

"Beyond Parsimony"

Bulletin No. 20



The Campaign: Where Next?

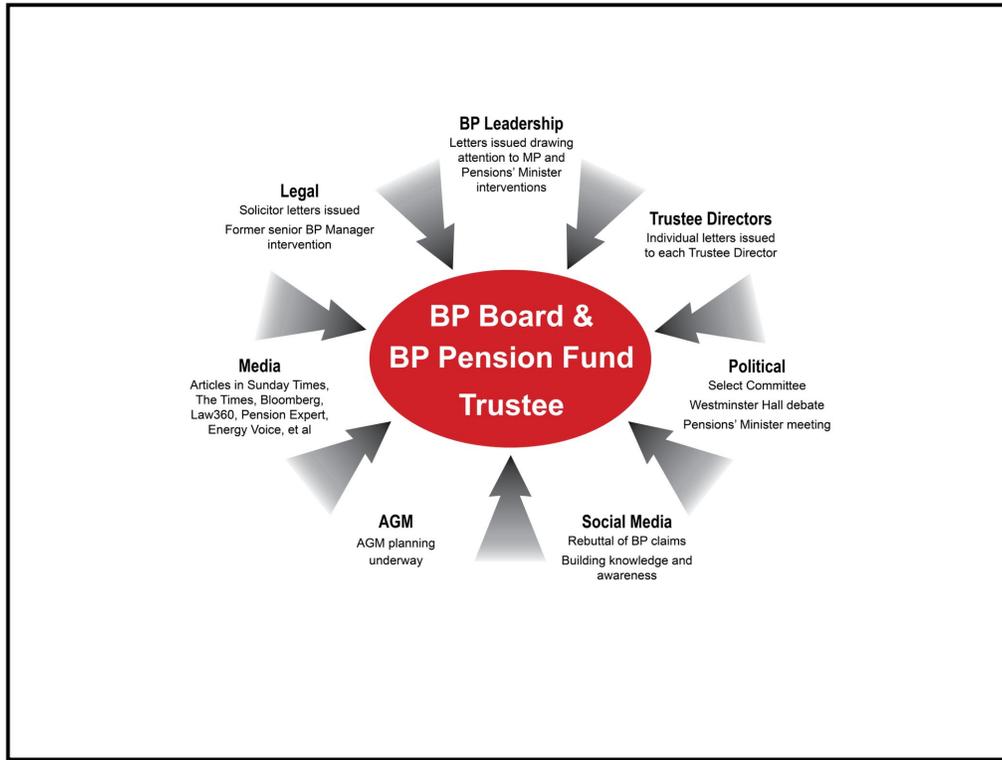
Bulletin highlights

- **Our Legal Case**
- **BP's Annual General Meeting**
- **Reaching Out to BP Staff**
- **A Letter to BP's Company Secretary**
- **257 New Members – Grow the Membership**

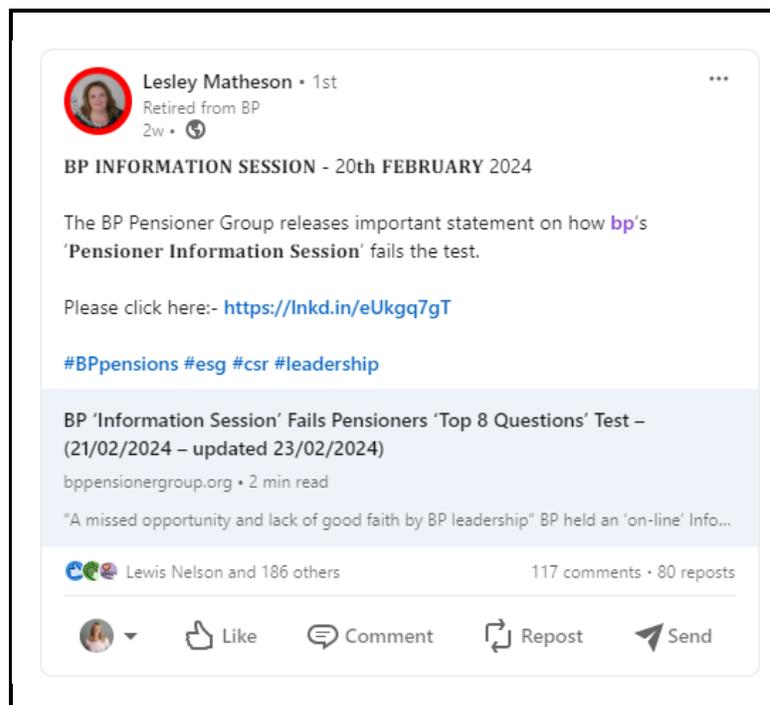
Welcome to Bulletin 20

As the dust settles on BP's so-called "Information Session", members may be wondering 'where next' for the campaign.

You may recall this graphic from our January bulletin which gives a sense of the wide variety of activities that are being pursued. As ever, we apply the test of asking how each activity contributes towards securing our four objectives so that we don't lose focus.



Some of this activity is very visible to you – such as the great work of BPPG members posting and commenting on social media. For example, there were 140,000 impressions (opportunities to see) created from Lesley Matheson's recent LinkedIn post - click [here](#) or on the image below to view the post - about the failure of BP executives to answer the BPPG's Top 8 Questions test.



Some of our activity is invisible – such as the considerable amount of work by our political and media teams which we can only talk about when initiatives appear in public. **All we can say is watch this space.**

This bulletin provides an update on three areas of the campaign where we expect significant developments in the coming weeks or where we are applying additional focus and pressure:

- **Our Legal Case**
- **BP Annual General Meeting**
- **BP Staff**

The Campaign is very much alive and kicking – thanks to you: our members.

Our Legal Case

It's worth re-stating that nothing has changed in respect to the strength of our legal case. BP's Information Session was the ideal opportunity for the Company to show otherwise. It singularly failed.

Our solicitors have been in contact with BP's EVP, Legal and the Trustee's solicitors. They are assured that work on responses to our legal letters is in progress and will arrive - later than we'd have liked but not beyond expectations given the detailed nature of our letters.

Some members have asked: '*why can't we just move straight to court proceedings?*'

The simple answer is that court proceedings can be complex and their costs unpredictable. It's critically important to gain a full understanding of the strengths of a legal case before proceeding. The response to our legal letters is an important part of this.

In addition, the Courts set expectations of litigants which must be fulfilled before a claim is lodged with and accepted by the Court in order for proceedings to commence.

This webpage is a useful explanation of the process that must be completed. <https://tinyurl.com/civil-litigation-process>

In keeping with that process, our legal letters have provided BP and the Trustee with the opportunity to understand the case against them and to provide their responses. It's worth noting that Courts take a dim view of a failure by a party to provide a timely response that might have avoided the need for litigation to be initiated.

Once we have that response, the BPPG Steering Group - advised by external counsel who have considerable litigation expertise - will judge the appropriate next steps.

You won't be surprised to learn that we have given a lot of thought as to how various scenarios for pursuing our case might unfold depending on BP and the Trustee responses. We can't share our thinking here of course – not least for reasons of legal privilege - but BP and the Trustee should be in no doubt that we are confident that the BPPG has the capacity to put these matters before a court - if that is what it takes.

We will of course keep you updated as and when we can – and thank you for your patience.

BP's Annual General Meeting - 25th April 2024

A small team has been developing ideas for the BPPG's approach to the AGM next month.

Initially, we considered submitting a formal resolution to the Meeting about the pension dispute which could then be voted on by the shareholders. We finally decided against this for several reasons including the risk that it would most likely be subjected to amendments by the Company leadership which would defeat its intended purpose.

We wish to thank the group of members who – as holders of the requisite number of BP shares - very kindly agreed to support a resolution when submitted.

Instead, we are developing plans for more effective ways for members of the BPPG to show their disapproval of the current leadership at the AGM and the manner in which they have mis-handled the UK pensions issue.

We will be writing to you shortly about this.

Reaching Out to BP Staff

We are aware that BP leaders have sought to curtail staff discussion of the UK pension issue such as at the UK Employees Forum. BP's internal communications continue to provide disingenuous and misleading accounts of the dispute to staff. There is more than a whiff of 'divide and conquer' about some of this messaging.

We think BP staff are entitled to have the full picture so they can judge for themselves the wisdom of their leadership in this matter.

That is why the campaign social media activity continues to target Company and employee 'brand' postings in order to provide staff with an alternative viewpoint – but always with the 3Ps in mind – Polite, Professional and Persuasive.

We're exploring other ways to keep staff informed so you can expect more on this aspect in forthcoming bulletins.

A Letter to BP's Company Secretary

On the subject of BP staff, during the Information Session and in a subsequent LinkedIn post by BP's EVP, People & Culture, it was claimed that some pension fund members had harassed, attacked and even "*issued*

physical threats against employees and their families.”

These are serious allegations and we felt it right to ask BP’s Company Secretary to supply details that support the allegations and identify any individual involved. This will allow us to judge the full circumstances and - if any individual is a member of the BPPG - whether there is a need to act.

Our letter can be viewed by clicking [here](#). We await a response.

257 New Members - Grow the Membership

257 new members have joined us since we renewed our ‘member-get-member’ push in early January. Thank you to everyone who made the introductions!

Please, please keep up your efforts to contact former BP colleagues and do all you can to persuade them to join the BPPG. It sends a really important signal to BP and the Trustee that this campaign will not go away and will keep growing as more people become aware of the strength of our arguments and legal case.



WHY SHOULD YOU JOIN THE CAMPAIGN?

- **Strength in numbers**
- **Stay informed**
- **Share your ideas and suggestions**

HOW TO JOIN: <https://bppensionergroup.org/join>

This is something that the Trustee appears extremely keen to actively frustrate. So far it has refused to even acknowledge the existence of the BP Pensioner Group let alone share a simple link to the BPPG website so that 58,000 members of the Fund can access all sides of the debate about ‘their’ pension fund.

This sensitivity hasn’t held back the Trustee from determining that members’ “best interest” would be served if it acted as a postal service for BP to send a highly contentious 2-page document to 58,000 members. This attempts to dismiss the long-established policy of “increasing pensions fully in line with the cost of living wherever possible, and provided the Scheme has sufficient resources.”

We wrote to the Trustee on 5th February expressing our surprise that “*you would allow such a document to be circulated... and, having agreed to circulate it, did so without offering any counter or rebuttal. We believe that your fiduciary duty requires you to write to all pensioners, informing them that bp’s interpretations are strongly disputed and advising them of the existence of BPPG and its contact details so that they can access the opposing view and form their own opinion.*”

True to form, the Trustee replied: “*The Trustee does not agree that its fiduciary duty requires it to write to all pensioner members as you suggest and is satisfied it has acted in accordance with its duties as trustee of the BP Pension Fund.*”

During the Information Session itself, a number of serious factual errors were made in statements by BP executives in regard to the Pension Fund. This week we wrote to the Trustee to point these out and to request that “*as Chairman of the Trustee Board, you now owe it to your 58,000 beneficiaries to correct these errors.*” To view the letter click [here](#).

Protecting BP Pensions

Join our campaign to protect your bp defined benefit pensions
<https://bppensionergroup.org>

FOOD

ENERGY

CARE

RISING COSTS

FALLING VALUE

PENSION

This just doesn't add up!!

For the moment, the best response to this is for all our current members to re-double their efforts to persuade as many of former colleagues as possible to join the BPPG and add to our collective voice. Imagine if everyone added just one new member each during this coming week? We'd be creating a total membership of nearly 6,000 and not 3,000 members at a stroke!

Please give this a renewed effort to keep the campaign building.

Don't forget all the documents mentioned in the bulletin are in [The Library](#) as well as all the previous bulletins if you've missed out.

[click to access all Bulletins](#)

You can [download](#) a set of 'business cards' to hand out at any BP events you are attending or other celebrations, birthday or retirement parties etc!

Next Bulletin

March and April are set to be busy months for the campaign with a **focus** on preparing for a response to the legal letters, **maintaining** pressure on BP leadership at the AGM, **continued** media & social media action and the member-get-member **initiative**. **We will seek to keep you fully informed by bulletin or email.**

Did you receive this bulletin from an ex-colleague, friend etc? Would you like to become a member of the BPPG and receive future bulletins & important news about the campaign? Follow this link to join

<https://bppensionergroup.org/join/>

Social Media & WhatsApp groups

You may not be an active user of social media but if you have ideas for useful themes or would like to get involved then please contact the SM team at social@bppensionergroup.org .

There are a few different ways you can stay in touch with the campaign, as well as this Bulletin and our two WhatsApp groups (to join click buttons below), another way to stay in touch is via social media on the [BPPG LinkedIn Group](#) with around 770 members and on [BPPG Facebook Group](#) with around 670 members. Links to these groups can be found at the end of every Bulletin.

If you haven't signed up to one of the WhatsApp groups yet - follow the links below and join the melee or just get the critical info!

Join 'Chat' WhatsApp

Join 'Info' WhatsApp

Key Questions & Answers

To help you answer any questions here is an updated key Campaign information guide - "[Member get Member Initiative Questions & Answers](#)"

Feel free to cut and paste it into any of your emails, social media comments and letters!

Click to view Q&As

Thanks for getting involved and supporting the campaign.
You can contact the Steering Group at contact@bppensionergroup.org



BP Pensioner Group



BP Pensioner Group

contact@bppensionergroup.org

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