which have increased the value of the liabilities relative to market conditions as at 31 March 2018.

You should be aware that the factors affecting the funding level are very changeable, particularly stock market performance, interest rates and life expectancy. This means that the funding level can go up or down.

### Payment to the Authority

There has not been any refund of surplus to the Authority out of the Fund.

### The importance of the Employer's support

The Committee of Management's objective is to have enough money in the Fund to pay pensions now and in the future. However, this relies on the on-going existence of the Authority and its support for the Fund because:

- Assets can go down as well as up, and when there is a shortfall, the Authority will usually need to put in more money; and
- The cost of benefits may increase so that the Authority will need to put in more money.

### What would happen if the Fund started to wind up?

The Rules of the Fund do not state how the benefits will be provided in the event of a winding up. If the Fund winds up, you may not receive the full amount of pension you have earned even if the Fund is fully funded on its target funding level. However, whilst the Fund remains ongoing, even though funding may temporarily be below target, pensions will continue to be paid in full.



If the Fund were to wind up, the Authority would be required to pay enough into the Fund to enable your benefits to be completely secured with an insurance company. At 31 March 2019, the estimated amount that the insurance company would require (full solvency) was approximately £25.8m. This means that there was a surplus of approximately £1.8m. Please note that this information is designed to be informative - it does not imply that the Fund will wind up.

In the event of a wind up, it may be the case that the Authority is unable to pay the full amount required by the insurance company. If the Authority became insolvent, the Pension Protection Fund (PPF) might be able to take over the Fund and pay compensation to members. The PPF has been set up by the government to help protect members' pensions where a company becomes insolvent, although it does not guarantee to pay full benefits. Further information and guidance is available on the PPF's website at [www.pensionprotectionfund.org.uk](http://www.pensionprotectionfund.org.uk). Or, you can write to the Pension Protection Fund at Renaissance, 12 Dingwall Road, Croydon, Surrey, CR0 2NA.

#### **Why does the Committee of Management's funding plan not call for full solvency at all times?**

The full solvency position assumes that benefits will be secured by buying insurance policies. Insurers are required to take a very cautious view of the future, include a profit margin and make an allowance for their expenses. By contrast, our funding plan assumes that the Authority continues to financially support the Fund, and therefore might enable us to adopt less cautious assumptions about the future.

#### **What is the Fund invested in?**

The Committee of Management's policy is to invest in a broad range of assets to get the best return possible while taking account of the liabilities of the Fund, and the risks of having too much money in any one type of investment. We currently aim to invest in the following broad proportions:

Growth assets	20%
Bonds	35%
Annuities	45%

This policy is reviewed regularly and is formalised in the Fund's Statement of Investment Principles.

#### **Use of personal data**

In providing actuarial services to the Committee of Management, including preparing this Summary Funding Statement, the Committee of Management, its adviser Aon Hewitt and the Scheme Actuary require access to personal data about members and their dependants. The Data Protection Act governs how the Committee of Management, Aon Hewitt and the Scheme Actuary use and store personal data. Members can find out more information about how their personal information is used in the provision of actuarial services at <https://www.aon.com/unitedkingdom/products-and-services/human-capital-consulting/aon-hewitt-actuarial-services-privacy-statement.jsp>. Should you have any questions regarding the processing of your personal information, you should contact the Secretary in the first instance. General guidance is also available from the Information Commissioner's website.

#### **Where can I get further information?**

If you have any other questions, or would like any more information about the Fund, please contact the Secretary. Please help us to keep in touch with you by telling us if you change address.

Yours sincerely

The Committee of Management of the Port of London Authority (Upper Division Staff) Widows', Widowers' and Orphans' Pension Fund

#### **Additional Fund documents are available on request:**

**Statement of Funding Principles.** This explains how the Fund is to be funded.

**Statement of Investment Principles.** This explains how the Committee of Management invests the assets of the Fund.

**Schedule of Contributions.** This shows how much money is being paid into the Fund.

**Annual Report and Accounts.** This shows the Fund's income and expenditure in the year up to 31 March 2019.

**Actuarial Valuation Report.** This report details the Actuary's check on the Fund's situation as at 31 March 2019.

**Actuarial Report.** These reports provide a review of the Fund's position as at 31 March 2017 and 31 March 2018.

**Benefit Statement.** If you are not getting a pension from the Fund (and have not received a benefit statement in the last 12 months) you can ask for a statement that provides an illustration of your pension benefits.

**Trust Deed and Rules.** This details the Rules and benefits of the Fund.