

Normal minimum pension age change - FAQs

Why is the minimum pension age going up?

The government is changing the minimum pension age as part of increases to pension ages generally. The minimum pension age is usually 10 years below the State pension age, which has gone up to age 67, so this rise for the minimum pension age from 55 to 57 is in line with that.

Who is changing the minimum pension age?

This is a change that is being made by the government, not the Plan.

I have a protected minimum pension age of 50 in the Plan – does this rise in the minimum pension age apply to me?

No, your minimum pension age remains protected for your Plan benefits, so this rise will not affect your entitlement to start taking your benefits from the Plan from age 50. However, if you have any other pension arrangements, the Plan's protected pension age doesn't cover them, and you'll need to check the rules of the other schemes you're in.

When can I start taking my benefits?

If you'll reach age 57 after 6 April 2028, you can choose any age from 57 to start taking your benefits from the Plan.

If you'll be 55 or 56 before 6 April 2028, you can take your benefits at 55 or 56 – as long as you do so before 6 April 2028. If you don't take your benefits before 6 April 2028, you'll have to wait until you reach age 57.

If I change my target retirement age (TRA), what will happen to my investments in the lifestyle option?

The lifestyling works by steadily reducing your investment risk. In the years leading up to your TRA, your account is gradually moved into lower risk investments. If you change your TRA, your investments will automatically be rebalanced so that the time until your TRA in the lifestyle profile matches the retirement age you've chosen.

If I don't change my TRA, what will happen to my investments in the lifestyle option?

Once you reach your chosen TRA, your savings will receive no further lifestyling and will remain at the lifestyle endpoint. So, if you don't change your TRA from age 55 or 56 but you won't be 57 until after 6 April 2028, your savings will remain in lower-risk investments until you take your benefits. This means you could miss out on up to two years of possible investment growth for your savings.

What if I don't take my benefits before 6 April 2028 but I'm 55 or 56?

Taking your benefits after 6 April 2028 means you must wait until age 57 before you can do so.

Do I have to change my target retirement age? (you were born after 5 April 1973)

No, if you were born after 5 April 1973, the minimum TRA available for you to select is age 57. If you've already chosen age 55 or 56, we'll automatically change this to 57 for you.

Do I have to change my target retirement age? (you were born before 6 April 1973)

No, if you'll be 55 or 56 before 6 April 2028, we won't automatically change your TRA for you – but you might want to consider updating your TRA so that your investments in the lifestyle profile rebalance to match when you plan to retire. You can choose any age from 57.

Remember, if you don't want to change your TRA, you'll need to make sure you take your benefits before 6 April 2028, otherwise you'll have to wait until you're 57.

