

Tulip Siddiq MP

Economic Secretary to the Treasury (City Minister)
HM Treasury

Sent via email

08 October 2024

Dear Minister,

I write as Chair of the British Medical Association's Pensions Committee to highlight an unacceptable delay by NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) and other relevant public sector schemes, as outlined below, in preparing and delivering remedial pension saving statements (RPSS) and 23/24 pensions savings statements to doctors.

RPSSs were due to start arriving from April 2024, with a statutory deadline of the 6th October 2024. However, the Scottish Public Pensions Agency (SPPA) and the Armed Forces Pensions Scheme (AFPS) have confirmed to their members that they will not be able to provide these RPSSs before the statutory deadline. Furthermore, despite repeated assurances from NHSBSA that they would meet the deadline, we have been contacted by a large number of BMA members who have not received their RPSS. Many more have also not received their normal "business as usual" pension savings statement for the 2023-24 financial year.

For those members impacted by the McCloud judgment, this presents a further feeling of injustice given that information on their pensions savings was not provided to them for the 2022-2023 tax year. Not only does this mean that they potentially have an unknown tax liability for that period, but it also impacts on their ability to know if they have any 'carry forward' available in the current financial year. This prevents them from making informed decisions about whether they can take on any additional work or responsibility without breaching the annual allowance.

Of additional concern is the self-assessment tax returns deadline for 2023/24. That deadline is 31st Jan 2025, as you will be aware, there is no flexibility with this deadline even if an individual does not receive their own pensions statement on time. Individuals need both their annual pensions savings statement and their RPSS to calculate whether they have an annual allowance tax charge that year as they also need to be able to calculate any available carry forward. This delay puts our members in an impossible position with regards to estimating what their annual allowance tax is. This is precisely why HMRC suspended reporting of annual allowance tax in the 22/23 tax year for those impacted by the Public Sector Pensions Remedy (McCloud judgment). The only difference between the 22/23 tax year and the 23/24 tax year is there is an additional year in which the prior position is unknown making it impossible for members, or their advisors, to accurately estimate their position.

There is also serious concern within the financial services sector that there is insufficient capacity to deal not only with the January 31st 2025 deadline for those who have received their RPSS (covering 8 tax years from 15/16 - 22/23) but also the 23/24 tax year which falls on the same date. Had the NHSBSA started to release RPSS statements in April 2024, as they had originally stated, when the



E publicaffairs@bma.org.uk

original timescales were decided, and the HMRC calculator been available during that period as initially promised, this work could have been spread over 10 months instead of less than 4 which remain to the current unrealistic deadlines.

We also do not believe there is sufficient capacity within NHSBSA to deal with the current demands placed on it to deliver NHS pension statements and are writing to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care separately with these concerns and to propose solutions to prevent these delays from reoccurring year on year.

We are asking that you extend, by at least 12 months, the deadline for using the HMRC Digital Service for RPSS statements, and also allow flexibility for the reporting of annual allowance via self-assessment for 2023/24 - exactly as was done in the prior tax year for the same reason. This will enable doctors and their advisors fair time to receive their statements and to prepare their returns, enabling them to continue to undertake their NHS work to the fullest of their abilities.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Vishal Sharma
BMA Pensions Committee Chair

- cc. Rt Hon Wes Streeting MP, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care
- cc. Rt Hon Darren Jones MP, Chief Secretary to the Treasury
- cc. Al Carns OBE MC MP, Minister for Veterans and People

