

**Standard Life Staff Pension Scheme ("the Scheme")
Coronavirus Update – 11 May 2020**

With the increased spread of the coronavirus and accompanying uncertainty, it is important that the Trustees can continue to operate effectively and deliver services to you.

The Trustees want to reassure you that they have been working closely with all their advisers and Standard Life Aberdeen (SLA) to understand their resilience plans and to ensure ongoing continuity of services. Crucially, the Trustees, SLA and its advisers are able to continue to operate despite the restrictions resulting from the spread of the coronavirus. We have tested and implemented our resilience plans to ensure that we can respond to the changing situation, with regular virtual meetings to make decisions.

This letter provides you with some specific information on your benefits and the services you receive from our Scheme Administrator. The Trustees have also prepared a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document which provides further detail for you. This can be accessed from the landing page of the member communication website - www.slsp.co.uk. This document will be updated on an ongoing basis so please access the site regularly for further updates.

Your benefits and the services you receive

All the services provided by our administrator (Mercer) and DC Section provider (Standard Life Assurance Limited) are continuing to be provided as normal. This means that:

- ✚ If you have already retired, your pension will continue to be paid.
- ✚ If you have not yet retired, you will still be able to take your benefits and exercise your options at retirement in the usual way.
- ✚ If you have not retired and have benefits in the DC Section, you will still be able to make changes (e.g. fund switches) in the usual way – please see the section below "Members with funds in the DC Section of the Scheme" for further information.

Members with funds in the DC Section of the Scheme:

The impact of recent events on the value of your DC investments will vary depending on which funds you are invested in. The effect on your benefits at retirement will also vary depending on the contributions both SLA and you are paying into the DC Section, the length of the time you are away from taking your retirement benefits and the form in which you are planning to take your benefits (i.e. drawdown, annuity, cash).

For those who are active members of the Scheme, it is also important to remember that the **monthly contributions paid by SLA and you are still being paid**. So, when investment values are lower, contributions may purchase more investment units as the individual unit price lowers. This may eventually increase the overall value of your investments if they recover, however there is no guarantee of this.

For those invested in either the **default lifestyle investment option** or either of the other **two lifestyle investment options** available in the Scheme:

- ✚ If you have a long period of time before retirement (+10 years), it is important to bear in mind the long-term nature of pension savings and the number of years over which your investments can recover losses made in the short term and continue to grow in future years.
- ✚ For those closer to retirement, your investments have been gradually moving to less risky assets over recent years and this will have provided some protection to your savings from recent market events.

For those invested in any of the **self-select funds** that are available in the Scheme, then the impact of recent market events will depend on the mix of funds you have selected.

Beware...

Please note that there is a heightened risk that scammers and unscrupulous financial advisers will try to take advantage of the current Coronavirus situation by targeting pension scheme members. We have included some tips in the FAQs on the member communication website to help you avoid this.

And finally, don't rush your decision....

Whether it's thinking about your retirement options or the suitability of your investment in the DC Section, don't rush to make a decision. If you are unsure of what to do you should seek further information and/or financial advice. **Please refer to our FAQ for further information.**

On behalf of the Trustees, we hope that you and your loved ones keep safe and healthy throughout these difficult times.

Yours sincerely

Stephen Davidson
Secretary to the Trustees of the Standard Life Staff Pension Scheme