

The 2025 Annual General Meeting of the Civil Service Pensioners Alliance West Yorkshire Group will be held at 11.15 on Wednesday 19 March 2025 the PCS offices, Merrion Centre, Leeds LS2 8NG.

AGENDA

1. Chair's welcome and introductory remarks
2. Minutes of the previous AGM held in March 2024 (available on the day)
3. Reports from West Yorkshire Group Officers
4. Election of Officers
5. CSPA Group and Branch Consultation on proposed trial of all-member ballots to elect Executive Council posts (Draft submission from WYG for your consideration on P3-4)
6. Consideration of the Framework for the Governance of Local Groups (See Annex to GC 966/25 online. Some hard copies will be available at the AGM.)
7. Guest Speaker: Fran Postlethwaite, Yorkshire and Humberside Pensioners' Convention
8. Any other business (to be notified to the Chair prior to the commencement of the meeting.)

A plea from the Chair:

The current committee has only five members, just about enough to function. There will inevitably come a point where members of the Committee will stand down for one reason or another. We are all getting older. In order to maintain the viability of the West Yorkshire Group new blood is badly needed on the Committee to allow for succession planning in respect of Group Officer posts. Less than half of CSPA members nationally now have an active group in their geographical area. I do not want the West Yorkshire Group to be mothballed. Once a Group is lost, it is very difficult to start it up again.

The time commitment is not particularly demanding, with four Group meetings and four Committee meetings per year. Only a modest level of IT literacy is required. Please consider whether you can spare the time.

DIRECTIONS TO OUR MEETING PLACE

Our meetings are held in the PCS Offices, Town Centre House in the Merrion Centre. Use the entrance in Woodhouse Lane along which pass many different bus routes, and the bus stops are all nearby.

If travelling from the Central Bus Station you can catch a number 23 from stand 18 or numbers 27 or 28 from stand 19. Alight at the "Merrion" stop, cross the road and walk back towards the city centre for a few yards and you will see the entrance to Merrion Centre on your left. Enter and you will see the Town Centre House immediately on your right-hand side up the ramp. Reception will direct you to the lift for the third floor where toilets are available. Ask reception for the door code to access the corridor which leads to our meeting room.

If travelling from the railway station leave it by the Wellington Street exit and walk away from City Square for a short distance to King Street which is on your right-hand side. You will find stop J on the left-hand side where you will have a choice of buses 5,33,34,60 and 60A. Then see instructions as above.

FUTURE GROUP MEETINGS (All 11.15 Start at the PCS Offices, Merrion Centre, Leeds)

Wednesday 11 June 2025

Wednesday 10 September 2025

Wednesday 10 December 2025

Although these dates should be published in 'The Pensioner,' you are advised to commit these dates to your diary straight away if you are planning to attend.

VOLUNTARY SUBSCRIPTIONS

The Committee has determined that the annual voluntary subscription rate should remain at £10 per annum. We had a good response last year and the Group is now much healthier financially. Our funds are used to pay for the hire of a meeting room, and the expenses associated with having the voice of our Group heard at events such as the annual Pensioners Parliament organised by the NPC, and other campaigning events. We are asking you to donate via your bank. You can do this online or at your own branch, and if you are feeling really generous, set up an annual standing order. If £10 is too much, feel free to donate whatever you feel is affordable. Please help keep the Group alive.

The bank details are:

Payee CSPA West Yorkshire Group

Bank Virgin Money

Address 94-96 Briggate, Leeds LS1 6NP

Account number 17518291

Sort code 05-05-35

CSPA GROUP AND BRANCH CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED TRIAL OF ALL-MEMBER BALLOTS TO ELECT TO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL POSTS

1)	Group or Branch Name	West Yorkshire
2)	Name and Post	Paul Laxton, Group Chair
3)	Does your Group or Branch participate in CSPA's local democratic processes under the current arrangements (Group/Branch Committee elections, Group/Branch mandated decisions on AGM nominations, constitutional amendments and motions, etc.)?	
	Yes	
4)	Does your Group or Branch participate fully in CSPA's national democratic processes under the current arrangements (eg. by submitting nominations, constitutional amendments and/or motions to the AGM, by participating in interim EC ballots to fill vacant posts, and/or by AGM attendance and participation)?	
	Yes	
5)	If your answer to either 3 or 4 above is "no", please explain the reasons for not doing so?	
	Not Applicable	
6)	How many Group or Branch members' meetings do you hold each year?	
	4 Group Meetings (including the AGM), plus 4 Committee Meetings	
7)	What is the average number of attendees at Group or Branch meetings, and are meetings held centrally or in different locations?	
	8-10 but has been less on occasion. We use just one central meeting venue in Leeds.	
8)	How many Group or Branch newsletters do you circulate each year?	
	4	
9)	How satisfied are you with the current level of engagement and communication between the CSPA Executive Council and CSPA members in Groups and Branches? If you are unsatisfied, then what additional communications do you think may be helpful?	
	WYG acknowledged the commitment of the EC and HQ staff but felt that communications could sometimes be sporadic and late. We appreciate the financial constraints but there needs to be a strategy for digital exclusion. WYG is looking forward to the development of a regional newsletter.	
10)	Do you support allowing all CSPA members to vote in an All-Member Ballot for Executive Council posts? Please say why you do, or do not, support this.	
	We support the proposal on balance as it makes proper provision for the large number of members in closed groups. We do not, however, believe that this will significantly improve democratic participation as turnout is likely to be very low.	
11)	How important do you think it is to involve all CSPA members in the election of the Executive Council?	
	(Very Important/Somewhat Important/Not Important)	

12)	Do you support the proposal to trial All-Member Ballots to elect to Executive Council posts for 2 years, prior to implementing permanent changes? Please say why you do, or do not, support this.
	We support the proposed trial period. The CSPA needs to see how well or otherwise this works. However, WYG firmly believes that all candidates must submit a manifesto as a condition of appearing on the ballot paper.
13)	If an All-Member Ballot were to be introduced, what method/s of voting would you prefer?
	(Online only / postal only / combination of online and postal / any other method – please specify)
14)	Do you think that the introduction of All-Member Ballots to elect to EC posts is likely to encourage more members to be active and/or stand for positions? Please provide your reasons.
	The end of block voting may provide some encouragement, but as with other organizations, there is a decline in voluntarism. We will not know the answer until the end of the trial period.
15)	Please share any additional thoughts or concerns you may have regarding the proposal to implement All-Member Ballots to elect to the CSPA Executive Council national posts.
	West Yorkshire Group was content with the current arrangements for Regional Representatives on the EC. We felt that other than where there was a vacancy which was not being filled, the Regional Representative should be a member of a Group within the region