



GROUP CIRCULAR 930

To: Branches, Groups and Executive Council

December 2022

Dear Colleague,

1. **NEW CSPA WEBSITE AND DATABASE**
2. **VACANCIES ON THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**
3. **SUBSCRIPTIONS: ANNUAL DIRECT DEBIT PAYMENTS**
4. **REVIEW OF GROUP AND REGIONAL STRUCTURE (GROUPS TO BE CONSULTED)**
5. **AMENDMENT TO THE REPORT OF THE AGM**
6. **CSPA ACHIEVEMENTS, CHRISTMAS, AND NEW YEAR**

1. NEW CSPA WEBSITE AND DATABASE

A full article will appear in the Spring 2023 edition of the Pensioner magazine to update members on the new CSPA website/database changes. Among the improvements made is the capability for new members to join CSPA online.

NEW members joining online through the website have a choice to pay with a monthly deduction from their civil service pension, or by monthly Direct Debit.

For a trial period we will continue the option for **NEW** members to join via the downloadable paper forms, for deduction from a civil service pension only.

Anyone who is currently a member does not need to do anything to change their current payment arrangements. These will continue at the new subscription rate, from 1 January 2023.

CSPA members wishing to use the **members area** are now required to set a more secure password together with their email address. This must be the same email address as is held on CSPA member records. The website features a video which gives clear guidance on how to set the new password. Members who have not shared their email address with us will need to contact HQ to ensure that the website recognises you as a CSPA member.

2. VACANCIES ON THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Members of the Executive Council for 2022/23 were elected at the Annual General Meeting held in October. The following three vacancies remain on the EC:

- Regional Representative for **Midlands Region**
- Representative for groups in **Wales**.

- **One NEC post** (this post is **reserved for a woman**)

Rule changes carried at the 2022 AGM now mean that the redundant Secretary Administration post will be replaced with a **NEC post** reserved for a woman, to encourage better- balanced representation on the Executive Council.

A Group Circular seeking nominations for all three vacancies will be issued in January 2023.

3.SUBSCRIPTIONS: ANNUAL DIRECT DEBIT PAYMENTS

Annual direct debit subscription payments are collected through the Lloyds Bank Tele debit service. The bank has advised that this service will close by the end January 2023, as it relies on fax machines which are no longer supported by the telecommunication companies. The short notice we received has left little time to source another means of collecting direct debit payments.

Lloyds are proposing that we move to their Pay and Collect Online System, and we are currently going through the registration process for that system. We do not know when the registration and installation of the necessary software will be completed.

There are significant differences between the two systems and the transition from one system to another will not be an easy process. In the end it should be an easier system to administer but during transition staff will be under pressure and problems will arise. Members whose annual payments are due in January and February could be affected.

A major difference in the new system is that the collection of payments will have to be triggered by CSPA and not by Lloyds. This will mean changes to payment dates are necessary as payments will be collected only twice a month. The EC is aware that the Direct Debit Guarantee requires the CSPA to notify payers of any change to amounts or collection dates. With over 6,000 direct debits the most efficient way to do this is in the next issue of The Pensioner, which will not be published until 1 March 2023. Notice will then be given of changed collection dates, but during January and February CSPA will have to collect subscriptions on their present due date. This will be difficult, but staff will do their best to achieve this.

I hope this briefing is helpful and will assist Groups and Branches in dealing with any queries received about direct debit payments. Any enquiries should be sent to enquiries@cspa.co.uk or phone the office.

4.REVIEW OF GROUP AND REGIONAL STRUCTURE – GROUPS TO BE CONSULTED

Motion A17 at the October AGM called on the Executive Council “*to consider disbandment of the Group structure in England and Wales and move to Regional representation*” After a vote, the motion was **Remitted** to the EC on the understanding that the EC would establish a Working Party with local Group involvement to carefully consider options for change, **whilst being mindful not to undermine the local Groups that were working well.**

The Executive Council met on 8 December and endorsed proposals to establish a Working Party of EC and Group nominees to consider Remitted Motion A/17; and formulate recommendations for consideration by the Organisation & Recruitment committee on 21

February 2023, prior to a wider consultation with Groups and Branches during March and early April. Subject to the views expressed in the consultation, proposals will be circulated to Groups and Branches in May 2023

The EC agreed the composition of the Working Party as follows:

Chair: Mike Lawler (Secretary Organisation) **Secretary:** David Luxton (DGS)

EC Members:

Les Calder (O&R and SW Regional Rep), Richard West (O&R), David Owen (Greater London Regional Rep), Harry Brett (NW Regional Rep), Susan Hennah-Barham (Eastern Regional Rep)

Group Representatives:

Ian Millar (Winchester Group), John Abingdon (Bedford Group), Mike Buckley (Sheffield Group), Clive Roberts (East Devon Group),

The first meeting of the Working Party will be held in London on Tuesday 10th January 2023, and will consider draft terms of reference, and begin to address the key issue of how we can encourage wider membership participation and engagement with the work of CSPA at local level. Groups can be assured that they will be consulted throughout the review. Further updates will be included in Group Circulars and in The Pensioner.

5.GROUP NEWSLETTERS

As outlined in elsewhere in this Group Circular, HQ staff are in the process of taking on some new responsibilities. This means that deadlines will be necessary for receipt of group circulars to allow formatting and mailing to group members in time for any important dates or events to be shared. Please allow **up to 10 working days** from the date we receive your group circular and its issue from Head Office. Please send your newsletters to marion.mcauliffe@cspa.co.uk and copy to enquiries@cspa.co.uk with the title "group newsletter" and the name of your group.

Groups are also reminded that any events or meetings being held can be highlighted on the CSPA Facebook page and website.

6.AMENDMENT TO THE REPORT OF THE AGM

The following amendment to the report of the AGM under Motion A46 is to be noted:

Please replace the current summary, *"workers in social care were in the NHS or in partnership with it and had the same conditions as the NHS staff instead of zero-hours contracts"* with the following: *"Paul Laxton of West Yorkshire supported the motion. West Yorkshire has campaigned vigorously in the field of social care. He argued that workers in social care be brought into the public sector either directly into the NHS or a partner organization, on terms and conditions enjoyed by NHS staff thus putting an end to the low pay and zero-hours contracts that pertain in the private sector."*

7.CSPA ACHIEVEMENTS, CHRISTMAS, AND NEW YEAR

As 2022 ends, and we look forward to 2023, on behalf of all the staff at Headquarters Office, we send all good wishes to you, your families, friends, groups and members for a peaceful Christmas, and a happy, healthy New Year.

This year has seen CSPA regrouping following the disruption of the pandemic, with more “in person” meetings following the easing of restrictions. We have made considerable progress in our work to recruit more members, and at the end of the year we are proud to reflect on some of our achievements:

- Rebranding the CSPA, so that prospective members understand our primary purpose-to protect the value of the Civil Service Pension.
- A successful in-person AGM (the first for three years) which featured Sue Gray, Permanent Secretary as speaker.
- Delivering two well-received online events with the Cabinet Office on the “McCloud Remedy”
- Presentations to an over 50’s network within the Department for Transport
- Attendance at Cabinet Office Regional Employer Forums, to promote CSPA
- A MyCSP podcast on preparing for retirement, featuring Vice-Chair Linda Ridgers-Waite
- CSPA Personal Pensions Case expert, Chris Haswell, giving evidence on survivors and women’s pensions at a session of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on women and work
- A fresh new website with the facility to join CSPA online
- A new database with better capability, which will help us to serve our existing and new members better
- A new CSPA members travel insurance scheme with the Civil Service Insurance Society (CSIS)
- A souvenir booklet, exhibition and well-attended Parliamentary reception hosted by Clive Betts MP, to mark our 70-year anniversary.

Thank you for your support, and your hard work on behalf of the CSPA. We look forward to working with you, and for you, next year.

The Headquarters Office will close from **Friday 23 December** (inclusive) and reopen on Tuesday **3 January 2023**

If you have any questions or require any further information about the matters covered by this Group Circular, please don’t hesitate to contact me, either by email at lisa.ray@cspa.co.uk or by telephone on **020 8688 8418 (Office)/07827 291073 (Mobile)**.

Yours sincerely,



Lisa Ray
General Secretary