



Research Opportunities

There are always a number of topics we're looking to research. If you are interested in any of the topics listed below, please contact Sarah Luheshi 07714 250 940 or sarah@pensionspolicyinstitute.org.uk

Impact of changes to life expectancy

The 21st Century Trustee

Investment Pathways



DC Value for Money

The Savings of the Millennials

The role of housing in retirement



Why sponsor PPI Research?

Our vision is to help improve later life outcomes by providing evidence to shape policy.

Thought Leadership: We are an essential part of the evidence based policy making process. Our reports offer the unique opportunity for sponsors to develop discussions and inform the debate, based upon evidence provided from an independent perspective.

Experts: We are experts in later life policy. We have a proven track record in analysing future trends within the policy landscape including; social, economic, technological and demographic changes.

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By supporting the PPI you will be aligning your values with our vision.

PPI research helps shape the future .

Sponsoring our research means you are part of shaping the future too.

Impact of changes to life expectancy

After a sustained period of increasing life expectancy, longevity is now decreasing. We would be interested to explore the underlying dynamics behind the quoted averages to understand the impact in terms of:

- The differences across the population; which segments are most impacted?
- The impact of falling longevity on pension policy.
- The impact on pension provision.

DC value for money

Charging structures for DC pensions continues to be scrutinised by regulators and the government. We are keen to revisit our 2016 'Value for Money' report, updating it with changes that have occurred during the last three years and:

- Reprise what "Value for Money" is, the different definitions and how they vary between accumulation and decumulation; different time horizons; and member and trustee.
- Discuss the interplay of characteristics which influence member outcomes and which combinations of characteristics have the greatest impact on outcomes.
- Illustrate how other countries approach Value for Money.

The 21st Century Trustee

Over the last decade, the UK pensions market has seen significant change as has the nature of trusteeship, with greater responsibility and complexity becoming commonplace. This research would expand on the themes of the Pensions Regulator's 2016 guidelines on 21st Century Trusteeship and explore evidence for;

- Expansion of complexity in governance structure; expansion of subcommittees, clear lines of responsibility.
- The growth of role of the professional trustee and changes to employee and employer representation on boards.
- Diversity in trusteeship.
- Levels of expertise and training among trustees.

The role of housing in retirement

Saving in property is often proposed as an alternative to saving in pensions. However, only a minority will be able to invest in property other than their own home. For most people with property it will be, at best, a complement to occupational or personal pensions, not a substitute. The PPI is interested in revisiting its previous 2004 work "Property or Pensions?" updating it to reflect how the housing and retirement markets have changed in the intervening years. Specific research questions would be:

- How much is saved in property and pensions and the correlation between housing and other wealth?
- What contribution can property make to retirement income?
- How many people are likely to be able to use property, and how much of a contribution can property make to the retirement incomes, especially of future generations of pensioners?
- What is / are likely scenario(s) for housing wealth and inheritance?

Investment pathways

Whilst most pension schemes communicate with savers about the importance of telling them when they intend to retire, not every saver does this, often for the simple reason that they are unsure of their plans. Sometimes, they retire earlier. In other instances, they decide to work for longer. The research would look to cover:

- Is there a default fund or investment strategy which copes best with such uncertainty?
- The factors which make some default funds more successful than others at coping with uncertainty.
- The impact on missing out on investment bull runs for scheme members.
- Whether there is a need to introduce multiple, age-related default funds for different working cohorts.

The Savings of the Millennials

This work would seek to produce a comprehensive picture of the nature of pension saving behaviour among millennials and look to answer the following interlinked questions:

- How are millennials currently saving towards retirement?
- What barriers are there to millennials saving more for retirement?
- How can millennials be encouraged to save more?

Where possible, we will identify particular segments within the millennial group who may be more at risk of under-saving and ways in which policy and industry approaches could be targeted to improve outcomes for these groups.

For further information on these topics or if you have any thoughts on other topics you wish to discuss please contact Sarah Luheshi

sarah@pensionspolicyinstitute.org.uk

