

[View in browser](#)

# "Beyond Parsimony"

Bulletin No. 27



## *Formal Complaint Submitted to Pensions Ombudsman*

### *Bulletin Highlights*

- *Ombudsman submission*
- *3% Discretionary Increase for 2025 rejected by BP*
- *BP Annual General Meeting*
- *BP's Strategic "Reset"*

---

## Welcome to Bulletin 27

We are pleased to report that a formal complaint to the Pensions Ombudsman was submitted on 27 April 2025. This has 'stopped the clock' to prevent our complaint regarding pension decisions made in 2022 being timed out by the Ombudsman's 3-Year deadline.

Three additional individual complaints were also submitted following the recent exercise to identify

important 'sub categories' to the main complaint.

That said, the complaint will not be taken up by the Ombudsman until the Trustee completes its consideration of the complaint we submitted to it on 6 December 2024 under the Fund's Internal Dispute Procedure.

As things stand, both Route 1 (High Court Beddoe Order) and Route 2 (Ombudsman) remain open and we await the Trustee's final response and decision in regard to each of these options. We explain more in this bulletin.

We also note that BP has yet again refused its consent to the Trustee's recommended discretionary increase to the pension. That's the fourth consecutive year in which the Company has over-ruled the Pension Fund Trustee.

And we also report on how a group of BPPG members made their voices heard by BP's Chairman, CEO and CFO and other board directors at BP's Annual General Meeting in April.

At the meeting, BP's Company Secretary declared the pension matter "closed". Our submission to the Ombudsman is a clear signal that he is very much mistaken.

We hope you find this a useful update.

Best wishes

[Suzie Baverstock](#)

[Colum Doyle](#)

[Mike Hennessy](#)

[Jonathan Popper](#)

[Mike Slingsby](#)

[Adrienne Tallents](#)

**BPPG Steering Group**

---

## The Main Submission to the Ombudsman

A huge amount of work has gone into the preparation of the submission over the past several months by a small internal BPPG 'legal team'. While we cannot share the submission due to its inclusion of materials subject to a Non-Disclosure Agreement imposed by the Trustee, we can say that it extends to more than 30 pages and is supported by 49 individual documents that evidence the complaint. These include 14 signed personal statements by the complainants, former Trustee Directors, senior Pensions staff, HR staff, inter alia.

### Three Additional Submissions

Three additional individual complaints have also been submitted to the Ombudsman following the recent exercise to identify important 'sub categories' to the main complaint. Each complainant provided strong, documented evidence relating to the Pension Increase Policy (PIP). We are extremely grateful to those individuals for their support and to everyone who responded to our survey.

### The 3-Year Deadline and Trustee Outstanding Responses

The date of 27 April is important. The 28<sup>th</sup> April 2025 marked the 3-year deadline by which a complaint

The date of 27 April is important. The 20 April 2023 marked the 5 year deadline by which a complaint regarding the 2022 decisions of the Trustee and BP must be submitted to the Ombudsman (albeit with exceptions which we chose not to rely upon).

However, while we have met the deadline, the Ombudsman will not review our complaint or accept jurisdiction until:

- a. both BP and the Trustee provide their final responses to the formal (IDRP) complaints we lodged with them on 6 December 2024
- b. We advise the Ombudsman whether we still wish to proceed with the complaint following receipt and consideration of those final responses

BP has already provided its final response and rejected our complaint. However, the Trustee has two outstanding matters to consider and respond to:

1. Our IDRP complaint (Route 2)
2. The letter issued by our solicitors making the legal case why the Trustee should seek the direction of the High Court on key questions via a Beddoe Order. (Route 1)

The Trustee has informed us that it will update us “as soon as possible” on the timing of its response as it considers both these matters. That response will determine which of Routes 1 and 2 are to be pursued as matters of jurisdiction between the High Court and Ombudsman may potentially arise.

For now, both Routes 1 and 2 remain open and we will update you as soon as possible.

[Back to top](#)

---

## ***3% Discretionary Increase for 2025 rejected by BP***

Everyone should be receiving their May 1 2025 pension increase notices at this time. You will know that earlier this year, the Trustee recommended to BP that it consent to a 3% Discretionary Increase in addition to 3.5% - the rate of RPI inflation in December 2024.

BP once again rejected the Trustee’s recommendation – which was an attempt at making up the shortfall inflicted by the decisions taken by both Trustee and BP in 2022 and 2023. Once again, a litany of reasons (excuses) was given by the Company for its rejection.

We won’t go into these again here – our submission to the Ombudsman makes the case why the Company has erred. Once again, it is a clear signal from BP’s current leadership that it will continue to ignore the recommendations made by the Trustee of our pension fund as and when it wishes.

We believe that is unsustainable.

[Back to top](#)

---

## ***BP’s Annual General Meeting***

Once again BP’s AGM was staged at ‘Fortress Sunbury’ on 17th April. Once again high security fencing was installed across the normally serene, leafy campus and security staff and procedures were everywhere to be seen. It seemed that danger from pensioners lurked in every corner.

An intrepid group of these individuals - aka BPPG members - attended in their capacity as BP shareholders and exercised their right to ask questions.



Past experience had shown that the Company likes to shut down questions about pensions so this time each BPPG member introduced themselves as a former employee and now pensioner and each told the meeting the same message prior to posing a question on a BP related matter:

*"When I worked for BP I was repeatedly told by the Company that my pension would be increased by the rate of inflation every year, but BP has reneged on that promise and as a consequence my pension is now 11% lower than what I was promised."*

The outgoing Chairman initially responded to say that the matter of the pension increase would be discussed at the end of the meeting. However the Company Secretary soon tired of being reminded by speaker after speaker of the Company's broken promises in relation to pensions and declared that: "the pensions matter is now closed, and the company wishes to move forward."

One BPPG member not quite ready to move on offered the Chairman some helpful advice for his impending retirement suggesting that he might wish to "check your documentation on leaving BP!" The Chairman clearly didn't feel his initial offer to address the question of pensions at the end of the meeting was a promise – so he didn't!

Despite the meeting's focus on BP's strategic u-turn, the man from the Daily Telegraph was suitably impressed to file a report (below) on the pensioners polite but persistent efforts to gain the attention of the Board.

Given the importance of this issue to many thousands of BP's staff and former staff, it is regrettable that efforts like this have to be made to secure the attention of the Company leadership via the Annual General Meeting.

And it is extraordinary to think that as we approach two years of repeated attempts to discuss and resolve this dispute with both the Company and the Trustee, both parties have refused to hold a single meeting or even a single telephone conversation with representatives of this large group of BP's pensioners.

### **From 'Reinvent' to 'Reset' to 'Resolve'**

The Company is currently going through a difficult period and our thoughts, in particular, are with the many staff who must be worried about the implications of the recently announced 'strategic reset'. Many of us have been there at some stage in our BP careers.

The Chairman of the BP Pension Fund Trustee advised members in his March circular that the Trustee had reviewed the details of BP's strategic reset and concluded: "there was no immediate impact on bp's ongoing ability to support the Fund if required in the future – bp remains a strong sponsor".

For our part, we do not believe the Company's change from 'Reinvent' to 'Reset' should have any bearing on the legal matters we have raised or prevent its leadership from resolving the pension dispute equitably - not least given the fact that a resolution requires no financial contribution by the Company.





## **WHY SHOULD YOU JOIN THE CAMPAIGN?**

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

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

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!

Please let us know by [email](#) at the usual contact address if you know of or attend such events. We have lots of material that might be useful to the recruitment effort.

*Back to top*

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 team at [social@bppensionergroup.org](mailto: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](#) and [BPPG Facebook Group](#) . 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](#)

---

Thanks for getting involved and supporting the campaign.  
You can contact the Steering Group at [contact@bppensionergroup.org](mailto:contact@bppensionergroup.org)



**BP Pensioner Group**



**BP Pensioner Group**

[contact@bppensionergroup.org](mailto:contact@bppensionergroup.org)

This email was sent to mail@alex-kent.co.uk  
You've received it because you've subscribed to our newsletter.

[View in browser](#) | [Unsubscribe](#) | [Update contact info](#)