

# Pension Scams

## Pension Scams

Unfortunately, pension scams are still on the rise, and members of defined benefit schemes — like you — are prime targets. Scammers can be polite, professional and articulate. They may have glossy brochures and websites that look legitimate and tempt you with promises of one-off investments, pension loans and upfront cash.

To help keep your pension benefits safe, here are some dos and don'ts:

### DON'T

- Accept offers from anyone who contacts you about your pension out of the blue — these could include a 'free pension review', a home visit or hand-delivered paperwork;
- Be lured into overseas investment deals — well known scams include unregulated investments in things like hotels, where your money is also more at risk because it's difficult to access;
- Fall for 'guaranteed' returns — there's no such thing;
- Be rushed into a decision because of a 'time-limited' offer

### DO

- Speak to an authorised independent financial adviser (IFA) before making a decision that could affect the rest of your life. If you don't have a financial adviser, you can find one at [www.moneyhelper.org.uk](http://www.moneyhelper.org.uk), and don't forget that Cadent Gas Pension Scheme Trustees have arranged for active or deferred members to have access to an IFA
- Ask MoneyHelper for help if you have doubts. Visit the scams section at [www.moneyhelper.org.uk](http://www.moneyhelper.org.uk)
- Call Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 if you think you've been scammed and be sure to let us know too. It may not be too late to stop a transfer if it hasn't gone through. For more information, visit: [www.fca.org.uk/scamsmart](http://www.fca.org.uk/scamsmart)
- Watch this useful video on pension scams [https://youtu.be/TYk\\_X3tn9hc](https://youtu.be/TYk_X3tn9hc)