A meeting was held on 3 Sept to discuss the Pension Schemes Act 2026 and the draft secondary legislation regarding the potential for improvements to the pension benefits for pre-97 pensioners who have lost 50% or more of the value of the pensioners over past decades. Participating in the discussion were:

1. Members of the Trustee for the Digital Section of the HPRBP pension scheme

    Paul Early Chair HPRBP Pension Scheme (also Digital pensioner)
    Martin Smith - Trustee, HPRBP Pension Scheme (also Digital pensioner)
    Beverly Clements - Trustee, HPRBP Pension Scheme (also HP pensioner)
    Willem ven der Merwe - AON, Scheme Actuary

2. Parliamentarians: Dame Nia Griffith - MP, Llanelli
   Alan Gemmell, MP, Central Ayrshire
   Lord Bryn Davies of Brixton

3. HPPA members/pensioners: Paul Kelsey
   HPPA pensioner & constituent of Dame Nia Griffith
   Patricia Kennedy, Chair HPPA & Pre-97 Alliance
   & constituent of Alan Gemmell

It was clear to HPPA members (Paul and Patricia) that the Trustees understand the pre-97 problem and make recommendations annually for discretionary increases. However, the decision belongs to the Company. The Trustees are aware that lump sum payments would be more meaningful to us, rather than small percentage increases.

There was agreement that for the Digital section of the scheme, the new legislation does not provide any provision for improvement of benefits for pre-97 members. This message will be taken back by Dame Nia Griffith to Government.

There were actions identified that might, over the next 5 years, lead to potential improvements but those will need further action and Government support.

As Lord Bryn Davies repeated from his statements in the House of Lords earlier this year, the pre-97 problem is not going away. Sadly, our numbers are decreasing, but our campaign and efforts will continue. We are working to get our message to our new Prime Minister. Improving pre 97 pension benefits will boost local economies in every post code.