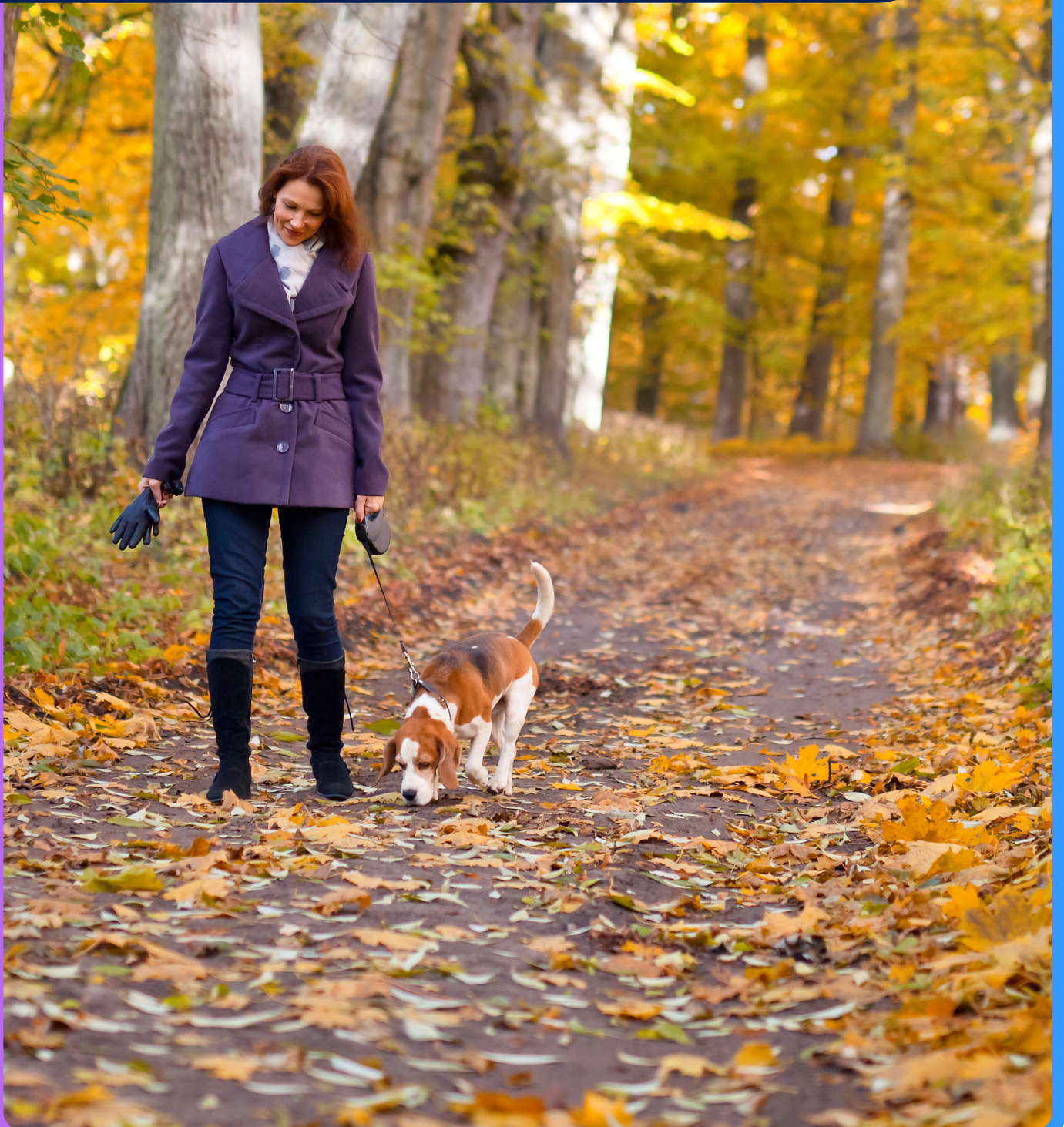




Your Autumn Update



Hello and welcome to our Autumn Client Newsletter!

As we move into the autumn months, the UK economic landscape continues to evolve, with inflation, interest rates and global events remaining important considerations for investors and those planning for retirement.

In this edition, you'll find our latest insights across pensions, investments and retirement planning, alongside practical guidance to help you navigate the current environment and make informed decisions about your financial future.

While inflation has recently moved higher and energy prices remain volatile, the Bank of England has maintained Bank Rate at 3.75%, highlighting the continued uncertainty surrounding the outlook.

Whether you're approaching retirement, reviewing your existing arrangements or simply looking to keep your plans on track, our expert Financial Advisers are here to provide clear, personalised advice and support.

From all of us at My Pension Expert, we hope you enjoy this edition and the autumn season ahead.



A stylized, handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read 'AMegson'.

Andrew Megson
Chief Executive Officer

Market Update:

Q3 2026 Review

During **Q3 2026**, the UK economy continued to show resilience, although the outlook became more challenging as renewed energy price pressures pushed inflation higher. Economic activity remained positive, with GDP growing by **0.4% in July**, while geopolitical tensions and higher global energy prices continued to create uncertainty around the economic outlook.

The Bank of England (BoE) maintained **the Bank Rate at 3.75% throughout the quarter** as policymakers assessed the impact of higher energy prices on inflation and economic growth. The Monetary Policy Committee voted 6–3 to hold rates at both its July and September meetings, with three members voting for a **0.25 percentage-point increase to 4%. UK CPI inflation rose from 2.6% in June to 2.9% in July and 3.1% in August, moving further above the Bank's 2% target.** Higher motor fuel and energy costs were key contributors to the recent increase.

UK financial markets remained sensitive to movements in interest-rate expectations, energy prices and geopolitical developments during Q3. While continued economic growth and resilient consumer activity provided some support, uncertainty around the path of inflation and future monetary policy continued to influence investor sentiment. Retail sales volumes rose by **0.5% in August, following a 0.5% fall in July, suggesting consumer spending remained relatively resilient despite higher prices.**

Energy prices remained a key factor shaping the economic outlook. The prolonged conflict in the Middle East contributed to further increases and volatility in crude and refined energy prices, creating renewed inflationary pressures for households and businesses. The BoE has indicated that inflation is likely to rise further over the coming quarters, with future policy decisions dependent on the scale and duration of the energy shock and its wider impact on domestic prices and wages.

Sources: Bank of England (BoE), Office for National Statistics (ONS), Ofgem, London Stock Exchange Group (LSEG), GOV.UK.





Your Pension News Round-Up

The Pension Schemes Act 2026

The Pension Schemes Act creates a framework to consolidate **defined contribution (DC)** trusts into £25bn+ “megafunds” by 2030 and gives **defined benefit (DB)** trustees simpler routes to return surplus funds to employers.

4.8% State Pension Rise

State Pension rates on GOV.UK reflect the **4.8% increase that took effect from 6 April 2026** under the Triple Lock, bringing the full new State Pension to **£241.30 per week (£12,547.60 per year)** and the basic State Pension to **£184.90 per week**.

Dashboard Connection Deadline

The Pensions Dashboards Programme framework requires major workplace providers and schemes to complete connection to the national ecosystem by **31 October 2026** so savers can view all pots in one place.

Default Decumulation Rules

The official GOV.UK Pensions Reform Roadmap outlines regulatory rules requiring **defined contribution (DC)** schemes to offer default retirement drawdown options, alongside automated consolidators to clear out micro-pots of £1,000 or less.

If you'd like to chat about your pension or retirement plans, our advisers are here to help. Call us on **0808 252 3047** for support.

Pension Beneficiaries: What You Need to Know

While pension planning usually focuses on your own retirement, making provision for your loved ones is just as crucial. Nominating pension beneficiaries ensures your remaining savings are passed on according to your wishes.

Here are the key details to keep in mind:

What is a pension beneficiary?

A beneficiary is anyone you nominate to receive your remaining pension savings when you pass away such as a spouse, children, dependants, or other family members.

How are benefits paid?

Depending on your scheme rules, beneficiaries may receive a lump sum, an ongoing income (such as a spouse's pension), or access to remaining funds through flexible drawdown.

Tax implications

If you pass away before age 75, payments are generally tax-free. If death occurs after 75, beneficiaries will typically pay income tax at their marginal rate on any withdrawals.

Not legally binding

Pension benefits are usually paid at the discretion of the scheme's trustees to ensure tax efficiency, though they take your nomination forms into careful consideration.

If you would like to discuss how your pension fits into your wider financial plan, please get in touch with our team.

Curious about how pension beneficiaries work and how to protect your loved ones? Click [here](#) to read our article.

Case Study Spotlight

As he approached 55, Jason wanted to get his retirement on track and focus on paying off his mortgage. Having worked for several employers, he had multiple pension pots scattered across different providers and no clear picture of his financial future. He turned to us for guidance to bring everything together.

After reviewing his options, our team helped Jason set up a flexible-access drawdown plan, giving him direct control over his funds and a clear strategy for his mortgage. Through clear step-by-step advice and regular check-ins, Jason gained complete confidence in his long-term plan.

Today, Jason enjoys total peace of mind, improved spending habits, and the assurance that his finances are working for him. He feels secure, valued, and empowered to help his family plan for their own futures.

If you would like to read more about Jason's story, visit our website [here](#).



Share your story with us!

Leave us a review on [Trustpilot](#) for a chance to have your story featured. We love hearing how we've helped our clients plan for retirement with confidence, and your feedback could help others who are considering their own retirement journey.

 **Trustpilot**

based on over 6,500 reviews



This case study is based on one client's circumstances and may not be typical or suitable for others. Pension benefits and income are subject to investment risk and may go down as well as up. Please see the important information on the last page.

MPE in the Media

“From there, you can look at what is within your control, whether that means increasing contributions where affordable, making the most of employer pension contributions or reviewing when you plan to retire.”

7th Sep, 2026

MONEYWEEK

“At My Pension Expert, we’re keen to hear the Government laying out exactly what their plan is and making sure people have the right support so they can be prepared... If you’re unsure what potential changes mean, seek support from financial guidance or an adviser who can help you develop a personal plan.”

Featured on BBC Radio London

15 Sep 2026

**BBC
SOUNDS**

“Deferral has long been presented as a legitimate way to boost state pension income later in life. If that decision now leaves someone facing tax even where the state pension is their only income, it risks penalising people for planning effectively.”

5th Aug, 2026

DAILY EXPRESS

“If the Government has no plans to make changes to pension tax, giving people that reassurance sooner rather than later would help avoid unnecessary speculation.”

3rd Aug, 2026

The INDEPENDENT

If you ever need to contact a member of the team, don't hesitate to get in touch. You can call us directly on [0808 252 3047](tel:08082523047) and we'll be happy to help.



SHARE THE REWARD WITH A FRIEND!

Money and retirement plans are often discussed with friends and family, but knowing what to do next isn't always straightforward.

If someone you know has questions about their pension, retirement income or financial options, you can connect them with **My Pension Expert** for a chance to explore their options with a regulated financial adviser with no pressure or obligation to proceed.

Simply sign up, receive your personalised referral link and share it with someone who could benefit. Once they complete their advice journey, **you'll both receive £250 in Amazon or Love2shop vouchers**, and there's no limit to the number of people you can refer.

Want to know more?

Visit our Refer a Friend page for full details, FAQs and terms.

[Find out more about our Refer a Friend scheme.](#)

Ready to refer someone? Head [here](#) to get started – and don't forget, there's no limit on the number of referrals you can make.



Give £250.

Get £250.

Know someone who could benefit from expert pension advice? Introduce them to us and, if they become a client, you could both receive a **£250 Amazon OR Love2shop voucher.**

1

Register your details

Sign up [here](#) for the Refer a Friend scheme to receive your unique referral link.

2

Share your link

Pass your personal link to friends or family who could benefit from expert advice.

3

Enjoy your reward

Once they complete with us, you both receive a £250 voucher, from **Amazon** or **Love2Shop**.

If you invest in a flexible-access drawdown (FAD) plan, your pension pot is invested. Your income relies on the performance of your fund. A FAD is usually a long-term investment; the fund value may fluctuate and can go down. Your income will depend on the size of the fund, the performance of the fund, the economic climate, tax legislation and your objectives.



My Pension Expert
Colonnades House
Duke Street
Doncaster
DN1 3BW

0808 252 3047

www.mypensionexpert.com

My Pension Expert Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. We are entered on the FCA Register (Nº 579999) at www.fca.org.uk. Registered in England (Nº 07627457).