

GROUP CIRCULAR 989 / 26

To: **Branches, Groups and Executive Council**

01 June 2026

Dear Colleague

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1) Annual Report – Copies for Groups and Branches

We are happy to enclose, with the posted version of this circular, 2 printed copies of the 2025 Annual Report for your Group or Branch. The Report is now also available to CSPA members on the website at www.cspa.co.uk/annual-report or they can ask for a copy to be emailed or posted to them by emailing enquiries@cspa.co.uk or calling HQ on 020 8688 8418.

2) Reminder: Volunteers for Newsletter of the Year Award panel

Further to the updates in **GC 983/26** and **GC 988/26**.

We are still calling for volunteers to a judging panel of 3 members to select the best Group or Branch Newsletter for 2026. The judging panel will meet online to review Group and Branch newsletters so that the winner can be presented with a Certificate at the 2026 AGM dinner on the 7 October.

All active Groups and Branches are invited to nominate one member to the judging panel by sending an e-mail to: jonathan.safir@cspa.co.uk headed "**Newsletter Competition 2026**" to arrive no later than **Monday 8 June**. The names of panel members selected will be confirmed in a Group Circular after the EC meeting on the 16th June.

3) All Member Ballot to Elect CSPA's Executive Council

As advised in **GC 987/26**, the deadline for receipt of all Motions and Nominations will be **Friday 3rd July 2026**. Up until now, all members of CSPA's national Executive Council have been elected by Groups and

Branches voting on behalf of their members, mostly at Annual General Meetings, but occasionally also via postal ballots in between AGMs. However, 2026 will see the first ever round of all-member elections as part of a two-year trial supported by a motion carried at the 2025 AGM. The roles being elected to in this way are the **Chair, Vice Chair** and **five national seats** on the Executive Council.

If more than one Nomination is received for any of these posts, then the elections will go ahead. Members will be asked to vote either online or by returning postal ballot papers, which are to be sent out with the September issue of *The Pensioner*.

For CSPA members who do have access to the internet and emails, voting online will be by far the quickest and easiest way to cast your votes, but members are asked to please make sure that we do hold the correct email address for them so that we can share the links and information as and when needed.

The ballot will be open for three weeks in September – dates to be advised – with the results being announced at the start of the AGM on 7 October 2026.

4) Energy Price Cap in Great Britain to Rise by 13% from July

Average gas and electricity bills are set to jump to £1,862 a year from July until end of September, in part because of Iran war, according to an article in The Guardian of 27 May 2026 reporting on the recent Ofgem announcement. Households will face the steepest summer rise in energy charges in four years after months of soaring market prices caused the government's energy price cap for Great Britain to climb by 13%.

Under the cap, which applies to households in Britain, the average gas and electricity bill will increase to the equivalent of £1,862 a year from July until the end of September, due to surges in global energy market prices caused by the war on Iran, up from £1,641 a year in April to June.

The energy secretary, Ed Miliband, said, "The rise in the price cap because of a war we did not choose is deeply unwelcome news for households across the country ... The way to get bills down for good and avoid these price spikes is to go further and faster with this government's drive for clean homegrown power we control".

5) Government Pensions Commission - Retirement Savings Inadequate

The Pensions Commission published its interim report on the 19 May 2026 on the state of retirement saving in the UK, setting out the key challenges facing the current system and where it will focus its work next.

The report highlights that many people are not saving enough for retirement, particularly among low and middle earners, the self-employed and women, and points to the need for the system to evolve to meet modern working lives. There are currently 15 million people under saving for retirement which

could reach 19 million without action, leaving large groups across the UK facing a severe cliff-edge when they retire, according to the report. A final report with recommendations will follow in early 2027.

The interim report's findings include:

- Low and middle earners are most at risk, with around half saving only at minimum Automatic Enrolment levels with little else to fall back on.
- 45% of working-age adults - around 18 million people - are not saving into a pension at all, despite nearly half of them being in work.
- Where employers are contributing about the statutory minimum this is largely benefiting higher earners.
- Just 4% - one in 25 - of wholly self-employed workers are saving for retirement, and it's even lower among younger self-employed people.
- On current trends around 3 in 10 private pension pots are accessed at the earliest possible opportunity with half of all pots taken out in full. Nearly half of these are spent on large expenses like a car, holiday or renovations.

6) In Defence of the State Pension Triple Lock

On Saturday 23 May 2026, an article published in The Telegraph included a rebuttal of an Intergenerational Foundation paper proposing scrapping the triple lock. The paper suggested that some of the money saved in scrapping the triple lock could go to topping up Pension Credit.

For those of you with a subscription, the link to the article is here:

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/money/pensions/news/scrapping-triple-lock-could-save-38bn-over-next-decade/>.

The GS is quoted within the article, speaking on behalf of LLA. The full comment - as it appeared once published - is available below.

Sally Tsoukaris, of the pensioner campaign group Later Life Ambitions, said that both measures would leave the poorest pensioners exposed.

She said: "The triple lock is a vital safeguard against pensioner poverty.

Older people need security and dignity in retirement, not renewed uncertainty about the value of their state pension.

"Using some of the savings to increase Pension Credit also does not solve the problem. It is means-tested, chronically under-claimed and by the Government's own figures, close to a million eligible pensioners are already missing out.

"Asking it to carry more of the system would leave too many of the poorest older people exposed."

The article's contents and GS's comments were also picked up by Birmingham Live, Britain's best-read local outlet.

<https://www.birminghammail.co.uk/news/cost-of-living/plan-put-forward-axe-dwp-33966733>

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 sally.tsoukaris@cspa.co.uk or by telephone on **020 8688 8418 (Office)**.

Yours sincerely

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