Cambridge University Assistants' Contributory Pension Scheme

Actuarial Valuation as at 31 July 2024

Scheme Funding Report

Robert Sweet, FIA

Cartwright Group Limited
250 Fowler Avenue, Farnborough Business Park, Farnborough GU14 7JP

01252 894883

robert.sweet@cartwright.co.uk

11 April 2025

Contents

1. Executive Summary

1.1. Introduction

This report has been prepared for C U Pension Trustee Limited, the Trustee of the Cambridge University Assistants' Contributory Pension Scheme ("the Scheme") and sets out the results of the actuarial valuation as at 31 July 2024.

1.2. Prudence and covenant

At the last valuation the Trustee rated the University Covenant as Strong and this was reflected in the level of prudence factored into the assumptions used. For this valuation, the Trustee has obtained an independent assessment from Interpath Advisory LLP, who continue to rate the University Covenant as Strong.

1.3. Current funding level

The Scheme's funding level on the Statutory Funding Objective at the valuation date was 104%, equivalent to a surplus of £38.5 million. At the previous valuation as at 31 July 2021 the ongoing funding level was 110%. The main reason for the deterioration was significantly higher than expected inflation, only partly offset by the impact of changes in the valuation basis.

1.4. Future service cost and contributions

The overall joint (member plus Employers) contribution rate to fund future benefit accrual is 11.8% of Pensionable Salaries. This includes allowances for members' contributions, the cost of self-insuring the death in service benefit and for the expenses of running the Scheme. It excludes any allowance for member AVCs.

A breakdown of the contribution rates is set out in the table below with the prior figures in brackets.

	Salary Sacrifice Members		Non-Salary Sacrifice Members	
	Active Members %	Employers %	Active Members %	Employers %
Pre-2013 Members paying additional contributions under Rule 45.6	Nil	21.6 (22.6)	8.5	13.1 (14.1)
Other Pre-2013 Members	Nil	18.4 (19.6)	5.0	13.4 (14.6)
Post-2013 Members	Nil	9.9 (10.6)	3.0	6.9 (7.6)

The University and Trustee have agreed that the Employers will continue paying contributions for future accrual at the current rates (the figures in brackets above) until 31 July 2025, and then reduce to the main rates shown above.

The Scheme is in surplus and as such there is no requirement for deficit reduction contributions.

1.5. Solvency position

The solvency position of the Scheme has been measured by reference to the estimated cost of buying out the benefits with an insurance company. As at the valuation date the solvency funding level of the Scheme was 81%.

Had the Scheme been fully funded on the Statutory Funding Objective, the solvency funding level would have been 78%.

1.6. PPF Section 179 position

The PPF Section 179 position of the Scheme has been measured in line with the prescribed assumptions and benefits as laid down by the PPF Board. At the valuation date the Section 179 funding position was 106%.

This funding level is used by the PPF Board to help it determine the risk based portion of the PPF levy.

1.7. CETVs

We recommend that the CETV basis be reviewed following completion of this valuation. As the Scheme has a funding surplus, the Trustee can continue to pay transfer values in full.

1.8. Factors

The actuarial factors used in individual member calculations should be updated following the completion of the valuation to reflect changing economic and demographic conditions.

We have considered the impact of updating the commutation factors. This would see the factors reduce by around 6-7% and increase the funding surplus by approximately £4m. We will carry out a full review post valuation.

1.9. Low Dependency Funding Basis

We have also investigated the impact of the Trustee adopting a Low Dependency Funding Basis under the new Funding Coode that will apply for your 2027 triennial valuation. Adopting this conservative approach would result in a funding level of 95%.

1.10. Timescale and future valuation requirements

The next triennial valuation is due to take place as at 31 July 2027. As this Scheme has more than 100 members, interim actuarial reports will be required as at 31 July 2025 and 31 July 2026.

As this Scheme has a funding surplus, the valuation information should be included as part of your next Scheme Return.

Finally a Summary Funding Statement should be sent to members updating them on the Scheme's funding position. This should be issued by 31 January 2026.

2. Introduction

2.1. Background

This report on the actuarial valuation of the Scheme as at 31 July 2024, was commissioned by and is addressed, to C U Pension Trustee Limited, acting as the Trustee of the Scheme. It has been prepared under Rule 23 of the Ordinances & Rules and Section 224 of the Pensions Act 2004. These state that the Trustee is required to obtain an actuarial valuation at least every three years and actuarial reports in intervening years.

2.2. Purposes

The purposes of the valuation are:

- to review the Scheme's funding position relative to its funding target;
- to determine contribution rates for funding Scheme benefits;
- to assess the Scheme's solvency position; and
- to satisfy statutory requirements.

2.3. Previous valuations

The Scheme was last valued as at 31 July 2021 and the results were contained in my report dated 31 October 2022.

2.4. Inter-valuation review

The overall average joint (Member plus Employers) contribution rate to fund future benefit accrual was determined at the last valuation as 13.6% of Pensionable Salaries. This rate includes allowances for members' contributions, the cost of self-insuring the death in service benefit, PPF levies and for the expenses of running the Scheme.

The breakdown of this rate is shown below. The rates in brackets were the rates payable until 31 July 2023 only; the main rates were then payable from 1 August 2023 onwards:

	Salary Sacrifice Members		Non-Salary Sacrifice Members	
	Active Members %	Employers %	Active Members %	Employers %
Pre-2013 Members paying additional contributions under Rule 45.6	Nil	22.6 (20.0)	8.5	14.1 (11.5)
Other Pre-2013 Members	Nil	19.6 (16.5)	5.0	14.6 (11.5)
Post-2013 Members	Nil	10.6 (8.8)	3.0	7.6 (5.8)

In addition, the University agreed to continue paying an additional £14,595,000 per annum up to 31 July 2023 only.

The rates of investment return achieved in each of the inter-valuation years were as follows:

Year ending	31 July 2022	31 July 2023	31 July 2024
Investment Return	+0.2%	+4.2%	+11.3%

2.5. References for earlier advice on this valuation

Previous advice on this valuation is as follows:

- Report on Proposed Assumptions on the actuarial valuation dated 30 May 2024;
- Scheme Experience Investigation Report dated 7 February 2024;
- Scheme-Specific Mortality Investigation dated 30 May 2024;
- My letter of 27 August 2024 covering comments from the University Pensions Working Group on the proposed assumptions;
- Summary of Initial Results report dated 27 November 2024;
- My paper "Supplementary Calculations" of 7 February 2025 covering the additional information requested by the University; and
- My letter of 6 March 2025 to the Trustee responding to the University's proposals of 4 March 2025.

It should be noted that I have not provided any advice to the Trustee on University matters. In particular in recommending assumptions to the Trustee I provided no advice on factors affecting the University or its industry which may affect such factors as pay increases or rates of withdrawal of Scheme membership. In calculating the contribution rates I have not provided any advice on other related University matters such as business plans, expenditure commitments or industry reports.

2.6. Third party statement

The calculations in this report use methods and bases appropriate for the purpose described above. Figures required for other purposes, such as Employer accounting, should be calculated in accordance with the specific requirements for such purposes and it should not be assumed that the figures contained in this report are appropriate. The report may be provided to the Employers and to Scheme members in accordance with the disclosure legislation and regulations, but may only be disclosed to other parties with our consent. The report does not grant any rights to Scheme members or other third parties and may not necessarily cover all the implications for a third party. I and Cartwright Group Ltd do not accept any liability to any third parties in respect of the contents of this report.

2.7. Reporting requirements

This report, when read in conjunction with the reference material set out above, is compliant with the following Technical Actuarial Standards (TAS) issued by the Financial Reporting Council:

- TAS 100 – General Actuarial Standards; and
- TAS 300 – Pensions.

The calculations undertaken to produce this report have complied with the above TAS.

The actuarial information contained in this report has been peer reviewed in accordance with Actuarial Profession Standards (APS) X2 – Review of Actuarial Work.

3. Background

3.1. The Scheme

The Scheme is deemed to be a registered pension scheme under the terms of Schedule 36 of the Finance Act 2004.

The Scheme is open to future accrued for both existing members and future new entrants. The employees covered by the Scheme were contracted out of the State Second Pension (S2P) until 31 December 2012.

3.2. Core benefits under rules

We have valued the Scheme benefits set out in the Ordinances and Rules of the Scheme. References to Pensionable Salary in this report have the same meaning ascribed to them as in the above documents.

A summary of the benefits valued is set out in Appendix C, although it should be borne in mind that in the event of any discrepancy between this summary and the Rules, the Rules will prevail.

Members may pay Additional Voluntary Contributions (AVCs) to increase benefits payable from the Scheme. Liabilities and assets shown in this report exclude money purchase AVCs but do include AVCs used to provide additional service credits.

3.3. Allowance for discretionary benefits

The Scheme Rules allow discretionary benefits to be provided to members.

In recent years this option has not been exercised and therefore no discretionary benefits have been granted. As such the valuation does not allow for any discretionary benefits and assumes that any which are granted will be funded at the time.

3.4. Allowance for insured benefits

The Trustee does not insure death in service benefits.

A very small minority of the pensions in payment are partly insured with an insurance company. These have been excluded from the funding valuation as they are exactly matched by an insurance policy. As required by legislation, we have allowed for them in the PPF Section 179 valuation.

3.5. Allowance for member options

Allowance has been made for Members taking early retirement, and for Members commuting some of their pension for cash at retirement.

3.6. Allowance for GMP equalisation

I set out my comments on the possible impact of GMP Equalisation in my 2021 Scheme Funding Report. I concluded that any allowance for GMP Equalisation would not be material.

At that time I undertook some preliminary calculations for the affected deferred members of the Scheme. Their deferred pensions are revalued in deferment in line with the RPI, subject to an underpin of the minimum required by legislation. This underpin has different revaluation rates for GMP and excess over GMP, so does differ for men and women. However, this underpin rarely bites, and so for the vast majority of deferred members GMP Equalisation will have no impact. Having undertaken these calculations, I concluded that any additional GMP Equalisation liability for deferred members would be minimal. The additional liability for pensioners could be higher but not significantly so - I do not currently have sufficient information to calculate this fully.

The further reasoning for this is as follows:

- All relevant pensions, including GMPs, are increased both in deferment and payment in line with increases in RPI;
- The retirement age for benefits accrued prior to 1997 is age 60;
- Once in payment, there will be no “cross over” for an opposite sex calculation.

Taking these together, it is clear that any reserve for the additional liability for GMP Equalisation will be immaterial. I have therefore again ignored this for the purposes of this valuation.

The Trustee has initiated a project to reconcile and equalise all GMPs, this is ongoing at the time of this valuation.

3.7. Virgin Media versus NTL Trustees Ltd

This case concerned schemes contracted out between 6 April 1997 and 5 April 2016 and the issue of not having the relevant actuarial certification or confirmation for changes made to Scheme Rules. I and the Trustee’s legal advisers have reviewed the amendments made to the Scheme during this period, and we have confirmed that the relevant confirmation was provided, so no further action is required.

3.8. Scheme changes since previous valuation

Minor changes have been made to the Scheme's benefit structure since the previous valuation, none of which have a material impact on Scheme funding.

3.9. Legislative changes since previous valuation

The Pension Schemes Act 2021 and The Occupational Pension Schemes (Funding and Investment Strategy and Amendment) Regulations 2024 introduced the framework for the new approach to scheme funding which, along with TPR's new Funding Code, will apply to actuarial valuations with effective dates from 22 September 2024 onwards. They do not therefore apply to this valuation, but it will be appropriate to consider their implications for future valuations.

3.10. Membership data

The data for the valuation was provided by the Pensions Office on behalf of the Trustee. Whilst we have taken reasonable steps to satisfy ourselves that the data provided is of adequate quality for the purposes of the valuation, ultimately we have relied on the accuracy of the information provided. The membership data covered details of 5,099 active members, 5,861 deferred pensioners, 330 pending members and 3,874 pensioners. A more detailed summary is provided in Appendix A of this report.

We carried out the following data checks:

- Comparison and reconciliation with previous valuation data;
- Missing data and consistency checks;
- Checking Pensionable Salaries against previous data and for reasonableness;
- Checking Final Pensionable Salaries against previous data and for reasonableness;
- Checking part time member data; and
- Checking deferred pensions and pensions in payment against previous data.

We are grateful to the Pensions Office for their assistance in answering our queries.

All queries were resolved quickly. However, we have noted some differences in the member numbers from the audited accounts which we believe to be down to timing and also post accounts date data cleansing.

3.11. Asset data

The audited Scheme accounts show that the market value of the Scheme's assets at 31 July 2024 amounted to £918,251,965. This includes assets in relation to members' added years AVCs but excludes money purchase assets and insured pensions. Appendix B provides a more detailed breakdown of the Scheme's assets.

3.12. University matters

We have not provided any advice to the Trustee in connection with the University. Separate covenant advice has been provided to the Trustee by Interpath Advisory LLP.

3.13. Material post valuation date events

We are not aware of any material events that have occurred after the valuation date which would affect the results set out in this report.

4. Funding Principles

4.1. Statutory Funding Objective

The Statutory Funding Objective is set out in the Statement of Funding Principles dated 11 April 2025 included as Appendix D to this report.

Under Rule 44 of the Rules, each Employer must pay contributions at rates decided by the University as Principal Employer, after taking actuarial advice. However, this is overridden by the Pensions Act 2004, under which the Principal Employer and Trustee jointly agree to the Statement of Funding Principles and the contribution rates payable to the Scheme.

4.2. Agreed funding target

The agreed funding target for the Scheme is the Technical Provisions. I would stress that achieving this target may mean that other targets may still not be met. In particular, in current market conditions if the Scheme were to be 100% funded on the Technical Provision, it would be 78% funded on the Solvency target, i.e. Technical Provisions are not the same as wind up costs. Unless further funds were to be available, on a winding-up of the Scheme it would not be possible to secure members' benefits in full.

4.3. Funding objectives

Based on the Technical Provisions as a funding target, the agreed funding objectives are as follows:

- to assume that the Scheme will invest predominantly in return seeking assets, and overall credit should be taken for a real long term investment return of 2.5% per annum over CPI for past service liabilities and 2.8% per annum for future service accrual;
- subject to the above, to adopt a set of assumptions which is prudent.
- not to make any allowance for any mis-matching of assets and liabilities.
- not to make any allowance for discretionary benefit increases.
- to eliminate any deficit relative to the funding target by increases in the rate of contributions over a period which does not exceed 16 years; and
- in terms of overall prudence, the Trustee takes into account its assessment of the strength of the covenant of the Employers, the risks inherent in the Scheme's investment strategy and the Scheme's solvency position.

4.4. Changes to funding objectives

Since the previous valuation, the Trustee and the University have agreed to fund past service benefits on the basis of an assumed investment return of CPI plus 2.5% per annum and future service accrual on the basis of an assumed investment return of CPI plus 2.8% per annum. Previously both past service and future service were funded assuming a return of RPI plus 1.9% per annum.

In addition, the Trustee and the University have agreed to remove the contingent recovery plan contribution arrangement previously operated.

4.5. Funding implications on stability of contribution rate

The funding objective includes allowance for investment in equity type assets, and makes no allowance for the mis-matching of assets and liabilities. Since the returns on equities can be volatile over even relatively short periods of time, this means that the contribution rate will be less stable than would apply were these factors not included.

4.6. Funding implications for paying CETVs in full

The funding objective adopted is such that if the Scheme meets its objective there will be more than sufficient assets to pay unreduced transfer values.

5. Valuation Method and Assumption

5.1. Funding method

The cost of the future benefit accrual within the Scheme has been determined in this valuation using the Projected Unit funding method.

Under this method, the capital value of the benefits accruing over the year following the valuation date, based on members' Pensionable Salaries projected to the date of their retirement, death or earlier exit, is expressed as a percentage of the total current Pensionable Salaries, to give the future service contribution rate.

This method will result in a relatively stable future service contribution rate provided the profile of the active membership, by age, sex and salary, does not change significantly between actuarial valuations. There is therefore an implicit assumption that there are new entrants to the Scheme. If there are not any new entrants to the Scheme the future service contribution rate will be expected to rise as the active membership ages.

5.2. Previous funding method

The same funding method was used for the previous actuarial valuation.

5.3. Factors to consider in choosing funding method

Under the Code, the Trustee is required to consider the following factors (inter alia) when choosing a funding method:

- the ability and willingness of the Employers to make advance provision for future events; and
- the likely number of new entrants to the Scheme in future.

We have not provided any advice to the Trustee in connection with these factors. The Trustee is satisfied that the chosen funding method is appropriate bearing in mind the above factors.

5.4. Valuation assumptions

The valuation assumptions are given in Appendix E. Details of how they were derived are set out in the Trustee's Statement of Funding Principles included in Appendix D.

Note that the Trustee has considered each assumption individually. No assumption has been adjusted as a proxy to compensate for shortfalls in another assumption.

6. Funding Valuation Results

6.1. Results

The following Section summarises the results of the valuation on the Scheme's funding objective using the basis described in Section 5 and Appendix E.

6.2. Past service position / Technical Provisions

		£000's
Value of benefits in respect of:		
Active Members' service on or before 31 July 2024		220,878
Deferred Pensioners		238,081
Current Pensioners		412,067
Expenses		8,710
Technical Provisions	(A)	879,736
Market Value of Scheme Assets	(B)	918,252
Past Service Surplus/(Deficit)	(B-A)	38,516
Level of Funding of Past Service Benefits	(B/A)	104%

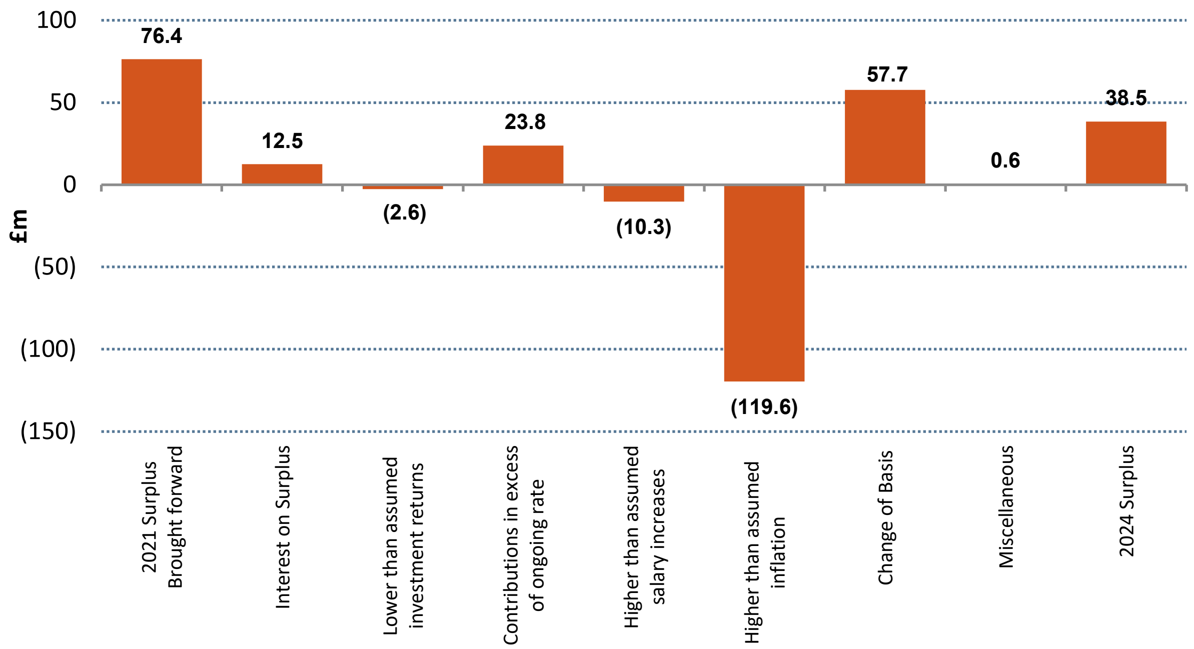
The appropriate actuarial certification of the Scheme's Technical Provisions is included as Appendix F to this report.

The Trustee and the University should be aware that the Technical Provisions are not the same as the cost of winding up the Scheme. This is shown in Section 9 of the report.

The past service surplus of £38.5m compares to the surplus disclosed by the previous valuation of £76.4m. An approximate analysis of the principal factors affecting the level of surplus since the previous valuation is given below.

	£m's
Surplus/(Deficit) as at 31 July 2021	**76.4**
Interest on Surplus/(Deficit)	12.5
Contributions higher than expected	23.8
Investment returns lower than assumed	(2.6)
Pensionable Salary increases higher than assumed	(10.3)
Pension increases and revaluation higher than assumed	(119.6)
Changes in assumptions	57.7
Miscellaneous	0.6
Surplus/(Deficit) as at 31 July 2024	**38.5**

Analysis of experience, £m



6.3. Significant variations

The most significant variations in the analysis are as a result of:

- Deficit funding contributions paid by the University;
- Inflation and salary increases were significantly higher than assumed;
- Changes in the valuation basis, mainly as a result of changes to mortality assumptions following the Scheme experience analysis, and an increase in the assumed rate of investment return.

6.4. Expenses

I have reviewed the allowances for the ongoing expenses of the Scheme and compared them to recent actual experience. Over the past 3 years the ongoing expenses have averaged 1.3% per annum of Pensionable Salaries.

The PPF levies account for 0.3% of the above actual expense allowance, although this has recently fallen to just under 0.2%.

The current allowances for expenses are 0.9% per annum of Pensionable Salaries plus 1% of the Technical Provisions.

We have retained the current allowances on the assumption that the recent higher levels were exceptional, and that expenses will return to a lower level in the long term. However, in the short term there may be additional costs from the forthcoming GMP equalisation exercise.

6.5. Future service cost and contributions

The overall joint (member plus Employers) contribution rate to fund future benefit accrual is 11.8% of Pensionable Salaries. This includes allowances for members' contributions, the cost of self-insuring the death in service benefit and for the expenses of running the Scheme. It excludes any allowance for member AVCs.

A breakdown of the contribution rates is set out in the table below with the prior figures in brackets.

	Salary Sacrifice Members		Non-Salary Sacrifice Members	
	Active Members %	Employers %	Active Members %	Employers %
Pre-2013 Members paying additional contributions under Rule 45.6	Nil	21.6 (22.6)	8.5	13.1 (14.1)
Other Pre-2013 Members	Nil	18.4 (19.6)	5.0	13.4 (14.6)
Post-2013 Members	Nil	9.9 (10.6)	3.0	6.9 (7.6)

For all categories of member, the cost of accrual has slightly decreased compared to the last valuation. This is mainly due to the increase in the discount rate, partly offset by the rise in the weighted average ages of members in all categories.

The University and the Trustee have agreed that the Employers will continue paying contributions for future accrual at the current rates until 31 July 2025, and then reduce to the main rates shown above.

The Scheme is in surplus and as such there is no requirement for a deficit reduction contribution.

6.6. Future progression and material developments

Based upon the above total contributions and assuming that experience matches the adopted assumptions for the funding calculations the above funding level is expected to increase a little to 105% at the next actuarial valuation. This is because interest on the existing surplus plus the overall contributions over the 3 years will be a little higher than expected to meet the pension accrual costs.

I am not aware of any material developments that would affect funding over the next 3 years.

6.7. Further issues: CETVs

We recommend that the CETV basis be reviewed following completion of this valuation.

As the Scheme has a surplus on the funding basis member reserves are sufficient to pay CETVs in full and the Trustee is not allowed to reduce them.

6.8. Scheme factors

The actuarial factors used in individual member calculations are due for review to reflect the changes in economic and demographic conditions since the last valuation.

We have considered the impact of updating the commutation factors. This would see the factors reduce by around 6-7% and increase the funding surplus by approximately £4m. We will carry out a full review post valuation.

7. Funding Risks and Sensitivities

7.1. Funding risks

There are risks inherent with any funding objective, even if the funding target is met, and the following risks should be appreciated and where possible mitigated.

7.2. Sponsor risk

If an Employer becomes insolvent or is otherwise unable to meet the contribution rate set then the risk is that members may not receive all benefits they expect. The Trustee take a prudent approach to funding to mitigate this risk to some extent.

7.3. Investment return

If the assets under-perform the returns assumed in setting the funding target then additional contributions may be required at subsequent valuations.

7.4. Investment matching risk

The solvency target is closely related to the return on bonds. If the Scheme holds other assets and should the Scheme wind-up at a time when these other assets have fallen in value relative to the matching assets of bonds, members may not receive their full expected benefits. If the Scheme were not to wind-up, additional contributions may be required.

7.5. Longevity risk

If future improvements in mortality exceed the assumptions made then additional contributions may be required. The Trustee has taken a prudent approach to possible future improvements in longevity to help mitigate this risk.

7.6. Solvency risk

As the funding target is not a solvency target, and the investment strategy does not follow that required for a solvency target, the assets of the Scheme may not be sufficient to provide all members with the full value of their benefits on a Scheme wind-up.

7.7. Inflation risk

Scheme benefits are linked to inflation. If actual inflation is higher than expected or if future inflation expectation increases then additional contributions may be required at subsequent valuations.

7.8. Concentration of assets

If the Scheme invests a significant proportion of its assets in one class of investments, for example UK equities, or in one specific investment, it is exposed to an increased risk from falls in that investment. This may reduce the level of funding and require additional contributions to correct. The Trustee has no such investment.

7.9. Self-investment risk

If the Scheme invests in the Employers in any form, it is at risk that the value of this investment will fall if the Employers perform badly. This will coincide with the time the Employers are least able to make additional contributions to correct the situation. The Trustee does not invest in the Employers to help avoid this risk.

7.10. Member option risk

If members of the Scheme exercise options allowed by the Scheme on a scale which is sufficient to lead to an increase in costs, the Scheme funding position may worsen. Currently there are no such options that apply without Trustee and Employer consent. The Trustee would request that the exercise of such options would be funded by the Employers at that time.

7.11. Climate related risk

The world's climate is changing and this poses risks to the provision of benefits for members. These could arise from:

- Physical risks – the risks arising from potential degradation to physical assets; e.g. property damage, disruption of resource availability, due to extreme weather events such as flooding and in the longer-term from changes to rainfall patterns affecting land use and the movement of populations reducing local workforce availability.
- Transition risks – depending on the nature and speed of mitigation and adaptation policies and requirements by governments and regulators related to climate change, transition risks may pose varying levels of financial and reputational risk to pension funds from the potentially rapid reduction in the market value of, or income generated by, assets.
- Liability impacts – extreme hot or cold weather might impact death rates, whereas generally warmer winters might improve life expectancy and so longevity improvement trends.

Investment management is delegated to managers who will be aware of this risk in their portfolio construction. It is difficult to predict the impact on life expectancy for members largely based in the UK. Furthermore, the

Trustee should consider the extent to which climate change may impact businesses (and so employer covenants).

It is difficult to quantify any specific impact at this point in time – the Trustee should keep this under review as more evidence develops.

7.12. Summary

The above list is not exhaustive but covers the main risks for the Scheme. Some of the risks can be reduced by adjusting the funding strategy, for example investment matching risk. Other risks cannot be removed, for example longevity risk, and the Trustee must be aware of these risks and monitor them closely.

7.13. Sensitivities

The risks discussed above can have a significant impact on the results of the valuation. For example, the financial assumptions that have the most significant effect on the results of the valuation relate to the investment return, the rate of increase in Pensionable Salaries and the rates of increase of pensions in payment or deferment. In addition, improving longevity can also result in increased Scheme liabilities.

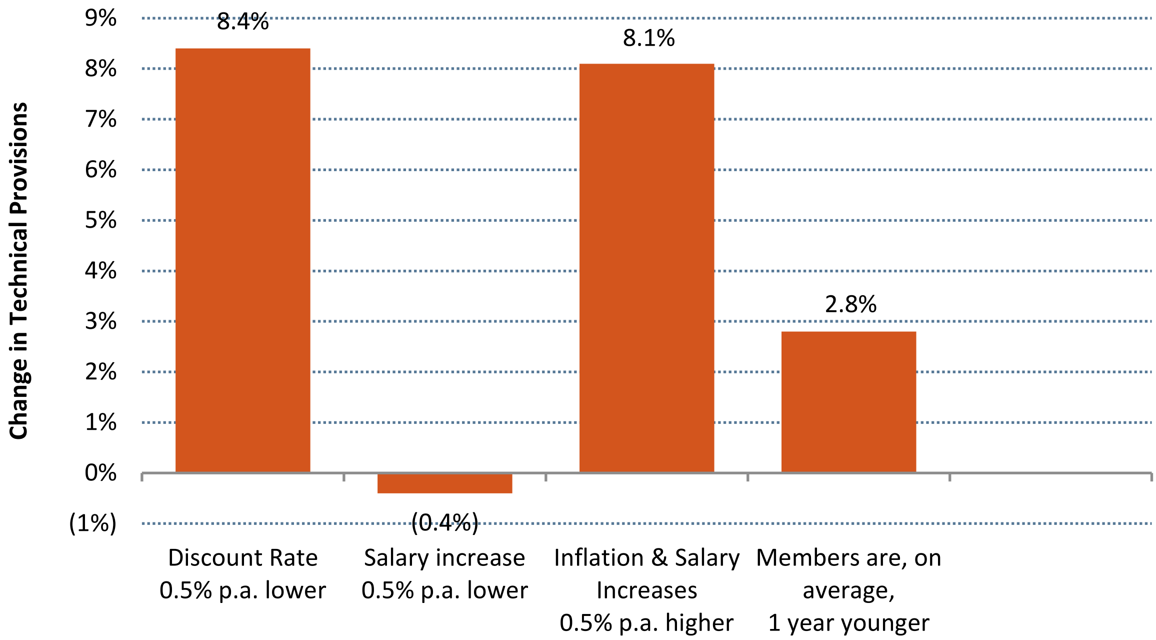
The chart below shows the approximate percentage increase in the Scheme's funding objective liabilities if each of the assumptions was changed by the amount specified. The figures shown are for a guide only as the effects of changing the assumptions are interdependent.

We have also included a 'neutral' valuation with the following margins for prudence removed from the funding assumptions:

- 3.1% per annum from the investment return;
- The mortality scaling factors were all increased by a fixed 5%;
- 0.25% per annum from the additional improvement rate;
- Proportion married be set at 75% for males and 65% for females.

The impact of these changes is to reduce the value of the liabilities by 35.1%.

Sensitivity analysis - Percentage change to Technical Provisions



The chart shows that the discount rate and inflation assumptions have the greatest impact on the size of the Scheme's liabilities as they impact on nearly all Scheme benefits. Therefore the Scheme's funding position is likely to deteriorate significantly if the Scheme's assets do not attain the real investment return assumed.

8. Pension Protection Fund – Section 179 Valuation

8.1. Background

Since April 2005 the Scheme has been required to pay levies to the Pensions Protection Fund (PPF). The PPF provides a minimum level of benefit for members of pension schemes that wind-up in deficit.

In order to assess the appropriate levy the PPF require pension schemes to submit Section 179 valuations at least every three years. The Section 179 valuation requires the Scheme Actuary to value the PPF level of benefits using a method and assumptions defined by the PPF Board, and detailed on their website.

	£000's
Value of benefits in respect of:	
Active Members' service on or before 31 July 2024	227,009
Deferred Pensioners	255,800
Current Pensioners	369,089
Expenses of winding up	3,000
Expenses of benefit installation	10,405
Total Section 179 liabilities (A)	**865,303**
Market Value of Scheme Assets (B)	**918,684**
Section 179 Surplus/(Deficit) (B-A)	**53,381**
Level of Section 179 Funding(B/A)	**106%**

8.2. Changes since previous valuation

The previous valuation followed guidance G8 and used assumptions A10. In accordance with the requirements of the PPF these have been updated to guidance G10 and assumptions A11 for this valuation.

The PPF funding level has improved significantly from 55% to 106% since the last valuation, mainly as a result of:

- the significant increase in gilt yields
- changes to the PPF's valuation basis; and
- contributions by the University being more than sufficient to cover the costs of accrual on the PPF basis.

This is partially offset by the impact of much higher than expected inflation over the period.

8.3. Additional information

These results need to be supplied to the Pensions Regulator and the PPF Board via the Pensions Regulator's online Exchange system.

When submitting information on Exchange the following additional information is required:

Section 179 guidance used	G10
Section 179 assumptions used	A11
Percentage of assets held as insurance contracts where this is not included in the asset value recorded in the Scheme accounts	0.05%
Percentage of liabilities matched by insurance contracts:	
Active members	0%
Deferred pensioners	0%
Pensioners	0.1%

Proportion of liabilities related to period of service:

	Pre-6 April 1997	6 April 1997 to 5 April 2009	Post-5 April 2009
Active members	5%	26%	69%
Deferred members	11%	45%	44%
Pensioners	35%	65%	

	Members	Average Ages
Active members	5,099	53
Deferred pensioners	6,191	50
Pensioners	3,874	71

The average age shown is weighted by PPF liabilities as at the effective date of this valuation, for each member type, and rounded to the nearest whole year.

8.4 Development of future PPF funding level

The future PPF funding level can be expected to decrease as members pass Normal Retirement Age and so become entitled to a higher level of compensation from the PPF. In contrast, investment returns in excess of those assumed to be achieved will improve the funding level.

Member movements will also have an effect, though these are expected to be less material than the above factors. In practice, the position can be expected to be volatile.

9. Solvency Position

9.1. Solvency

We have separately considered the solvency position, assuming that the Scheme was wound-up at the valuation date and members' accrued benefits were secured by the purchase of deferred and immediate annuity policies issued by an insurance company.

This is an approximation only as the true cost can only be provided by approaching an insurance company directly for a quotation.

9.2. Summary of Assumptions

The key assumptions adopted for the solvency valuation are shown below. The equivalent assumptions for the solvency valuation at the previous valuation are also shown for comparison:

	Solvency valuation	Previous solvency valuation
Pre-retirement return – non-pensioners	Bank of England yield curve – 0.2% p.a.	Bank of England yield curve – 0.2% p.a.
Post-retirement return – non-pensioners	Bank of England yield curve – 0.2% p.a.	Bank of England yield curve – 0.2% p.a.
Discount rate for pensioners	Bank of England yield curve	Bank of England yield curve
RPI inflation	Bank of England RPI yield curve	Bank of England RPI yield curve – 0.2% p.a.
CPI inflation	RPI-0.8% to 2030; and RPI-0% from 2031	RPI-0.65% to 2030; and RPI-0.1% from 2031
Mortality pre and post retirement	106% of S4PMA and 98% of S4PFA and 118% of S4DFA. Plus a projection based upon the CMI_2023 model with a long-term 1.5% p.a. improvement, with an initial improvement rate of 0.5% p.a. and standard smoothing factor 7.0	115% of S3PMA pension mortality tables for males and 100% of S3PFA pension mortality tables for females. Plus a projection based upon the CMI_2020 model with a long-term 1.5% p.a. improvement, with an initial improvement rate of 0.5% p.a. and standard smoothing factor 7.0

9.3. Expenses

We have included an estimate of the expenses associated with organising a wind-up equal to 1% of the liabilities. The true cost of winding-up the Scheme may be higher or lower than this estimate.

9.4. Summary

On this basis the solvency position of the Scheme at the valuation date is shown below:

	Solvency valuation £000's	Previous solvency valuation £000's
Value of benefits in respect of:		
▪ Active Members	307,421	796,064
▪ Deferred Pensioners	349,984	727,938
▪ Current Pensioners	464,471	557,254
▪ Expenses	11,219	20,813
Total solvency liabilities (A)	1,133,095	2,102,069
Market Value of Scheme Assets (B)	918,252	814,650
Solvency Surplus/(Deficit) (B-A)	(214,843)	(1,287,419)
Level of Solvency Funding (B/A)%	81%	39%

9.5. Changes since previous valuation

The solvency level has improved substantially from 39% to 81% since the last valuation as a result of the points highlighted in Section 8.2.

9.6. Expected solvency level at next triennial valuation

Assuming that all actuarial assumptions in this Section are borne out in practice, then I expect the solvency level to reduce to around 79% at the next valuation. This is due to contributions paid being insufficient to meet the accrual of benefits on the solvency basis plus interest on the existing solvency deficit.

9.7. Comparison with scheme funding

Had the Scheme's funding objective been met in full, the level of solvency funding would have been 78%.

The Solvency basis places a higher value on the Scheme liabilities than the Funding basis. This is due to different assumptions adopted under this basis. This basis provides a useful reference point for the Trustee and University when considering the adequacy of the Technical Provisions.

9.8. Debt on Employer

Under current legislation if the Scheme were to be wound-up the deficit on the solvency basis would be imposed as a debt due from the Employer. If the Employer is unable to pay the debt in full, then the liabilities would be met in the order of priority set out in the Scheme's Trust Deed and Rules as overridden by the Pensions Act 1995 and subsequent Regulations.

9.9. Priority order

The cover, on the solvency basis, of the Scheme benefits using the order of priority which would apply as at the date of signature of this report is as follows:

Liability	Cover
Expenses and money purchase benefits	100%
Benefits provided by the Pensions Protection Fund	100%
Benefits in excess of those provided by the Pensions Protection Fund	12%

This table shows that at the valuation date the benefits provided by the Pensions Protection Fund (PPF) were covered in full.

9.10. Future progression and material developments

Based upon the assumptions adopted for the solvency calculations, payments of Employer contributions at the rate detailed in Section 11 are projected to be insufficient to fund on the solvency basis. Consequently the above solvency position is expected to deteriorate slightly over the period to the next actuarial valuation.

Employer contributions at the rate detailed in Section 11 are also likely to worsen the level of coverage on the current order of priorities. However in the period to the next valuation the change is unlikely to be significant.

10. Investment Strategy

10.1. Background

The Pensions Act 1995 requires the Trustee to regularly review their Statement of Investment Principles to ensure that it is consistent and compliant with Section 36 (“Choosing Investments”). We have therefore set out below some comments on the nature of the Scheme’s liabilities to assist in this review.

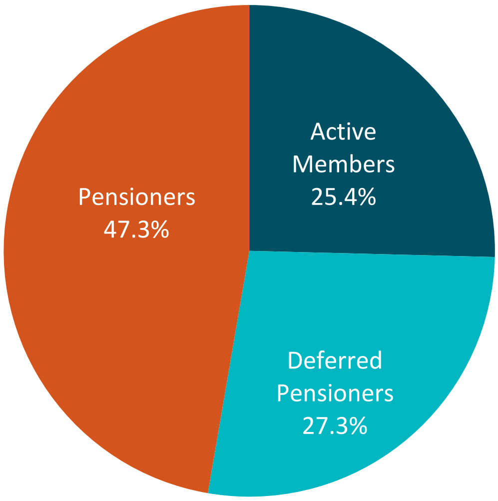
10.2. Asset split

Appendix B provides details of the Scheme’s assets at the valuation date. At that time approximately 78% of the assets were invested in equity, hedge funds and property assets, which provide unknown future returns. The remainder of the assets were invested in gilts and corporate bonds, which, if held until maturity, provide known returns assuming there are no defaults.

10.3. Liability split

The chart below shows the breakdown of the Scheme’s funding objective liabilities between the various classes of member.

Technical provisions by member categories, %



10.4. Comparison

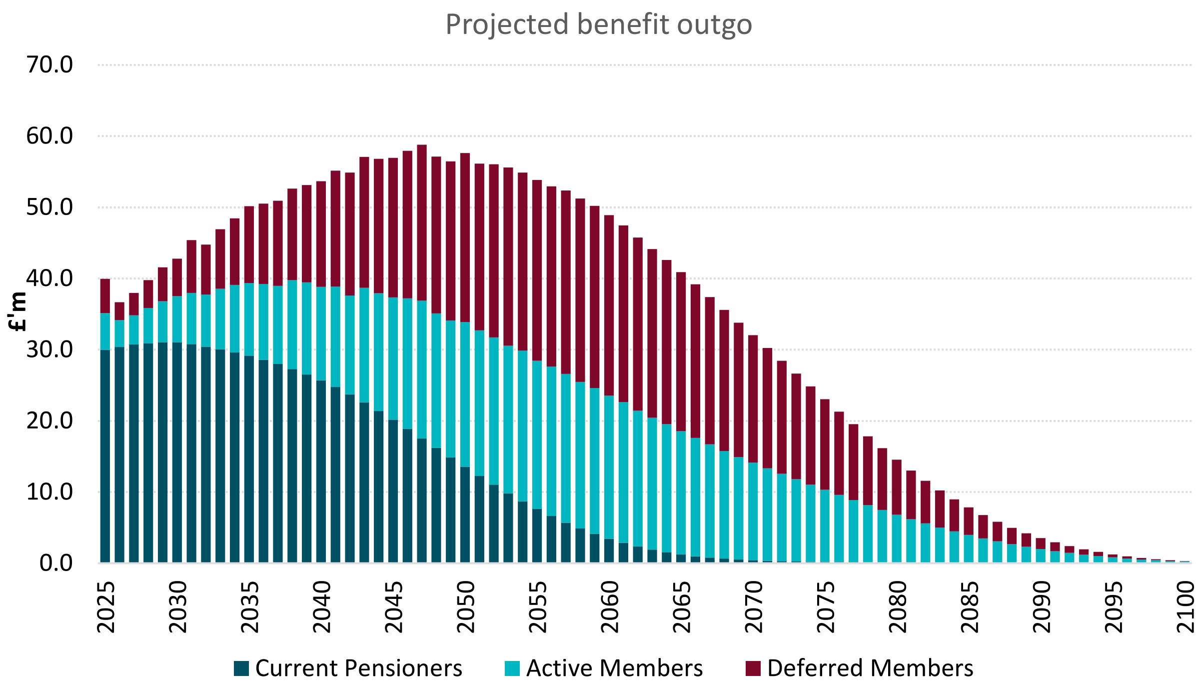
Looking at the chart, the Scheme has a significant proportion (47%) of its liabilities directly related to pensioners. The Scheme assets are only 22% invested in bonds and cash and so this will increase the volatility of the funding level as the assets and liabilities will not change value in the same way.

10.5. Recommendation

There are a number of different funding measures the Scheme can match against in order to reduce risk with respect to the funding measure. Alternatively, the Trustee might wish to accept a certain degree of mismatching in the expectation of higher investment returns. I understand that the Trustee has recently reviewed their investment strategy and appreciate the risks associated with this element of mismatching.

10.6. Scheme cash flows

The chart below shows the anticipated future cash flows of the Scheme based on the assumptions underlying the Scheme Funding basis.



11. Conclusions

11.1. Funding level and Recovery Plan

The Scheme's funding level on the Statutory Funding Objective at the valuation date was 104%, equivalent to a surplus of £38.5 million. At the previous valuation the ongoing funding level was 110%. The main reason for the lower surplus has been the much higher than expected inflation over the period since the previous valuation.

The ongoing total contribution rate for future accrual is 11.8% of Pensionable Salaries, ignoring the past service surplus. Expenses including PPF levies are included in this contribution rate.

11.2. Solvency and PPF Section 179 funding level

The solvency position of the Scheme is a funding level of 81% at the valuation date. Contributions at the rates above are insufficient to fund the solvency basis. Consequently the above solvency position is expected to deteriorate slightly over the period to the next actuarial valuation.

The PPF Section 179 funding level is 106%.

11.3. CETVs

We recommend that the CETV basis be reviewed following completion of this valuation. As the Scheme has a funding surplus, the Trustee can continue to pay transfer values in full.

11.4. Factors

The actuarial factors used in individual member calculations should be updated following the completion of the valuation to reflect changing economic and demographic conditions.

11.5. Timescale and future valuation requirements

The next triennial valuation is due to take place as at 31 July 2027.

As this Scheme has more than 100 members, interim actuarial reports will be required as at 31 July 2025 and 31 July 2026.

As this Scheme has a funding surplus the valuation information should be included as part of your next Scheme Return.

A Summary Funding Statement should then be sent to members updating them on the Scheme's funding position. This should be issued by 31 January 2026.

Robert Sweet

Scheme Actuary

Fellow of the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries

11 April 2025

RJS/di

Appendix A - Membership Data

The Scheme membership data was supplied by the Pensions Office on behalf of the Trustee. We have relied on the accuracy of the information provided.

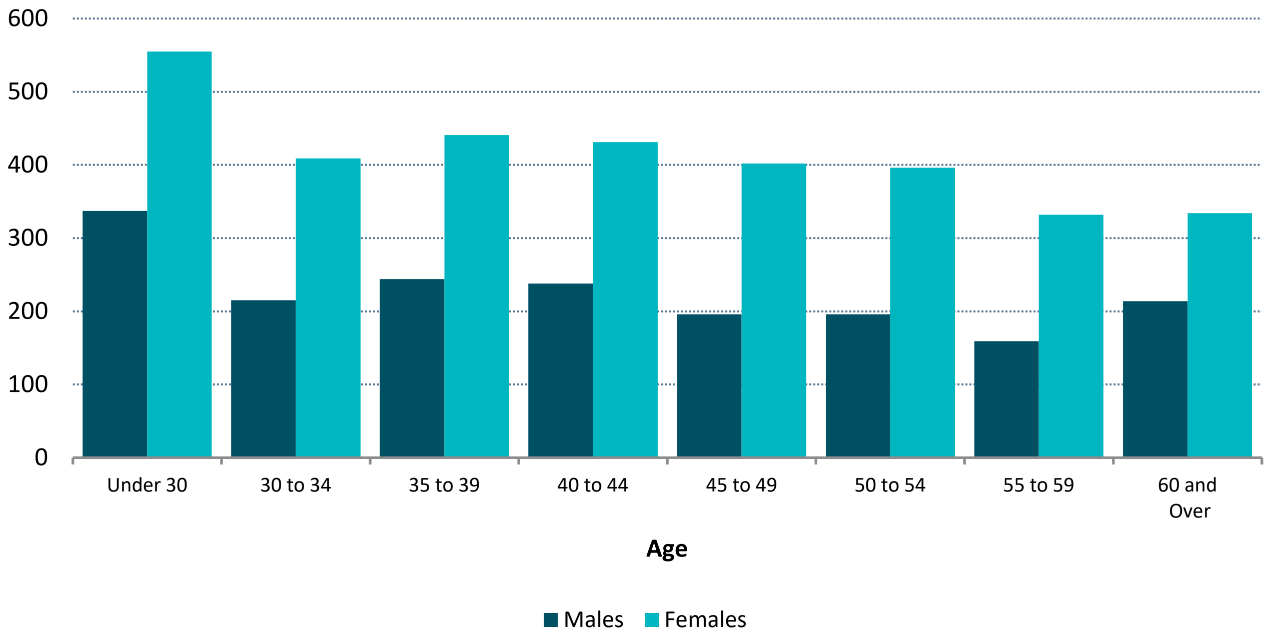
The data used in the valuation is summarised below, the previous valuation data is summarised in brackets for comparison.

Active Members	Males	Females	Total
Number of members	1,799	3,300	5,099 (5,077)
Total pensionable salaries, p.a.	53,548,437	91,206,664	144,755,101 (126,227,593)
Average pensionable salary p.a.	29,766	27,638	28,389 (24,863)
Average Pre 1 January 2013 past service (years)	2.2	1.6	1.8 (2.7)
Post 1 January 2013 accrued CRB pension p.a.	2,735,701	4,051,567	6,787,268 (5,586,793)
Average age (years)	43.0	43.2	43.2 (43)
Discounted mean term to retirement (years)	11.0	11.5	11.3 12.0

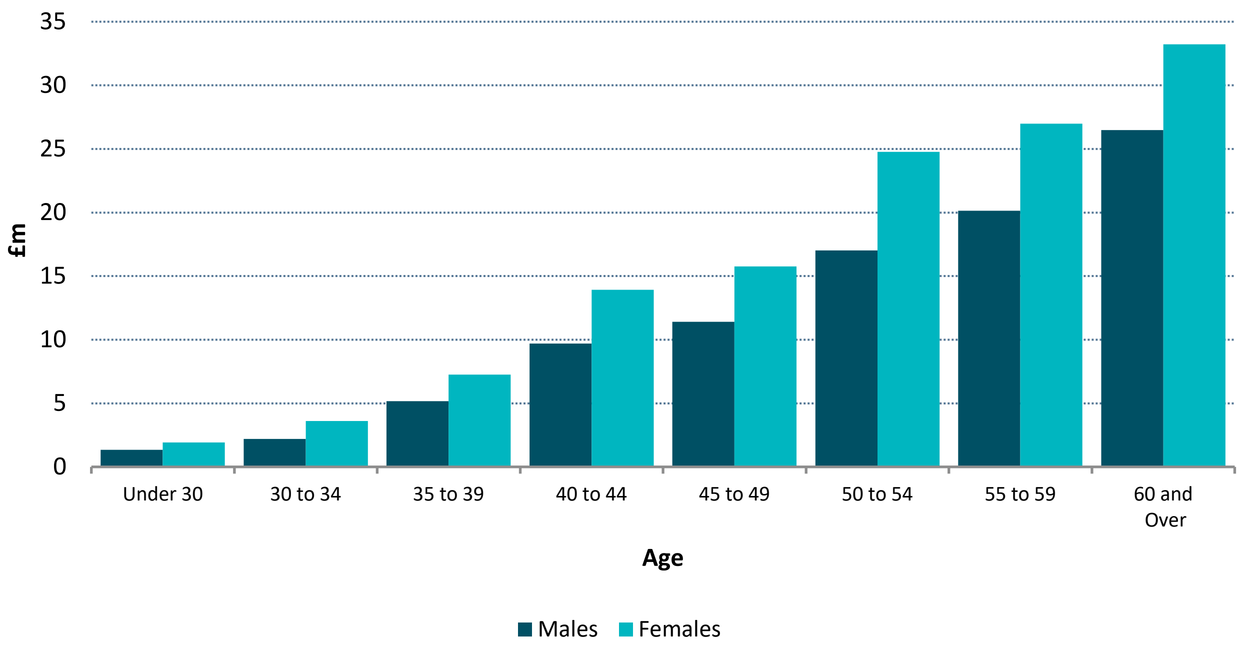
Notes:

- The member numbers have been agreed with the Pensions Office.
- The figures for the previous actuarial valuation are shown in brackets where available.
- Included in these statistics are 127 active members who have not yet retired, but who have passed age 65.
- Total Pensionable Salaries shown above are the actual Pensionable Salary paid to members (i.e. not full time equivalent for part-timers) as provided to us by the Pensions Office.
- The Average Past Service is the full time equivalent past service, it includes transferred-in added years, augmentations and AVC added years where appropriate.
- The discounted Mean Term to Retirement is the average term to the assumed retirement date, weighted by members’ Technical Provisions.

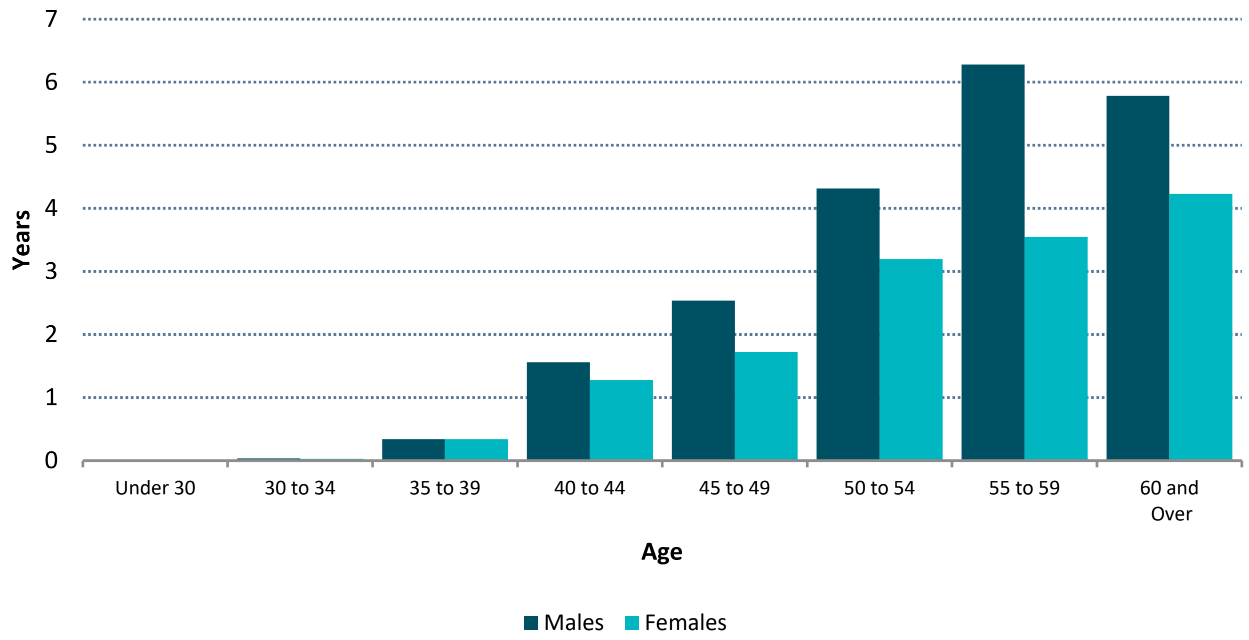
Number of active members by age



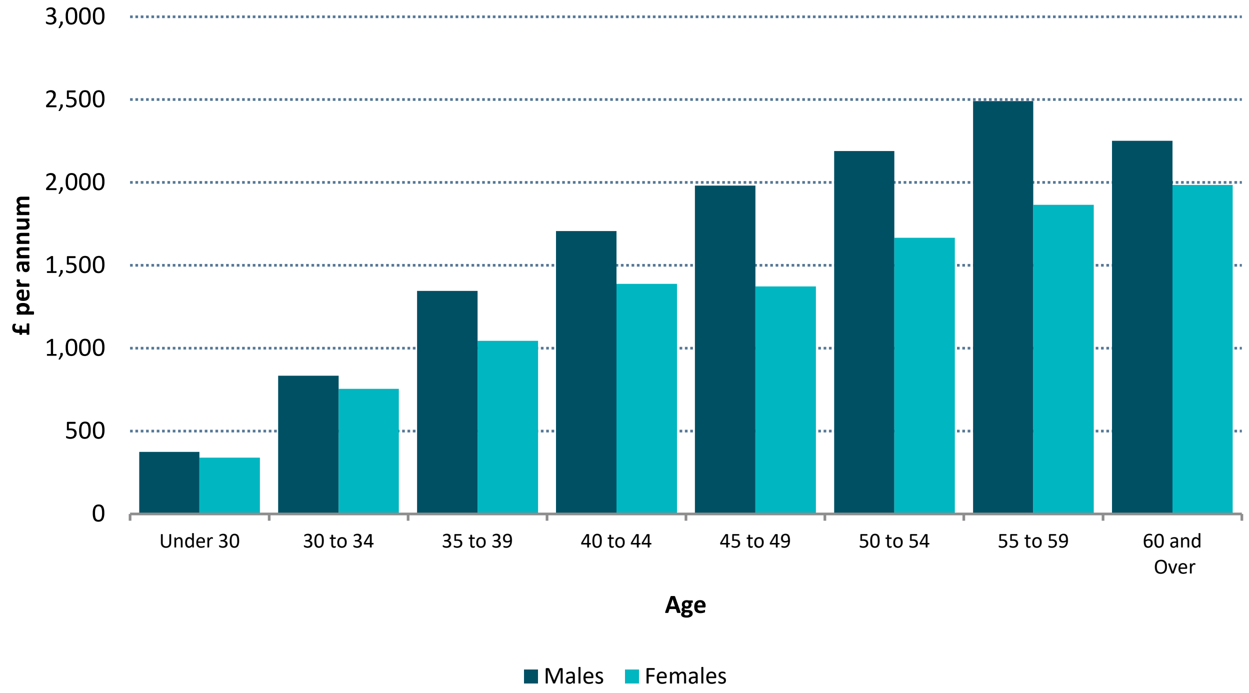
Technical provisions by age in respect of active members, £m



Average full-time equivalent accrued service to 1 January 2013 for the Final Salary Benefits (years)



Total CRB pensions accrued from 1 January 2013

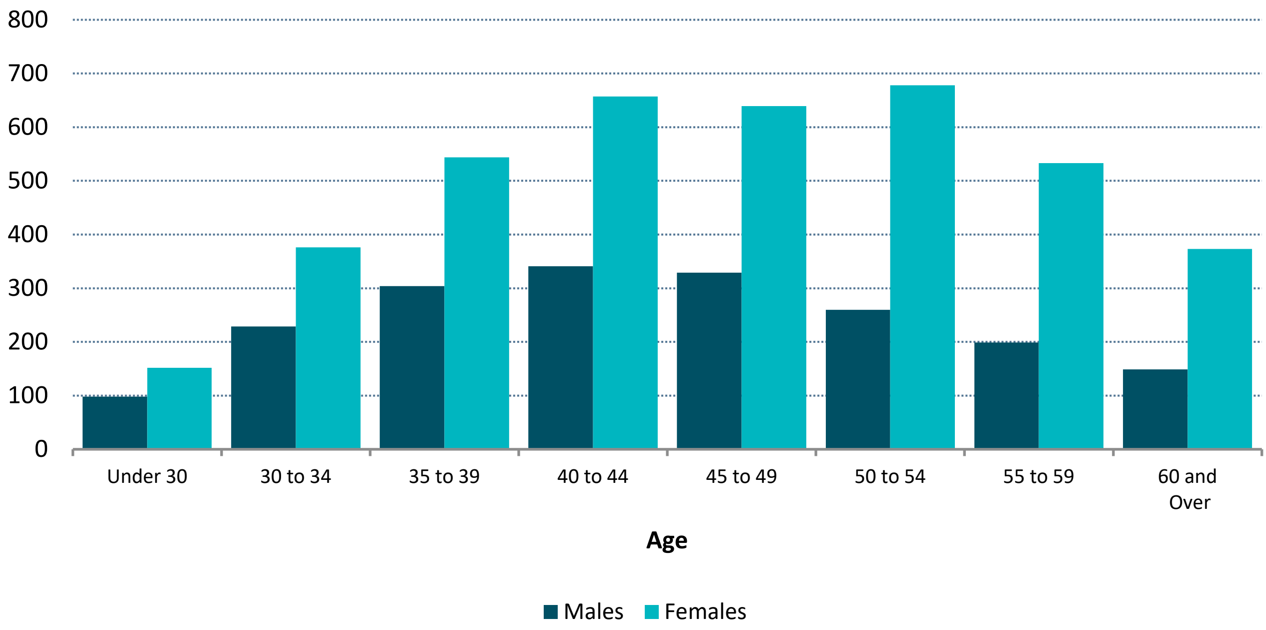


Deferred Pensioners	Male	Female	Total
Number of deferred pensioners	1,909	3,952	5,861 (4,871)
Total deferred pensions, £ p.a. payable as at date of leaving	5,059,696	9,567,394	14,627,090 (11,040,365)
Average deferred pensions, £ p.a. payable as at date of leaving	2,650	2,421	2,496 (2,267)
Average age (years)	45.2	46.8	46.3 (46.1)
Discounted Mean Term to retirement (years)	12.1	11.0	11.4 (11.7)

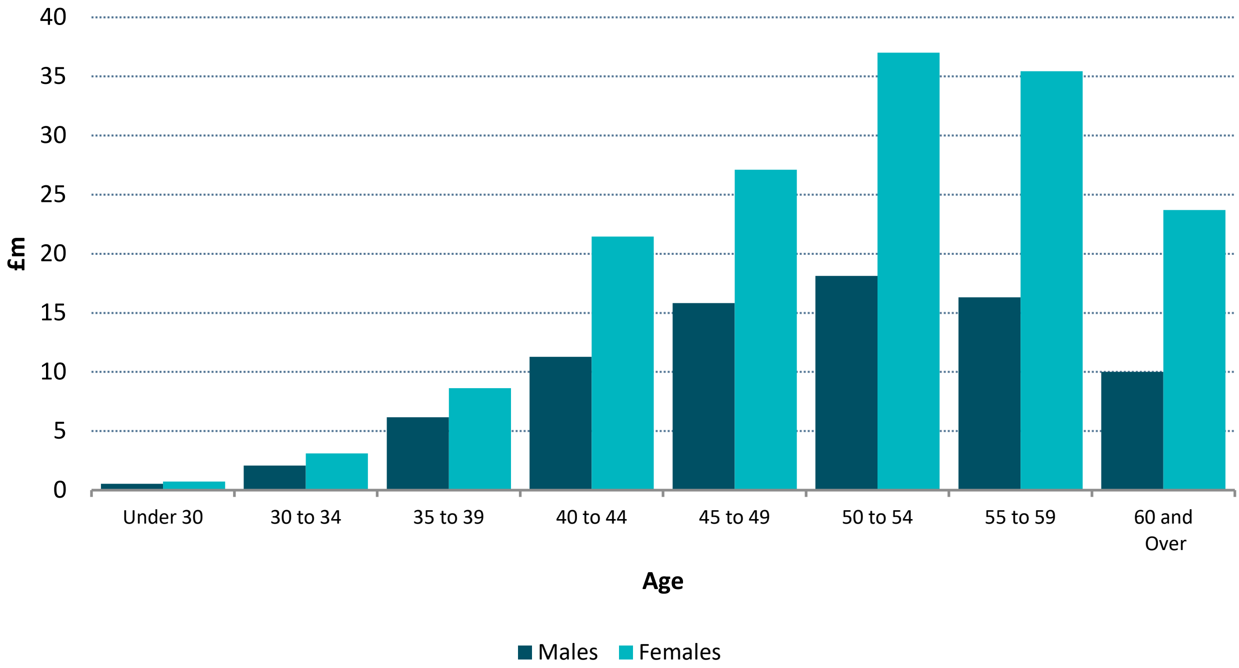
Notes

- The number of members has been reconciled and agreed with the Pensions Office.
- The figures for the previous actuarial valuation are shown in brackets where available.
- Included in these statistics are 101 deferred pensioners who have not yet retired, but who have passed age 65.
- The following graphs illustrate the current statistics in greater detail.
- The discounted Mean Term to Retirement is the average term to the assumed retirement date weighted by members' Technical Provisions.
- In addition, there are 330 short service Pending Members who are due either a Refund of Contributions or Cash Transfer Amount which we have valued accordingly.

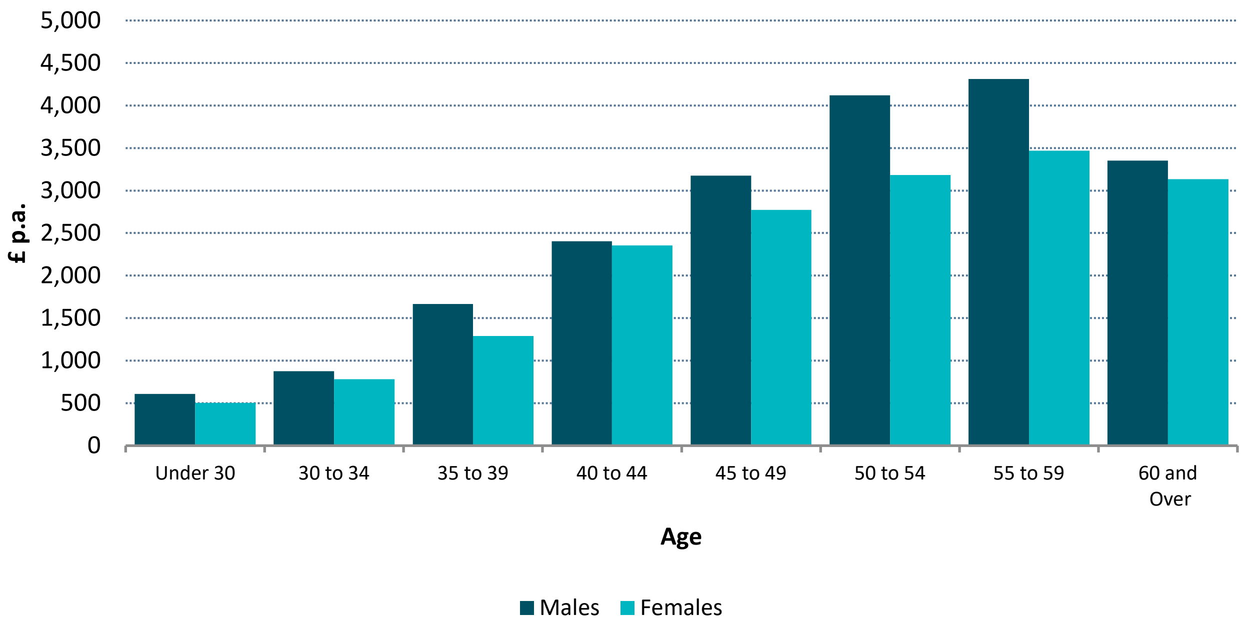
Number of deferred pensioners by age



Technical provisions by age in respect of deferred pensioners, £m



Average pensions at leaving

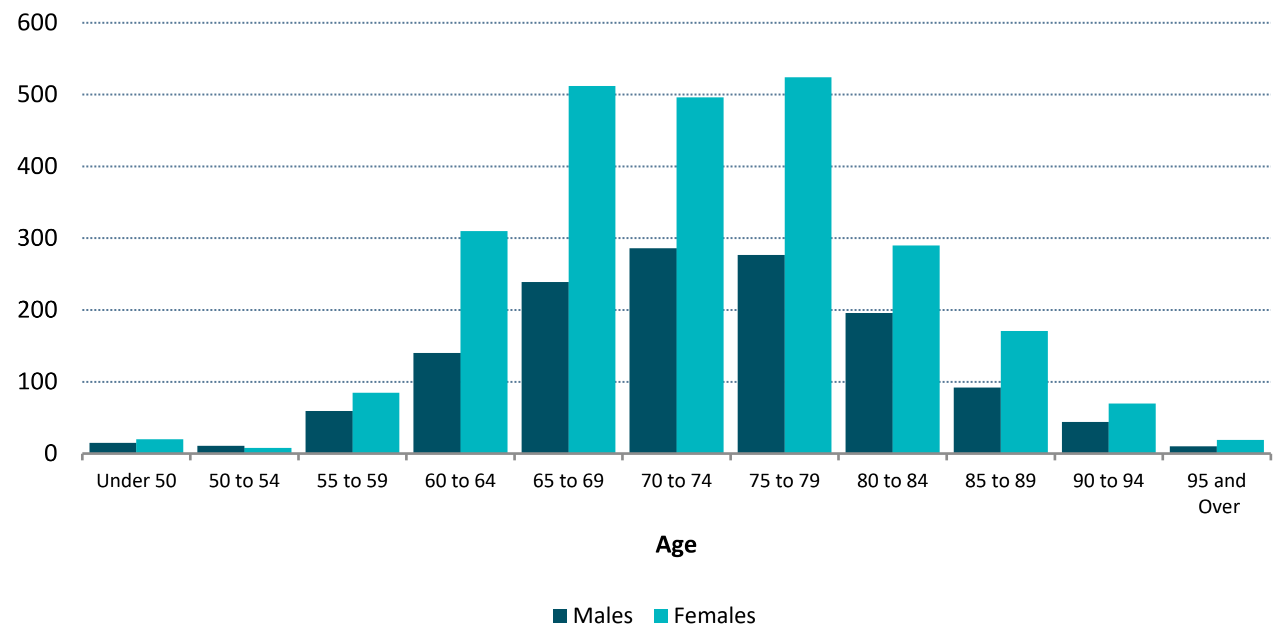


Pensioners	Male	Female	Total
Number of pensioners	1,369	2,505	3,874 (3,453)
Total pensions, £ p.a. payable from valuation date	13,594,413	16,380,374	29,974,787 (22,048,852)
Average pension p.a. payable from valuation date	9,930	6,539	7,737 (6,385)
Average age (years)	73.6	73.3	73.4 (72.9)

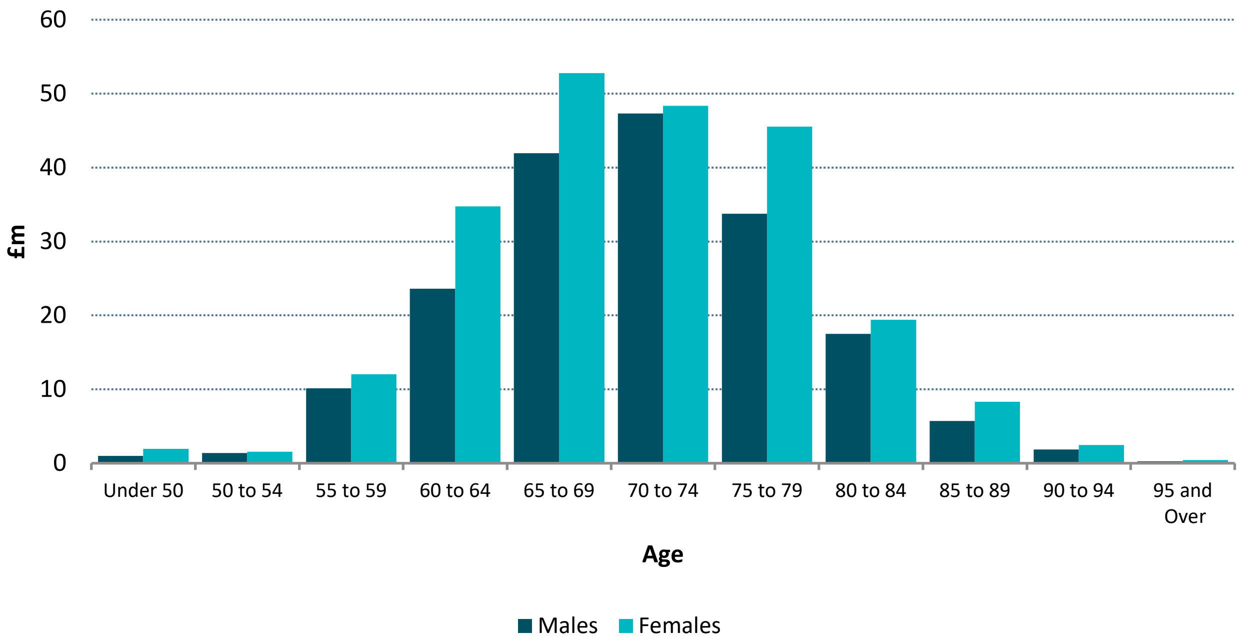
Notes

- The number of pensioners has been reconciled and agreed with the Pensions Office.
- The figures for the previous actuarial valuation are shown in brackets where available.
- There are 503 dependant pensioners included in the above statistics and 16 children sharing dependants' pensions.
- The following graphs illustrate the current statistics in greater detail.

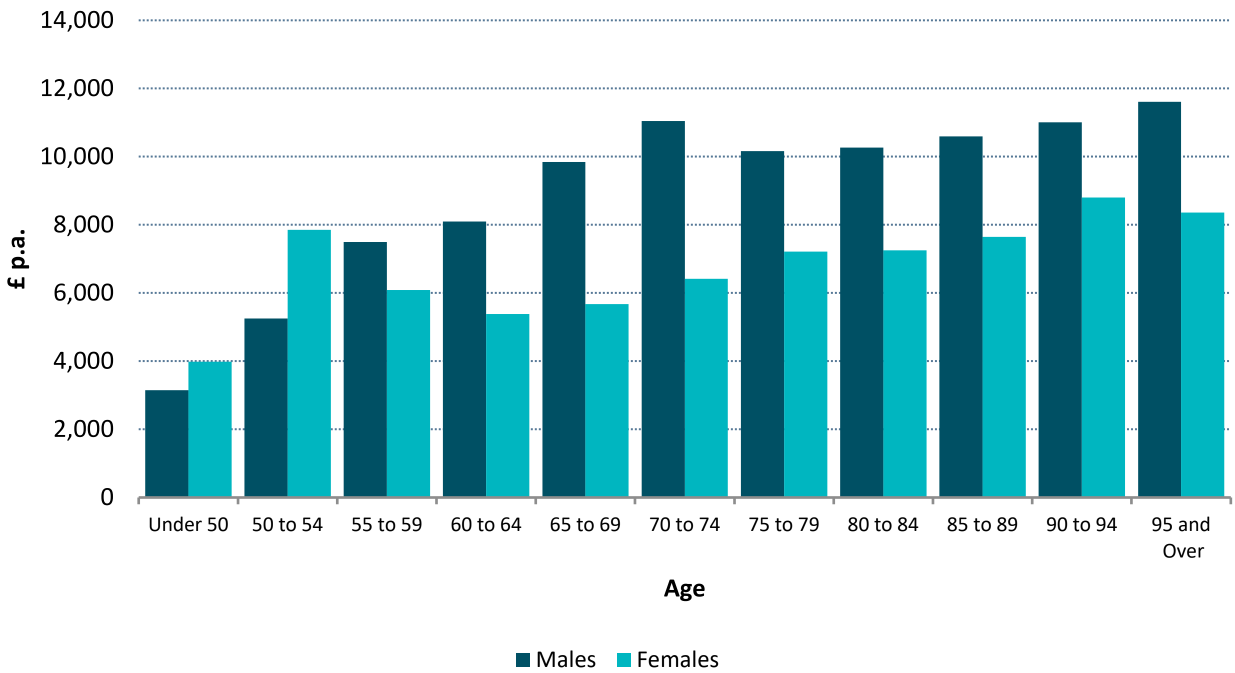
Number of pensioners by age



Technical provisions by age in respect of pensioners, £m



Average pensions at the valuation date, £p.a.



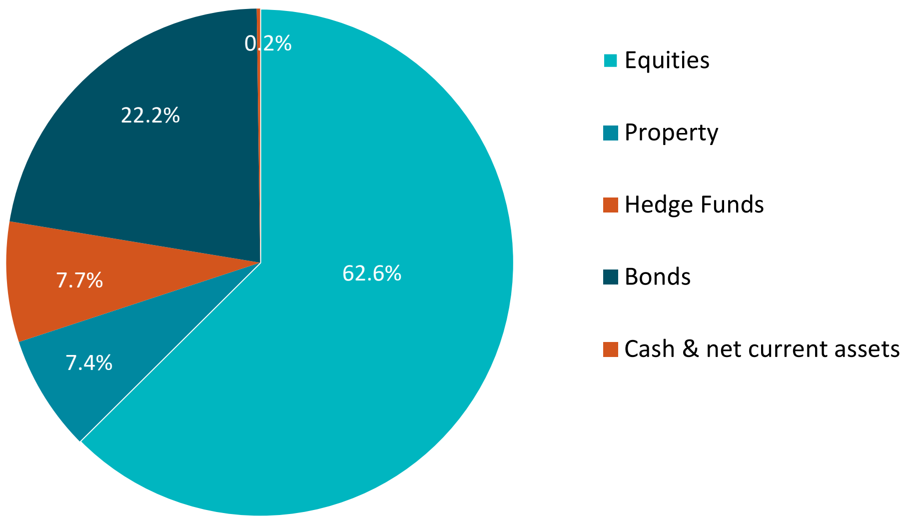
Appendix B - Scheme Assets

The Scheme's audited accounts show that the Scheme held the following assets as at 31 July 2024. This excludes the value of members' money purchase AVC funds.

	Market Value £
Pooled Investment Vehicles	916,424,423
Cash	933,878
Net Current Assets	893,644
Total	**918,251,965**

The chart below shows the breakdown of the assets by asset class.

Asset split by categories, %



Appendix C - Summary of Benefits and Member Contributions

Eligibility

The Scheme is open to existing members and future new entrants. The employees covered by the Scheme were contracted out of the State Second Pension (S2P) up to 31 December 2012. From 1 January 2013 the Scheme members were contracted back into S2P.

For Scheme Service accrued prior to 1 January 2013 for members who joined the Scheme before 1 December 2009

1.	Normal Pension Age (NPA)	The NPA for all members is 65, although all members may retire at any time after age 60 and receive an immediate unreduced pension.
2.	Pensionable Salary	Basic salary plus any allowances that have been determined to be pensionable by the Employer. It is the amount notified to the Trustee by the Employer which would have applied had the Member not been in the Salary Sacrifice Arrangement.
3.	Final Pensionable Salary	The greatest of: ▪ Pensionable Salary for the last 12 months ▪ Best indexed Pensionable Salary in the 12 month period starting 3 years before retirement, termination or death ▪ Highest indexed average of 3 years Pensionable Salaries in the last 13 years preceding retirement, termination or death ▪ Pensionable Salary in the 12 months ending 3 years before retirement, termination or death – no indexation ▪ Pensionable Salary in the 12 months ending 4 years before retirement, termination or death – no indexation.
4.	Pensionable Service	Pensionable Service is composed of: ▪ the number of years and days contributory membership of the Scheme with a Participating Employer; plus ▪ the number of years and days service, if any, granted in respect of a transfer value paid to the Scheme; plus ▪ the number of years and days service, if any, granted in respect of AVCs.
5.	Normal Retirement Pension	At NPA an annual pension of: 1/60th of Final Pensionable Salary for each year (and proportionately for days) of Pensionable Service.
6.	Early Retirement Pension in Normal Health	Members may retire after age 55 with the consent of the University and the Trustee.

		All members retiring at or after age 60: 1/60th of Final Pensionable Salary for each year (and proportionately for days) of Pensionable Service. All members retiring between age 55 and 60: 1/60th of Final Pensionable Salary for each year (and proportionately for days) of Pensionable Service, reduced by an actuarial factor depending on the period to age 60.
7.	Exchange of pension for cash	Part of the above pension may be exchanged for a tax free cash lump sum, subject to HM Revenue & Customs limits.
8.	Benefits on Death after Retirement	▪ The balance, if any, of the first 5 years' payments of the member's pension, is paid as a lump sum **plus** ▪ A spouse's pension of two thirds of the member's pension at the date of death before any exchange of pension for cash **plus** ▪ A funeral grant of £2,500, adjusted for any tax payable.
9.	Increases to Pensions in payment	The increase in the Retail Prices Index (RPI) in the year ending each May, applied at 1 August, subject to a maximum of 12% per annum. Any increase above 12% in any year would be at the discretion of the Managing Committee of the Scheme. If the RPI is below 3% in any year, an increase of more than RPI up to a maximum of 3% could be paid at the discretion of the Managing Committee.

For a Member who joined the Scheme on or after 1 December 2009 and a Former Member who re-joined the Scheme on or after that date, the benefit provisions are the same as the above benefits except where set out separately below:

1.	Normal Pension Age (NPA)	The NPA is 65
2.	Normal Retirement Benefits	At NPA an annual pension of: **1/80th** of Final Pensionable Salary for each year (and proportionately for days) of Pensionable Service. plus **A cash lump sum of 3/80th of Final Pensionable Salary for each year (and proportionately for days) of Pensionable Service.**
3.	Early Retirement Benefits in Normal Health	Members may retire after age 55 with the consent of the University and the Trustee. The benefits provided to the Member are a pension of **1/80th** of Final Pensionable Salary **plus a lump sum of 3/80ths of Final Pensionable Salary** for each year (and proportionately for days) of Pensionable Service, in both cases reduced by an actuarial factor depending on the period to age 65.

4.	Benefits on Death after Retirement	- The balance, if any, of the first 5 years' payments of the member's pension, is paid as a lump sum plus - A spouse's pension of **one half** of the member's pension at the date of death before any exchange of pension for cash plus - A funeral grant of £2,500, adjusted for any tax payable.

For Scheme Service accrued on and after 1 January 2013

With effect from 1 January 2013 a new benefit structure has applied to both existing members and those joining the Scheme on or after that date. The Scheme now has 3 different groups of members:

- UNI 1 - Members who joined before 1 December 2009
- UNI 2 - Members who joined after 30 November 2009 and before 1 January 2013
- UNI 3 – Members who join on or after 1 January 2013

Benefits accruing on and after 1 January 2013 are a Career Average Revaluing Earnings pension. It is referred to in the Rules as "CRB Pension".

UNI 1

1.	Normal Pension Age (NPA)	The NPA is 65, but benefits can be drawn unreduced from age 63 onwards Members have the option to pay an additional contribution of 3½% of Pensionable Salary if they wish to draw benefits without reduction from age 60. These members are referred to as UNI4 members.
2.	Scheme Year	A period of 12 months ending on 31 July
3.	Annual CRB Pension	At NPA an annual pension received by Members whilst in the Pensionable Service in the relevant Scheme Year: **1/95th** of Pensionable Salary in relation to each Scheme Year ending on or before 31 July 2017 **1/95th** up to 1 January 2018 and **1/100th** between 1 January 2018 and 31 July 2018 of Pensionable Salary in relation to the Scheme Year ending 31 July 2018 **1/100th** of Pensionable Salary in relation to each Scheme Year ending on or after 31 July 2019. plus A cash lump sum of 3 times the Annual CRB Pensions for each Scheme Year.

4.	CRB Revaluation Percentage	The lesser of 5% per annum and the annual rate of the increase in the Retail Prices Index in the 12 months to the previous May in respect of the relevant Scheme Year
5.	CRB Pension Increase in payment	The lesser of 5% per annum and the annual rate of the increase in the Retail Prices Index in the 12 months to the previous May.
6.	Early Retirement Benefits in Normal Health	Members may retire after age 55 with the consent of the University and the Trustee. Actuarial reduction will apply.
7.	Benefits on Death after Retirement	▪ The balance, if any, of the first 5 years' payments of the member's pension, is paid as a lump sum **plus** ▪ A spouse's pension of 75% of the member's pension at the date of death before any exchange of pension for cash
8.	Benefits on Death in Service	▪ A lump sum of 4 times annual salary at the date of death **plus** ▪ A spouse's pension of 75% of the member's CRB pensions that the member would have accrued to the Normal Pension Date. **plus** ▪ A child's pension of 25% of the spouse's pension for each child, (up to a maximum of two) while below age 18 or, if later, receiving full time education to a maximum of age 23. The total of all the spouse's and children's pensions may not exceed the member's prospective pension.
9.	Benefits on Termination of Service	i. If the member has completed less than 2 years of Qualifying Service, he/she will be entitled to a Short Service Benefit. ii. If the member has completed 2 or more years Qualifying Service, he/she will be entitled to a CRB Pension accrued to the date of leaving. The benefits will revalue between termination and NRA in line with the CRB Revaluation Percentage.
10.	Member Contribution	5% of Pensionable Salary

UNI 2

1.	Normal Pension Age (NPA)	The NPA is **65**
2.	Scheme Year	A period of 12 months ending on 31 July
3.	Annual CRB Pension	At NPA an annual pension received by Members whilst in the Pensionable Service in the relevant Scheme Year: **1/95th** of Pensionable Salary in relation to each Scheme Year ending on or before 31 July 2017

		1/95th up to 1 January 2018 and **1/100th** between 1 January 2018 and 31 July 2018 of Pensionable Salary in relation to the Scheme Year ending 31 July 2018 **1/100th** of Pensionable Salary in relation to each Scheme Year ending on or after 31 July 2019. plus A cash lump sum of 3 times the Annual CRB Pensions for each Scheme Year.
4.	CRB Revaluation Percentage	The lesser of 5% per annum and the annual rate of the increase in the Retail Prices Index in the 12 months to the previous May in respect of the relevant Scheme Year
5.	CRB Pension Increase in payment	The lesser of 5% per annum and the annual rate of the increase in the Retail Prices Index in the 12 months to the previous May.
6.	Early Retirement Benefits in Normal Health	Members may retire after age 55 with the consent of the University and the Trustee. Actuarial reduction will apply.
7.	Benefits on Death after Retirement	▪ The balance, if any, of the first 5 years' payments of the member's pension, is paid as a lump sum **plus** ▪ A spouse's pension of 50% of the member's pension at the date of death before any exchange of pension for cash
8.	Benefits on Death in Service	▪ A lump sum of 3 times annual salary at the date of death **plus** ▪ A spouse's pension of 50% of the member's CRB pensions that the member would have accrued to the Normal Pension Date. **plus** ▪ A child's pension of 25% of the spouse's pension for each child, (up to a maximum of two) while below age 18 or, if later, receiving full time education to a maximum of age 23. The total of all the spouse's and children's pensions may not exceed the member's prospective pension.
9.	i. Benefits on Termination of Service	i. If the member has completed less than 2 years of Qualifying Service, he/she will be entitled to a Short Service Benefit. ii. If the member has completed 2 or more years Qualifying Service, he/she will be entitled to a CRB Pension accrued to the date of leaving. The benefits will revalue between termination and NRA in line with the CRB Revaluation Percentage.
10.	Member Contribution	5% of Pensionable Salary

UNI 3

1.	Normal Pension Age (NPA)	The NPA is **65**

2.	Scheme Year	A period of 12 months ending on 31 July
3.	Annual CRB Pension	At NPA an annual pension received by Members whilst in the Pensionable Service in the relevant Scheme Year: **1/150th** of Pensionable Salary in relation to each Scheme Year. plus A cash lump sum of 3 times the Annual CRB Pensions for each Scheme Year.
4.	CRB Revaluation Percentage	The lesser of 5% per annum and the annual rate of the increase in the **Consumer Prices Index** in the 12 months to the previous May in respect of the relevant Scheme Year
5.	CRB Pension Increase in payment	The lesser of 5% per annum and the annual rate of the increase in the **Consumer Prices Index** in the 12 months to the previous May.
6.	Early Retirement Benefits in Normal Health	Members may retire after age 55 with the consent of the University and the Trustee. Actuarial reduction will apply.
7.	Benefits on Death after Retirement	▪ The balance, if any, of the first 5 years' payments of the member's pension, is paid as a lump sum **plus** ▪ A spouse's pension of 50% of the member's pension at the date of death before any exchange of pension for cash
8	Benefits on Death in Service	▪ A lump sum of 5 times annual salary at the date of death **plus** ▪ A spouse's pension of 50% of the member's CRB pensions that the member would have accrued to the Normal Pension Date. **plus** ▪ A child's pension of 25% of the spouse's pension for each child, (up to a maximum of two) while below age 18 or, if later, receiving full time education to a maximum of age 23. The total of all the spouse's and children's pensions may not exceed the member's prospective pension.
9.	Benefits on Termination of Service	i. If the member has completed less than 2 years of Qualifying Service, he/she will be entitled to a Short Service Benefit. ii. If the member has completed 2 or more years Qualifying Service, he/she will be entitled to a CRB Pension accrued to the date of leaving. The benefits will revalue between termination and NRA in line with the CRB Revaluation Percentage.
10.	Member Contribution	3% of Pensionable Salary

Appendix D - Statement of Funding Principles

Status

This Statement has been prepared by C U Pension Trustee Limited ("the Trustee"), acting as Trustee of the Scheme, for the purposes of the actuarial valuation as at 31 July 2024, after obtaining the advice of Robert Sweet of Cartwright Group Limited, the Scheme Actuary.

It replaces an earlier version dated 31 October 2022 prepared for the actuarial valuation as at 31 July 2021.

Statutory Funding Objective

This statement sets out the Trustee's policy for securing that the statutory funding objective is met.

The statutory funding objective is defined in Section 222 of the Pensions Act 2004. Every scheme must have sufficient and appropriate assets to cover its technical provisions.

Technical provisions – method

The actuarial method used in the calculation of the technical provisions and future service costs is the Projected Unit Method.

Technical provisions – assumptions

The assumptions are based upon the Bank of England Implied Inflation yield curve.

Discount Interest Rate

Technical provisions are determined using a discount rate based on the CPI yield curve (derived as below) plus a margin.

The Trustee has determined that for the purposes of the actuarial valuation as at 31 July 2024 the margins to be used are 2.5% per annum for past service liabilities and 2.8% per annum for future service accrual.

Price Inflation

The Retail Prices Index (RPI) assumption will be determined at the valuation date based on the Bank of England Implied Inflation yield curve. This rate will then be adjusted by an allowance for the Inflation Risk Premium, which for the purposes of the 2024 valuation the Trustee has determined should be:

- 0% per annum to 2030;
- 1.0% in 2031; and then
- Reducing by 0.1% per annum back to 0% per annum in 2041 and thereafter.

The Consumer Prices Index (CPI) assumption will be determined from the RPI increase assumption less:

- 1.0% per annum to 2030;
- 0.1% per annum from 2031 onwards.

Pension Increases in Payment

Pension increases in payment are defined in the Rules and are based on annual increases in the RPI and CPI, subject to certain maxima.

The assumptions for future pension increases are set equal to the assumptions for RPI and CPI noted above, subject to these maxima.

Pension Increases in Deferment

For all pension earned prior to 2013, the Trustee's main revaluation assumption is set to be the same as the assumption for future increases in the Retail Prices Index (RPI). There is also a revaluation underpin based on statutory revaluation. Statutory revaluation on the pension in excess of any GMP is in line with increases in the Consumer Prices Index (CPI).

For pension earned on or after 1 January 2013, increases to pensions accrued in service and after leaving service are to be calculated by reference to the RPI (or CPI for joiners on or after 1 January 2013) capped at a maximum of 5% per annum compound.

Pay Increases

Pay increases are expected to exceed CPI increases by 1.5% per annum compound in the long term but an allowance has been made for pay increases of 5.7% in 2024/2025. This relationship with CPI is monitored for accuracy and may be subject to change in future valuations.

Mortality

It is the intention of the Trustee to use mortality tables that reflect as much as possible actual Scheme experience with a suitable allowance for likely mortality improvements over the medium to long term.

After carrying out a mortality investigation on Scheme-specific mortality experience detailed in the report dated 30 May 2024 the Actuary recommended and the Trustee agreed to adopt the mortality tables from the latest S4 series published by the Continuous Mortality Investigation (CMI) in February 2024 and adjusted the base rates as follow:

- Male Members and Male Dependants – S4 All Pensioners Amounts table ("S4PMA"), adjusted by assuming members exhibit mortality rates at 106% of the standard table;
- Female Members – S4 All Pensioners Amounts table ("S4PFA"), adjusted by assuming that members exhibit mortality rates at 98% of the standard table;
- Female Dependants – S4 Dependant Pensioners Amounts table ("S4DFA"), adjusted by assuming that members exhibit mortality rates at 118% of the standard table.

In addition, the Actuary recommended and the Trustee agreed to make allowance for future longevity improvements using the CMI 2023 projection table, with long term rates of improvement of 1.25% per annum, standard smoothing factors, and a rate of initial additional improvement of 0.25% per annum.

These tables and adjustments are subject to regular review and will be updated in future valuations as more up-to-date data becomes available.

New Entrants

The Scheme is open to new entrants. The Trustee does not allow explicitly for new entrants. However, by adopting the Projected Unit Method, to give a stable normal contribution rate, they are implicitly assuming that the active membership average age remains relatively constant – i.e. that new entrants will continue to join the Scheme.

Commutation

On retirement, 70% of members are assumed to commute part of their pension for a cash lump sum. It is assumed that they will commute 23% of the value of their pensions, and that the commutation factor will be based on the current factors.

Withdrawals

No allowance has been made for active members withdrawing from Pensionable Service prior to Normal Retirement Date except by death.

Assumptions for Dependants

80% of male members are assumed to have a dependant at age 65 who is female and 3 years younger.

70% of female members are assumed to have a dependant at age 65 who is male and 1 year older.

Expenses

Expenses of administering the Scheme are borne by the Scheme. Part of the expenses relates to past service and part relates to current and future service.

The Trustee's policy is for the actuary to review the allowance for expenses at each valuation and make a recommendation for both elements.

The current assumption is for a past service reserve of 1% of the Technical Provisions and a future allowance of 0.9% of Pensionable Salaries. This is to cover all expenses and levies of administering the Scheme.

Policy on discretionary increases and funding strategy

In the past when RPI has been less than 3% per annum the Trustee has reviewed the pension increase to be paid and has increased it, on occasion, at up to 3% per annum. The current policy is not to fund for increases in excess of RPI, but to review the cost in such years when this situation occurs and decide on whether the Scheme and/or the Employers can afford the additional increase.

Period within which and manner in which a failure to meet the Statutory Funding Objective is to be rectified

The Trustee and the Principal Employer have agreed that any funding shortfalls identified at an actuarial valuation should be eliminated as quickly as the Employers can reasonably afford by the payment of additional contributions. In determining the actual recovery period at any particular valuation the Trustee's principles are to take into account the following factors:

- the size of the funding shortfall;
- the business plans of the Employers;
- the Trustee's assessment of the financial covenant of the Employers (and in making this assessment the Trustee will make use of appropriate credit assessment providers); and
- any contingent security offered by the Employers.

The assumptions to be used in these calculations will be those set out above for calculating the technical provisions and future service accrual.

Arrangement by a person other than an Employer or a Scheme member to contribute to the Scheme

There are no arrangements for a person other than an Employer or a Scheme member to contribute to the Scheme.

Policy on reduction of cash equivalent transfer values (CETVs)

The Trustee asks the Scheme Actuary to advise at each valuation of the extent to which assets are sufficient to provide CETVs for all non-pensioners without adversely affecting the security of the benefits of other members and beneficiaries.

If at any time, after obtaining advice from the Scheme Actuary, the Trustee is of the opinion that the payment of CETVs at a previously agreed level may adversely affect the security of the benefits of other members and beneficiaries, the Trustee will commission a report from the Scheme Actuary to decide whether, and to what extent, CETVs should be reduced.

Payments to the Employers

If the Scheme is not being wound up and the assets of the Scheme exceed the estimate by the Scheme Actuary of the cost of buying out the benefits of all beneficiaries from an insurance company, including the expenses of doing so, the Employers may receive a payment of the excess. If the Scheme Actuary certifies that the requirements of the Pensions Act 2004 have been met and certifies the maximum amount that may be paid, the Trustee will consider whether a payment would be in the interest of the members, and if so, the Trustee will give notice to the members of the proposal.

Frequency of Valuations and circumstances for extra Valuations

The Scheme's most recent actuarial valuation under Part 3 of the Pensions Act 2004 was carried out as at the effective date of 31 July 2024 and subsequent valuations will in normal circumstances be carried out every three years thereafter. An actuarial report on developments affecting the Scheme's funding level will be obtained as at each intermediate anniversary of that date.

The Trustee may call for a full actuarial valuation instead of an actuarial report when, after considering the Scheme Actuary's advice, they are of the opinion that events have made it unsafe to continue to rely on the results of the previous valuation as the basis for future contributions. However, the Trustee will consult with the Principal Employer before doing so.

For and on behalf of the University of Cambridge (“the Principal Employer”)		For and on behalf of C U Pension Trustee Limited (“the Trustee”)	
Signed:		Signed:	
Name:	D Benham	Name:	Dr I Iceton
Position:	Director/Company Secretary	Position:	Trustee
Date:	11 April 2025	Date:	11 April 2025

This Statement of Funding Principles has been agreed by the Trustee after obtaining my actuarial advice.

Signed:

Name: R J SWEET

Position: Scheme Actuary

Date: 11 April 2025

Appendix E - Assumptions

The 2024 Funding Basis is based on the Statutory Funding Objective and the Statement of Funding Principles adopted by the Trustee. The 2021 Funding Basis sets out the assumptions used in the previous valuation for comparison purposes.

Under the Code, when choosing the assumptions the Trustee is required to consider the factors particular to the Employers, or the Employers' industry, affecting matters such as pay increases, rate of withdrawal from membership and recruitment. The Trustee is satisfied that the chosen assumptions set out below are appropriate bearing in mind the above factors.

	Assumptions for valuation as at 31 July 2024 (% p.a. compound)	Assumptions for valuation as at 31 July 2021 (% p.a. compound)
Discount rate for past service liabilities	CPI + 2.5%	RPI +1.9%
Discount rate for future service accruals	CPI + 2.8%	RPI +1.9%
Rate of Salary increases	5.7%, then CPI +1.5%	4.5%, then CPI +1.5%
Rates of increase to pensions in payment: RPI max 12%, min 0% RPI max 5%, min 0% RPI max 5%, min 3% CPI max 5%, min 0%	} based on } yield curve } rates with } appropriate caps and collars	} based on } yield curve } rates with } appropriate caps and collars
Mortality		
Base Table	106% of S4PMA for all males, 98% of S4PFA for female members and 118% of S4DFA for female dependants	115% of S3PMA and 100% of S3PFA
Future Projected Improvements	CMI_2023	CMI_2020
Long Term rates of improvement	1.25% p.a.	1.25% p.a.
Additional initial rate of improvement	0.25% p.a.	0.25% p.a.
Smoothing factor	7.0	7.0

Other assumptions	Assumptions for valuation as at 31 July 2024 (% p.a. compound)	Assumptions for valuation as at 31 July 2021 (% p.a. compound)
Assumed Retirement Age (ARD) UNI1 & UNI4: ▪ Active Members ▪ Deferred Members UNI2 & UNI3: UNI5 – ex Strangeway members:	Males 64 Females 64 Males 62 Females 62 Males 65 Females 65 Males 60 Females 60	Males 64 Females 63 Males 62 Females 61 Males 65 Females 65 Males 60 Females 60
Proportion with Dependant	80% Male at age 65; 70% Female at age 65; Adjusted by probability of survival of dependant	80% Male at age 65; 70% Female at age 65; Adjusted by probability of survival of dependant
Age Difference	Male members assumed to have female dependant who is 3 years younger. Female members assumed to have male dependant who is 1 year older.	Male members assumed to have female dependant who is 3 years younger. Female members assumed to have male dependant who is 1 year older.
Withdrawal rates	No allowance	No allowance
Other Member Options	70% of members take 23% cash at retirement based on current commutation factors	75% of members take maximum cash at retirement based on current commutation factors

Where:

- RPI is derived from the Bank of England implied inflation curve less a risk premium which is assumed to be nil for the period to 2030, then 1.0% per annum in 2031 and smoothly reduces by 0.1% per annum until it again reaches 0% per annum in 2041 and thereafter (2021: 0.2% to 2030, 1.2% at 2031 and reducing by 0.1% per annum back to 0.2% in 2041).
- CPI is derived from the RPI curve less a margin of 1% per annum to 2030, then 0.1% per annum from 2031 thereafter (2021: same).

Appendix F - Actuary's Certification of the Calculation of Technical Provisions

Name of Scheme: **Cambridge University Assistants' Contributory Pension**

Calculation of Technical Provisions

I certify that, in my opinion, the calculation of the Scheme's technical provisions as at 31 July 2024 is made in accordance with regulations under section 222 of the Pensions Act 2004. The calculation uses a method and assumptions determined by the Trustee of the Scheme and set out in the Statement of Funding Principles dated 11 April 2025

Signed:		Date:	11 April 2025
Name:	R J Sweet	Qualification	Fellow of the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries
Address:	250 Fowler Avenue Farnborough Business Park Farnborough Hants GU14 7JP	Employer:	Cartwright Group Limited

Appendix G - Glossary

Actuarial Report

Introduced by the Pensions Act 2004, this is a written report, prepared and signed by the Scheme Actuary, on developments affecting the Scheme's Technical Provisions since the last actuarial valuation. It must also include an assessment of changes in the value of the Scheme's assets.

Actuarial Valuation

Defined by the Pensions Act 2004 as a written report, prepared and signed by the Scheme Actuary, valuing the Scheme's assets and calculating its Technical Provisions.

Code of Practice 3 – Funding Defined Benefit Schemes

This is a written document dated July 2014 setting out the Pension Regulator's guidance and standards of conduct for the Trustee with regard to funding their defined benefit pension scheme.

Recovery Plan

Where a scheme has a deficit on the Statutory Funding Objective a Recovery Plan is needed to remove the deficit. The Recovery Plan should detail the period and means by which the deficit will be eliminated.

Schedule of Contributions

This is a written document detailing the contributions payable to the Scheme from the date of the Schedule for a period of 5 years or such longer period as the Recovery Plan applies. The contributions on the Schedule must be sufficient to ensure the Scheme's assets cover the Technical Provisions by the end of the period it covers.

Statement of Funding Principles

This is a document produced by the Trustee and agreed by the Employer. It sets out details of the method and assumptions to use to meet the Statutory Funding Objective as well as any other objectives the Trustee has and details of the Recovery Plan.

Statutory Funding Objective

Introduced by the Pensions Act 2004, this is the funding target the Scheme must meet. The assumptions chosen to calculate the target must be chosen in a prudent manner and reflect market conditions.

Technical Provisions

This is the name given to the Scheme's liabilities calculated using the method and assumptions set out in the Statement of Funding Principles. The Trustee and Employer should aim to fund 100% of the Scheme's Technical Provisions.