

ECMWF PENSIONERS' ASSOCIATION



January 2026

Dear fellow Pensioners,

Here is an update on items of interest including some dates for your diaries and some information on Cigna.

PA AGM this year – Thursday 19th November 2026

Save the date!

As usual the AGM will take place in the Council Chamber at ECMWF for those who are able to attend in person, and online for those who wish to join remotely. We have planned a later start time of 10a.m. with coffee at 9.30a.m. The meeting will finish by 12.30p.m.

Cigna health insurance

In case you missed the email from Helen Eadie in HR Pensions here is some information on the changes to the Cigna contribution rate and the additional services covered from this year:

The staff and pensioner contribution rate for the Health Care Insurance provided by Cigna Healthcare has increased from 1.65% to 1.9% with effect from 1 January 2026. This increase is driven by a significant increase in reimbursements under the scheme in 2025 and continuing high inflation of medical costs. You will notice the new rate in your January pension statement.

The 2026 updates to the scheme include improved health screening and cancer screening of any type up to an annual maximum of £1,000 without the requirement for a medical referral. Screening as result of a medical referral continues to be covered 100% without a ceiling. An updated version of the Health Care Insurance brochure explaining the cover is available on the Cigna app.

A reminder if you have problems with Cigna

If you experience any problems with Cigna, please contact Jens Alfs directly; best via email using the pensions@ecmwf.int mailbox. We know that there are still problems with getting quotes from some hospitals in Reading. If you experience this please contact Jens.

Social events

For social events please use social4pa@gmail.com for your replies/suggestions.

Thursday 12th February Dinton Pastures walk with lunch at The Wheelwright Arms
Lunch at 12:15 at the Wheelwright Arms, Davis Way, Winnersh, RG10 0TR with an optional walk to Dinton Pastures (the main lake is a 3km lap). Previously the pub gave permission for us to use their carpark whilst we walked. Suggestion to meet in the pub carpark at 11am for those wishing to join the walk.

To facilitate a table booking, please advise if you would like to join for lunch and if you also plan to walk. My mobile for issues on the day is: 0787 9850412

John Chambers has brought to our attention the possibility of visiting the **Thames Valley Police Museum** in Sulhampsted, RG7 4DU. Please let me know if this is something you would be interested in. Once I have an idea of numbers I will contact them to arrange a visit. [Thames Valley Police Museum | Thames Valley Police](#). It is possible to visit on Wednesdays 10am-12noon without a booking but probably best to book if we are a group.

We are also looking to arrange a visit to **The Mansion House**, London, EC4N 8BH
<https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/about-us/about-the-city-of-london-corporation/mansion-house>

Again, once I have an idea of numbers, I will get in touch to arrange a tour. Please let me know if you would potentially like to join this outing.

Online event We are planning to organise an online quiz using Jackbox which is a game sharing platform. If you would be interested in participating in this please let Madeleine know so that we can get an idea of numbers to set up the quiz.

AAPOCAD General Assembly feedback

The AAPOCAD annual General Assembly (GA) took place in Budapest at the beginning of November. There were two main items for discussion: comparison of the evolution of salaries and pensions since the calculation methods were decoupled in 2020 and demands for backdated French social security contributions that some pensioners in France have received. On the latter topic, there are inconsistencies in the way these contributions are assessed and also whether they are classified as a tax or a contribution. So AAPOCAD has decided, with the local pensioners' associations, to fund a legal analysis to get clarification of the law around social contributions from pensions: who should be paying the contribution and how much they should pay to use the French social security system.

Pensioners' Association contribution rates

The 2025 AGM asked the Committee to look at approval of members' contribution rates to the Pensioners' Association funds. The contribution rate for the main fund is decided by the Committee and members will be notified if any changes are made. The legal fund contribution rate is approved at each AGM. The relevant clause in the Pensioners' Association rules is:

"The PA shall have a legal fund which will be administered by the Pensioners' Committee. Members may opt-in to make annual contributions to this fund at the rate which will be decided at each AGM."

The result of the 2025 AGM is that the optional contributions remain as 0.03% to the main fund and 0.3% to the legal fund.

Contact with HR

Just a reminder, if you have any queries to raise with HR the best way to contact them is to email pensions@ecmwf.int. It is helpful if you use the subject line to indicate the nature of your enquiry so that HR staff can route the email to the person who is most likely to be able to deal with it.

The Centre staff are now able to answer direct telephone calls remotely. If you are unable to email you may call Helen on 0118 949 9671 during normal working hours; this is her direct line. You can leave a voicemail message for Helen and she will receive a notification that there is a message waiting. Alternatively, or if there is no reply, please 'phone the switchboard 01189 499000 and ask to be put through to the pensions team. Please give the switchboard operator your name and 'phone number for them to email the pensions team in case there is no answer from their 'phone.

If you have any items of general interest to your fellow pensioners please send them to the Secretary for possible inclusion in the next newsletter.

Best wishes to you all.

Sylvia Baylis
Chair, Pensioners' Association