

NAPS Members and Pensioners Ballot Results

NAPS Rule 27 (b) contains provision for Members and Pensioners to request the Trustees of NAPS to undertake a postal ballot. As per the requirements of Rule 27 (b) 100 written requests for a ballot were received from NAPS Members and Pensioners. The requests detailed the four questions to be included in the ballot to be sent to all active Members and Pensioners in receipt of their pension. The ballot papers were despatched by post on 28 December 2011 with a close date of 31 January 2012.

The report of voting from the Scrutineers, Electoral Reform Services Ltd, for the ballot is as follows:

Number of eligible voters:	44,497
papers returned by post:	14,453
Total number of papers returned:	14,453
Turnout:	32.5%
Number of papers found to be fully invalid (spoilt or no response to any question):	17
Total number of valid papers to be counted:	14,436

Question 1: Do you agree that the NAPS Trustees should exercise their powers to influence BA into agreeing to a supplementary deed to clause 16 of the NAPS Scheme Rules giving Trustees discretionary power to award discretionary benefit increases as per rule 15 of APS, thus maintaining parity with APS?

Result

Number voting YES	13,675	(94.7% of valid papers)
Number voting NO	519	(3.6% of valid papers)
No vote	241	(1.7% of valid papers)
Spoilt vote	1	
TOTAL	14,436	(100% of valid papers)

Question 2: Annual increases in NAPS pensions have been based on the Government's Annual Review Orders which, until the June 2010 Budget, used the year-on-year increase of the Retail Price Index (RPI) in September to increase pensions. In the 2010 Budget the Chancellor changed the index he used from RPI (Retail Price Index) to CPI (Consumer Price Index). CPI was only introduced in 1996. Since its introduction, CPI has only been higher than RPI during September on four occasions. Accepting that in the occasional year CPI may exceed RPI, but that the history and the expectation is that RPI will usually be higher than CPI (last September it was 1.5% higher). Do you agree that it is in the best interests of NAPS beneficiaries that the Trustees should amend the NAPS Trust Deed and Rules so that in future annual increases are not determined by the Government but are "hard-wired" to RPI so that all NAPS beneficiaries can continue to receive RPI increases?

Result

Number voting YES	13,548	(93.8% of valid papers)
Number voting NO	661	(4.6% of valid papers)
No vote	226	(1.6% of valid papers)
Spoilt vote	1	
TOTAL	14,436	(100% of valid papers)

Question 3: Do you agree that the NAPS Trustees should retain and continue a funding target sufficient to pay RPI Pension increases?

Result

Number voting YES	13,715	(95% of valid papers)
Number voting NO	476	(3.3% of valid papers)
No vote	244	(1.7% of valid papers)
Spoilt vote	1	
TOTAL	14,436	(100% of valid papers)

Question 4: Do you believe that the NAPS Trustees should restore RPI increases with immediate effect and the increases back dated to April 2011, thus meeting member's expectations?

Result

Number voting YES	12,997	(90% of valid papers)
Number voting NO	1,270	(8.8% of valid papers)
No vote	169	(1.2% of valid papers)
Spoilt vote	0	
TOTAL	14,436	(100% of valid papers)