



HM Revenue
& Customs

Pensions: Individual Protection 2014

Guidance Note
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Introduction

As announced at Budget 2013, and following consultation, parliamentary scrutiny and Royal Assent, legislation was introduced in Finance Act 2014 to provide further transitional protection ('individual protection 2014') from the pensions lifetime allowance charge. This protection has been introduced because the standard lifetime allowance has reduced from £1.5 million to £1.25 million from 6 April 2014. Individuals who have pension savings of greater than £1.25 million on 5 April 2014 can apply for individual protection 2014, providing they don't have existing primary protection. Individual protection 2014 will give individuals a protected lifetime allowance equal to the value of their pension savings on 5 April 2014, subject to an overall maximum of £1.5 million.

This document provides some questions and answers in connection with individual protection 2014 based on the legislation in Schedule 6 Finance Act 2014 and supporting regulations in Statutory Instruments 2014/1842¹ and 2014/1843².

If you have any further questions in connection with these changes please contact the HMRC Pension Schemes Services helpline on 0300 123 1079.

¹ The Registered Pension Schemes and Relieved Non-UK Pension Schemes (Lifetime Allowance Transitional Protection)(Individual Protection 2014) Regulations 2014 [SI 2014/1842].

² The Registered Pension Schemes (Provision of Information)(Amendment) Regulations 2014 [SI 2014/1843].

Chapter 1 - Overview

1.1 Lifetime Allowance and Protection Overview

What is the lifetime allowance?

The lifetime allowance is the maximum amount of pension savings that you can build up over your lifetime that benefit from UK tax relief.

If when you crystallise your pension savings these are worth more than the lifetime allowance you'll pay a tax charge (the lifetime allowance charge) on the excess. There are eleven events, called benefit crystallisation events (BCEs), when your pension savings may crystallise. Most of these events occur when you take benefits from your pension scheme. For more information about the eleven BCEs see [RPSM11102020](#).

The level of the standard lifetime allowance has been reduced from £1.5 million to £1.25 million with effect from 6 April 2014 onwards.

For further information on the lifetime allowance rules see [Understanding the lifetime allowance for pension schemes](#).

As a consequence of the reduction in the lifetime allowance from April 2014, there are two new forms of transitional protection available, fixed protection 2014 ('FP 2014') and individual protection 2014 ('IP 2014').

Fixed protection 2014 (FP 2014)

FP 2014 is aimed at individuals who

- at 5 April 2014 had already built up savings of more than £1.25 million, or
- had planned to do so after that date in the expectation that the lifetime allowance would not reduce from the 2013-14 level.

FP 2014 will give you a protected lifetime allowance of £1.5 million. This means you can crystallise benefits worth up to £1.5 million without paying the lifetime allowance charge.

If you expect your pension savings to be more than £1.25 million (including taking into account past benefit crystallisation events) when you come to take your benefits on or after 6 April 2014, you can use FP 2014 to help reduce or eliminate the lifetime allowance charge. FP 2014 had to be applied for on or before 5 April 2014 - if you make an application after that date HMRC cannot accept it.

In return for this protection, the tax rules limit your ability to accrue future benefits. If you exceed these limits then you will lose your FP 2014. You can also lose FP 2014 in other circumstances. For further information on FP 2014 and how to apply see [RPSM11106200](#).

Individual protection 2014 (IP 2014)

The government has also introduced in Finance Act 2014 an additional form of protection - IP 2014 - which offers individuals more flexibility than FP 2014 in how they protect their pension savings.

If you have pension savings on 5 April 2014 which have a value of more than £1.25 million, IP 2014 allows you to protect those savings (up to a value of £1.5 million), as long as you don't have primary protection, see [RPSM03100000](#).

IP 2014 will give you a protected lifetime allowance equal to the value of your pension savings on 5 April 2014 subject to an overall maximum of £1.5 million. Unlike FP 2014 there are no restrictions on future pension savings, although if they exceed your protected lifetime allowance the excess will be subject to the lifetime allowance charge.

IP 2014 is available even if your pension savings on 5 April 2014 have a value of more than £1.5 million. As the maximum protected lifetime allowance you can have with IP 2014 is £1.5 million, any savings in excess of this will not be protected and will be subject to the lifetime allowance charge when you crystallise your benefits. See [RPSM11105000](#) for more guidance on the lifetime allowance charge.

The online application is available on the [HMRC website](#). You have up to 5 April 2017 to submit your IP 2014 online application to HMRC.

1.2 IP 2014 basic overview

Who can have IP 2014?

If you are a member of a registered pension scheme and/or a relieved member of a relieved non-UK pension scheme you can have IP 2014 provided that:

- on 5 April 2014, your pension rights in such schemes are valued at more than £1.25 million, and
- you do not have valid primary protection on 5 April 2014, and
- your application for IP 2014 is received by HMRC by 5 April 2017 at the latest.

What will be my protected lifetime allowance under IP 2014?

If you successfully apply for IP 2014, you will be given a protected lifetime allowance equal to the value of your pension savings on 5 April 2014 subject to a maximum of £1.5 million.

What is the maximum tax free lump sum I can have?

Normally, the maximum tax-free lump sum you can take from 6 April 2014 will be 25% of the uncrystallised value of your protected lifetime allowance, subject to what the rules of your pension scheme(s) allow. However, some individuals are entitled to tax-free lump sums greater than 25% of their savings where they had a right to the higher amount of lump sum on 5 April 2006 and this is protected under the transitional rules in Schedule 36

to Finance Act 2004. These lump sums are normally referred to as scheme specific lump sums and stand alone lump sums. Also, if you have valid enhanced protection and you were entitled to a lump sum or sums totalling more than £375,000 on 5 April 2006, that lump sum or sums may be protected. For more detail on all these protections see [RPSM03105000](#) onwards.

What are the restrictions on future savings?

There are no restrictions. But any pension savings above your protected lifetime allowance will be liable to the lifetime allowance charge.

What happens if my pension savings exceed my personalised lifetime allowance?

You will be subject to the lifetime allowance charge on the excess when you take your benefits.

What happens if the standard lifetime allowance goes above my personalised lifetime allowance?

If at some time in the future the level of the standard lifetime allowance is higher than the level of your personalised lifetime allowance, your IP 2014 protection will cease to apply and you will revert to the higher standard lifetime allowance.

How do I apply for IP 2014?

See Chapter 2 of this guidance.

Can I have both FP 2014 and IP 2014?

Yes – see Chapter 2 of this guidance.

Chapter 2 - Applying for IP 2014

Note – the legislation talks about “giving notice of an intention to rely on IP 2014” but for ease of understanding in this guidance the process for giving notice is referred to as making an application for IP 2014.

References to regulations in this Chapter are to the Registered Pension Schemes and Relieved Non-UK Pension Schemes (Lifetime Allowance Transitional Protection) (Individual Protection 2014 Notification) Regulations 2014 [SI 2014/1842].

Who can apply for IP 2014?

[Paragraph 1(1) Schedule 6 Finance Act 2014]

You can apply for IP 2014 even if you already have

- enhanced protection,
- fixed protection, or
- fixed protection 2014.

But you cannot apply if you have

- primary protection, or
- both enhanced protection and (dormant) primary protection.

If you want to apply for IP 2014 you will need to meet certain conditions. The conditions are that:

- you have one or more “relevant arrangements” (see following question) on 5 April 2014, and
- your relevant amount on 5 April 2014 is more than £1.25 million, and
- you do not have primary protection (see [RPSM03100050](#) and [RPSM03102000](#)).

If you are satisfied you meet these conditions you can apply to HMRC for IP 2014.

What is a relevant arrangement?

[Paragraph 1(4) Schedule 6 Finance Act 2014]

You have one or more relevant arrangements if on 5 April 2014:

- you are a member of one or more registered pension schemes, and/or
- you are a “relieved member” (see [RPSM13102530](#) for more detail) of a “relieved non-UK pension scheme” (see [RPSM13102520](#) for more detail). Very broadly this means you have funds in an overseas pension scheme which have benefitted from UK tax relief in some way, but not including savings that were in a registered pension scheme that have been transferred to the non-UK scheme.

What is my relevant amount?

[Paragraph 1(5) of Schedule 6 to Finance Act 2014]

Your relevant amount is the total value on 5 April 2014 of your pension rights in all your relevant arrangements (see previous question). An individual can have different types of

pension rights and for IP 2014 these have been categorised as Amounts A, B, C and D. There is more information about the rights in each category and how they are valued later in this guidance.

How do I apply for IP 2014?
[Regulation 4(2)(a)]

To apply for IP 2014 you will need to complete the online application which is available on the [HMRC website](#). The online application must be received by HMRC by 5 April 2017.

Anyone can complete the online application and submit it on your behalf.

I intend to apply for IP 2014. What would happen if I died before 6 April 2017 and before applying for IP 2014?
[Regulation 14]

Your personal representatives will have the right to apply in your place.

What is the final deadline for applying for IP 2014?
[Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2014]

Your online application must be received by HMRC by 5 April 2017 at the latest. Applications received after that date will not be accepted.

Can I make a late application after 5 April 2017?
[Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2014]

No. Your online application must be received by HMRC by 5 April 2017 at the latest. There is no provision in the legislation allowing HMRC to accept late applications. You must therefore ensure that your application is made on time.

What if I make an application on time but I have missed something out?

Applications must be received by HMRC by 5 April 2017 at the latest.

If, when we receive it, the application contains any obvious mistakes or is incomplete we will send you a letter asking for confirmation of the correct or missing information.

What information do I need to give on the online application?
[Regulation 4(1)]

Your application for IP 2014 must be made using the online application which is on the [HMRC website](#). To complete the application correctly you must give the following details:

- confirmation that you don't have primary protection (see [RPSM03100050](#) and [RPSM03102000](#)),
- the value of your pension savings, broken down into Amounts A, B, C and D as appropriate, see Chapter 3 of this guidance,

- the date and amount of any pension debit to which your pension savings have become subject since 6 April 2014 and before you make your application, and the amount of the discounted pension debit (that is, the amount by which your relevant amount is actually reduced - see Chapter 4 of this guidance for more detail),
- your full name and address,
- your date of birth, and
- your National Insurance number (or if you don't have a National Insurance number, the reasons for this).

Whoever completes the form must also complete the declaration on the form declaring that the information they have given is true and complete to the best of their knowledge and belief.

Will HMRC confirm receipt of my IP 2014 application?

You will receive an email confirmation of receipt of your application following your online submission.

Once we have accepted and processed your online application we will send you a certificate to state that you have IP 2014. HMRC is likely to start issuing certificates from October 2014.

If IP 2014 is dormant because you have one of enhanced protection, fixed protection or fixed protection 2014 we will write to you confirming that your IP 2014 application has been accepted. But as these protections are more favourable than IP 2014, your IP 2014 certificate won't be issued unless and until your IP 2014 becomes active because you have lost the other form of protection and notified us of this, as you are required to do.

How will I know if my application for IP 2014 has been accepted? [Regulation 5]

If you do not have any existing protection, when we have received and processed your online application, if you are entitled to IP 2014, we will send you a certificate (with a unique reference number) stating that you have IP 2014 and the amount protected. You must keep this certificate safe as you will need to show it to your pension scheme(s) if you want to rely on IP 2014 when you come to take your benefits.

Where you have existing enhanced protection, fixed protection or fixed protection 2014, we will write and tell you that your IP 2014 application has been accepted. But your IP 2014 certificate won't be issued unless and until your IP 2014 becomes active.

Why would HMRC reject my application? [Regulation 6]

HMRC may refuse to accept your application if:

- it is not made on the online application,
- all the information required has not been provided,
- we receive your application after 5 April 2017.

Can I appeal if HMRC refuse to accept an application?

[Regulations 6(2) and 7]

If we refuse to accept your application and if we have not already explained why, you can require us to give you the reasons for our refusal. You may also appeal against the decision not to accept your application. You must tell HMRC that you want to appeal against that decision within 30 days of the day when we gave our decision to refuse to accept your application.

Where the appeal is considered by the tribunal, the tribunal will decide whether HMRC was entitled to take the view that:

- the notice that you gave did not satisfy the notification requirements,
- the notice did not contain the required information,
- your application was not made using the online application, or
- your application was not received by HMRC on or before 5 April 2017.

If the tribunal finds that HMRC should have accepted the notice then they may direct us to issue you an IP 2014 certificate. If HMRC's decision is upheld then you will either have to make a fresh application before 5 April 2017 or, if the decision is that the form was not received before that date, you will not be entitled to IP 2014.

See [Appealing to the tribunal](#) for further information.

What should I do if after making my application I realise I've given incorrect information?

[Regulation 8]

If you realise that either the information on your online application or any information given to us in connection with your application is incorrect or becomes incorrect later then you must provide us with the correct information without undue delay.

If you do not provide this information you may be liable to penalties.

If HMRC has already issued your certificate, HMRC will then replace the current certificate with an amended certificate, which will supersede the first certificate.

What should I do if following my divorce my pension rights have become subject to a pension debit?

[Regulations 2, 9, 10 and 11. Paragraph 1(6) and (9) Schedule 6 Finance Act 2014]

If your pension rights are subject to a pension debit, your protected lifetime allowance may be reduced or, if your pension rights are reduced to an amount less than the standard lifetime allowance in force when the pension sharing order or provision takes effect, cease to apply altogether.

If, at any time after we have issued you with an IP 2014 certificate, your pension rights become subject to a pension debit (see Chapter 4), you must inform us about this within 60 days of the date of the pension debit. The date of a pension debit is the date on which the

notice of discharge of liability is issued under regulation 8(1) of the Pensions on Divorce etc. (Provision of Information) Regulations 2000 (SI 2000/1048).

You must give HMRC the following information:

- the date of the pension debit (see above),
- the amount of the pension debit,
- the net amount of the pension debit taking into account any required reduction to it (see above for more detail).

HMRC will if appropriate either

- issue a replacement certificate, which will supersede the first certificate, or
- revoke your certificate if the value of your pension rights following the debit has fallen below the standard lifetime allowance.

Any benefit crystallisation events that occurred after 5 April 2014 and before the effective date of the pension sharing order or provision, that is while your IP 2014 was still valid, will be unaffected by the replacement or revocation of your certificate.

If you do not provide this information you may be liable to penalties.

Can HMRC replace my certificate?

[Regulation 10]

Yes. We may issue a replacement certificate, with a separate unique reference number, if we have reason to believe that

- you have given incorrect information on the online application or in connection with your application,
- the information given has since become incorrect, or
- your rights under the arrangement have become subject to a pension debit.

If you tell us that you have mislaid your certificate and explain why you need a duplicate certificate, a duplicate can be issued to you if we think it appropriate to do so.

When might HMRC revoke my certificate?

[Regulation 11]

HMRC may revoke your certificate if:

- we have reason to believe that that you were not entitled to IP 2014 because you did not satisfy one or more of conditions (see page 7),
- we have reason to believe that your relevant amount has been reduced below £1.25 million by a pension debit (see chapter 4), or
- you have failed to respond within the given deadline to a notice given by HMRC in connection with IP 2014 under paragraph 1 of Schedule 36 to Finance Act 2008, (see page 13).

**Can I appeal against HMRC's replacement or revocation of my certificate?
[Regulation 12]**

Yes. If HMRC replaces or revokes your IP 2014 certificate then, if we have not already done so, you can require us to give the reasons for this.

You may also appeal against our decision to replace or revoke your certificate. You must tell HMRC if you want to appeal against our decision within 30 days of the date when we gave our refusal decision.

Where the appeal is considered by the tribunal, the tribunal will decide whether HMRC had grounds to replace or revoke your certificate.

If the tribunal allows your appeal they may direct HMRC to issue an IP 2014 certificate.

See [Appealing to the tribunal](#) for further information.

If your appeal is refused then your certificate remains either replaced or revoked. Your IP 2014 will be based on the replacement certificate or, if your certificate was revoked, you will have lost your IP 2014 from the date of revocation. Any benefits taken after your certificate has been replaced or revoked will be tested against your replacement protected lifetime allowance or the standard lifetime allowance if your certificate has been revoked. But any benefits taken after 5 April 2014, whilst your IP 2014 was set at a higher level and was valid, will not be retested.

**Do I need to keep any documents relating to my IP 2014 application?
[Regulation 13]**

Yes. You must keep your IP 2014 certificate issued by HMRC until no further benefit crystallisation events can occur in respect of your pension savings or until such time as your certificate may be either replaced or revoked (see earlier questions for more detail).

Copies of the valuation of your pension benefits should not be submitted with the online application. However, you must keep all documents relating to the calculation of your relevant amount and amounts A, B, C and D (see chapter 3) for six years from the day on which your application is made to HMRC.

**Is HMRC able to review the information I have provided on the online application?
[Paragraph 1 of Schedule 36 Finance 2008]**

Yes. After you have made your application online and we have issued your IP 2014 certificate, we can review any information given on the online application or in connection with your application for the purposes of checking your tax position. HMRC can call for any information or document by notice in writing where this is reasonably required to allow us to check your tax position. For more information, please see [RPSM03100600](#).

You have a right to appeal against such a notice or any particular requirement in the notice. For more information, please see [RPSM03100610](#).

What would happen if I were to provide you with fraudulent or negligent information?

[Section 98(2) Taxes Management Act 1970]

You may be liable to a penalty if you

- fraudulently or negligently provide false information in connection with any notification (including an enquiry into a notification), or
- produce or make available an incorrect document to HMRC in connection with any notification (including an enquiry into a notification).

A penalty will be due if as a result of the incorrect information, document or certificate your IP 2014 relevant amount (see page 7) should be less than you have told us. The penalty will be an amount up to £3000.

Chapter 3 - Valuing savings

3.1 General

I want to claim IP 2014. How should my pension savings be valued? [Paragraphs 1(1)(b), 1(5) and 2 to 5, Schedule 6 Finance Act 2014]

How your pension savings are valued will differ depending on what they consist of. There are different methods for valuing the following types of pension savings:

- any pension that you started to receive before 6 April 2006 (Amount A),
- any pension that came into payment after 5 April 2006 but before 6 April 2014 along with certain tax-free lump sums received in the same period (Amount B),
- pension savings that you have not yet taken from your registered pension scheme (Amount C), and
- pension savings that you have not yet taken from certain overseas pension schemes (Amount D).

When do my savings have to be valued? [Paragraphs 1(1)(a) and (b), 1(b) and 2 to 5 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2014]

You need to obtain the value of your pension savings at 5 April 2014. However, HMRC will accept asset valuations already obtained to be treated as the value of the asset on 5 April 2014 where that valuation is at a date from 31 March 2014 to 4 April 2014 and there has been no material change in the assets between that date and 5 April 2014.

How do I obtain a valuation?

You can ask your pension scheme provider to give you a value for your pension savings on 5 April 2014 or tell you (if you are not already aware of it) what your annual rate of pension was on that date. Your scheme administrator is not obliged to give you this information but it is unlikely they will refuse to do so.

I have had an annual allowance charge and have asked my scheme to operate scheme pays. Will this affect the value of my pension savings?

No. Your pension rights will be valued on 5 April 2014. If your scheme reduces your benefits after this date as a result of scheme pays your relevant amount will not be adjusted.

‘Scheme pays’ is an agreement some people liable to the annual allowance charge make with their scheme so that the scheme pays the charge instead of the member and recovers the tax paid by reducing the member’s benefits accordingly. For more information about scheme pays see [RPSM06109000](#).

3.2 Valuing pre-6 April 2006 pensions in payment (Amount A)

[Paragraph 2 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2014]

Why do I need to get a value for these pensions?

The tax rules say that the capitalised value of certain pensions, known as “relevant existing pensions”, that came into payment before 6 April 2006 will use up some or all of a person’s lifetime allowance should that person take further pension benefits on or after that date. But these pensions will not themselves be subject to the lifetime allowance charge.

So if you are receiving one or more pension of this kind, they need to be included in the value of your savings to be protected by IP 2014.

What is a relevant existing pension?

[Paragraph 2(8) and (9) Schedule 6 Finance Act 2014]

Broadly, a relevant existing pension is a pension or annuity which was in payment on 5 April 2006 and derived from UK tax-relieved pension savings. Specifically, a relevant existing pension is any of the following types of pension that was in payment on 5 April 2006 (unless it is being paid to you as a dependant following the death of a scheme member):

- a. a pension under an approved Chapter I Part 14 Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988 (ICTA) retirement benefits scheme
- b. a pension from a scheme formerly approved under Section 208 ICTA 1970
- c. a pension under a relevant statutory scheme (defined in section 611A ICTA 1988) or a scheme treated by HMRC as if it were a relevant statutory scheme
- d. an annuity (or income drawdown) under any contract relating to (a) to (c) inclusive (such annuities/pensions include bought-out benefits where the contract is in the member’s name)
- e. a pension under the Parliamentary pension schemes or funds
- f. an annuity from a retirement annuity contract
- g. an annuity from personal pension scheme funds approved under Chapter 4 Part 14 ICTA 1988
- h. income withdrawals under a personal pension scheme.

What about the tax-free lump sum I received at the time I took my pre-6 April 2006 pension?

The value of the lump sum does not have to be taken into account as allowance is made for it in the multiplier used to value the pension (see next question).

How is my pre-6 April 2006 pension or annuity valued?

[Paragraph 2 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2014]

The pension or annuity is valued by multiplying by 25 the annual rate at which it was payable on a certain date. The date used depends on whether or not you have already had a benefit crystallisation event (BCE) between 6 April 2006 and 5 April 2014. See [RPSM11102020](#) for details about the 11 BCEs that can occur.

I have not had any benefit crystallisation events (BCEs) - how is my pre-6 April 2006 pension or annuity valued?

[Paragraph 2(1)(b), 2(6) and 2(7) Schedule 6 Finance Act 2014]

Your pre-6 April 2006 pension or annuity is valued by multiplying by 25 the annual rate of the pension or annuity payable to you at the end of 5 April 2014. Note that it is the annual rate that counts and not the actual amount of pension you were paid in the previous 12 months. So if, on 5 April 2014, the annual rate at which your pension or annuity is payable is £10,000 then its value for IP 2014 is £250,000 (£10,000 x 25).

If you had more than one pension in payment on 5 April 2006, Amount A includes the total of the values of each pension calculated as above.

I am currently receiving a drawdown pension which I started taking as pension income before 6 April 2006. I have not had any benefit crystallisation events (BCEs) - how is my drawdown pension valued?

[Paragraph 2(1)(b), 2(6) and 2(7) Schedule 6 Finance Act 2014]

[Paragraph 20(4) Schedule 36 Finance Act 2004]

If you are receiving what is now called a 'drawdown pension', prior to 6 April 2006 it would have been called either:

- income drawdown if being paid from a retirement benefits scheme or a deferred annuity contract (section 32 policy), or
- income withdrawal if being paid from a personal pension scheme.

To value your drawdown pension for IP 2014, multiply by 25 the maximum amount of drawdown pension you are able to take for your drawdown year which includes 5 April 2014 (note, not the amount you are actually taking each year).

You don't need to get your drawdown pension fund reviewed as at 5 April 2014 to determine the maximum amount. Instead you should use the maximum amount calculated at your most recent review.

If you had more than one drawdown pension in payment on 5 April 2006, Amount A includes the total of the values of each drawdown pension calculated as above.

Example 1 – Valuing on 5 April 2014 a drawdown pension in payment as pension income before 6 April 2006 where there has been no BCE since 6 April 2006

Alan, who is aged 68, is receiving a drawdown pension, having entered income withdrawal on 15 January 2006. Alan's most recent review took place on 14 January 2013 when his maximum drawdown pension was calculated as being £30,000 per annum and this applies for his next 3 drawdown pension years. On 5 April 2014, the maximum drawdown pension Alan can take is therefore £30,000 although he is only taking £20,000 per year. The value of Alan's drawdown pension for IP 2014 is £750,000 (£30,000 x 25) and not £500,000 (£20,000 x 25). Alan should include £750,000 in respect of this pension in his IP 2014 relevant amount.

I have had a benefit crystallisation event (BCE) since 6 April 2006 - how is my pre 6 April 2006 pension or annuity valued?

[Paragraph 2(1)(a) and 2(2) to (5) Schedule 6 Finance Act 2014]

[Paragraph 20(4) Schedule 36 Finance Act 2014]

When your first BCE occurred (see [RPSM11102020](#) for information about BCEs) the pension tax rules say that there was a deemed BCE in relation to any pre-6 April 2006 pension or annuity you were receiving and that this occurred immediately before the first actual BCE. An amount of lifetime allowance used up by your pre-6 April 2006 pension(s) and/or annuities was calculated at that time. Your pre-6 April 2006 pension or lifetime annuity will have been valued by multiplying by 25 the annual rate of the pension payable to you at the time the first BCE occurred. Note that it is the annual rate that counted and not the amount of pension or annuity paid in the previous 12 months.

For IP 2014 purposes this same value is used as the starting point, but it is then revalued using the formula

$$25 \times \text{ARP} \times \frac{\pounds 1,500,000}{\text{SLT}}$$

SLT is an amount equal to what the standard lifetime allowance was at the time the BCE occurred.

ARP is the annual rate of the pension payable to you at the time the BCE occurred.

The formula is designed to take account of any change in the standard lifetime allowance since the BCE.

If you had more than one BCE since 5 April 2014, you always use the first BCE for the purposes of the revaluation.

Example 2 – Valuing on 5 April 2014 a pension or annuity in payment before 6 April 2006 where there has been a BCE since 6 April 2006

Barbara's first BCE occurred on 30 June 2009 when the annual rate at which her pre-6 April 2006 pension was payable was £10,000. Its value for lifetime allowance purposes would have been £250,000 (£10,000 x 25).

For IP 2014 purposes this same value is used as a starting point, but it is revalued using the formula

$$\text{£250,000} \times \frac{\text{£1,500,000}}{\text{SLT}}$$

SLT is an amount equal to what the standard lifetime allowance was at the time the BCE occurred.

The formula is designed to take account of any change in the standard lifetime allowance since the BCE.

Barbara's first BCE was in tax year 2009-10. The standard lifetime allowance for that year was £1,750,000 (see [RPSM11101010](#)). So the value of her pension or annuity for IP 2014 is

$$\text{£250,000} \times \frac{\text{£1,500,000}}{\text{£1,750,000}} = \text{£214,286} \text{ (HMRC will accept rounding up to the nearest pound for administrative convenience).}$$

I am currently receiving drawdown pension having started taking the pension before 6 April 2006. I have had one or more benefit crystallisation events (BCEs) since 6 April 2006 - how is my drawdown pension valued?
[Paragraph 2(1)(a), 2(2) to (5) of Schedule 6 Finance Act 2014]
[Paragraph 20(4) Schedule 36 Finance Act 2004]

If you are receiving what is now called a 'drawdown pension', before 6 April 2006 it would have been called either

- income drawdown if being paid from a retirement benefit scheme or a deferred annuity contract (section 32 policy), or
- income withdrawal if being paid from a personal pension scheme.

When your first BCE occurred (see [RPSM11102020](#) for information about BCEs) the pension tax rules say that there was a deemed BCE in relation to your pre-6 April 2006 pension or annuity and that this occurred immediately before the first actual BCE. An amount of lifetime allowance used up by your pension(s) already in payment on 5 April 2006 was calculated at that time. In each case, the value of what is now your drawdown pension would have been calculated by multiplying by 25 the maximum amount of drawdown pension you were able to take in the drawdown pension year in which the BCE occurred.

For IP 2014 purposes this same value is used as the starting point, but it is then revalued using the formula

$$25 \times \text{ARP} \times \frac{\pounds 1,500,000}{\text{SLT}}$$

SLT is an amount equal to what the standard lifetime allowance was at the time the BCE occurred.

ARP is the maximum amount of drawdown pension you were able to take in the drawdown pension year in which the BCE occurred.

The formula is designed to take account of any change in the standard lifetime allowance since the BCE.

If you had more than one BCE since 5 April 2014, you always use the first BCE for the purposes of the revaluation.

Example 3 - Valuing on 5 April 2014 a drawdown pension in payment as pension income before 6 April 2006 where has been a BCE since 6 April 2006

Chris is receiving a drawdown pension, having started income withdrawal in January 2006. His first BCE occurred on 30 June 2009 and for the drawdown pension year in which that date fell, the maximum drawdown pension he could have taken was £30,000 although he only took £20,000. The value of his drawdown pension was £750,000 (£30,000 x 25) and not £500,000 (£20,000 x 25).

For IP 2014 purposes this same value is used as a starting point, but it is revalued using the formula

$$\pounds 750,000 \times \frac{\pounds 1,500,000}{\text{SLT}}$$

SLT is an amount equal to what the standard lifetime allowance was at the time the BCE occurred.

The formula is designed to take account of any change in the standard lifetime allowance since the BCE.

Chris's first BCE was in tax year 2009-10. The standard lifetime allowance for that year was £1,750,000 (see [RPSM11101010](#)). So the value of his pension or annuity for IP 2014 is

$$\pounds 750,000 \times \frac{\pounds 1,500,000}{\pounds 1,750,000} = \pounds 642,858 \text{ (HMRC will accept rounding up to the nearest pound for administrative convenience).}$$

3.3 Valuing pre-6 April 2014 benefit crystallisation events (Amount B)

[Paragraph 3 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2014]

What is a benefit crystallisation event (BCE)?

[Section 216 Finance Act 2006]

Benefits are tested against the lifetime allowance whenever one of eleven benefit crystallisation events (BCEs) occur. Most, but not all, BCEs occur when your pension savings are taken as pension benefits (including certain tax-free lump sum benefits paid on your death) or when you reach age 75 without having taken some or all of your benefits. For more detail on the eleven BCEs see the guidance at [RPSM11102020](#) and linked pages.

I have already taken pension benefits from a registered pension scheme or from a relieved non-UK pension scheme (RNUKS) since 5 April 2006 - how are they valued for the purposes of IP 2014?

From 6 April 2006, each time you took benefits from a registered pension scheme the value of those benefits will have been tested against the lifetime allowance as a benefit crystallisation event or BCE. A BCE may also have occurred if, in certain circumstances, you have taken benefits from a RNUKS (see the guidance at [RPSM13102500](#) for more detail). You will need to identify the amount of lifetime allowance used up by each BCE and then revalue it to give a value as at 5 April 2014 (see next question on page 22).

How the amount of lifetime allowance that was used up is calculated will depend on the type of benefits that you have taken. There is guidance on this in the Registered Pension Schemes Manual at [RPSM11104000](#) onwards. This explains in detail how the amount taken at a BCE is valued for the purposes of calculating how much lifetime allowance is used up by the particular BCE.

However, in very broad terms, the amount of LTA used up at the BCEs that may have occurred in respect of you is as follows:

If you have taken a scheme pension	BCE2	This will have used up an amount equal to your initial annual rate of pension multiplied by 20 (unless your scheme administrator has agreed a higher multiplier with HMRC but this is highly unlikely). So if your pension's starting rate was say £30,000 you will have used up £600,000 of your LTA. Any pension payable to a dependant on your death in retirement will not be a BCE and will therefore not use up any LTA.
If you have purchased a lifetime annuity	BCE 4	This will have used up an amount equal to the cost of the purchase of the annuity.

If you have taken a drawdown pension	BCE 1	This will have used up an amount equal to the total of the cash and the market value of any assets which you have designated as available to provide the drawdown pension.
If, when you took any of the above forms of pension, you also took a tax-free lump sum (called a pension commencement lump sum)	BCE 6	This will have used up the amount of the lump sum paid.
If you reached age 75 before 6 April 2014 and you took a drawdown pension before that age	BCE 5A	The value of your drawdown pension fund at age 75 less the amount already crystallised as a BCE 1.
If you have still not taken some or all of your benefits from your scheme at age 75	BCE 5 & BCE 5B	20 times the scheme pension plus any separate lump sum had you taken your benefits immediately before reaching age 75 (for a BCE 5), or the value of the pension savings in a money purchase arrangement in respect of which you have not yet taken benefits (BCE 5B).
If you have transferred sums and assets in respect of benefits you had accrued as a member of a registered pension scheme to a qualifying recognised overseas pension scheme	BCE 8	The total of (1) any sums transferred and (2) the market value of any assets transferred

In all cases, your scheme administrator will have given you a statement showing the percentage of the lifetime allowance used up by your BCE(s). Where you are receiving a pension from the scheme, they must give you this statement annually, at least until you have reached age 75. The percentage is rounded down to two decimal places and will be a percentage of the standard lifetime allowance in force at the time each BCE occurred, except where the BCE occurred after 6 April 2012 at a time when you had valid fixed protection. For these BCEs the percentage shown on your statement will be a percentage of £1.8 million and not of the standard lifetime allowance (£1.5 million) applying at that time.

The standard lifetime allowance in force for each tax year from tax year 2006-07 onwards was/is:

2006-07	£1,500,000
2007-08	£1,600,000
2008-09	£1,650,000

2009-10	£1,750,000
2010-11	£1,800,000
2011-12	£1,800,000
2012-13	£1,500,000
2013-14	£1,500,000
2014-15	£1,250,000

How is the amount of lifetime allowance used up by a pre-6 April 2014 benefit crystallisation event (BCE) revalued for IP 2014?

[Paragraph 3 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2014 for a registered pension scheme]

[Paragraph 14 Schedule 34 Finance Act 2006 for a RNUKS]

You will need to identify each BCE that has occurred in relation to you since 6 April 2006, work out the amount that has crystallised by each BCE and then multiply it by the following fraction:

$$\frac{1,500,000}{\text{SLT}}$$

SLT is the standard lifetime allowance in force applicable to you when each BCE occurred. For example, if you had valid FP12 for tax years 2012-13 and 2013-14 when the lifetime allowance was £1.5 million your standard lifetime allowance (and so SLT) is £1.8 million for those years.

Where you have had more than one BCE, it is the aggregate of the revalued amounts calculated as above that is Amount B.

***Note:** In the examples that follow, it is assumed that the individual does not know the actual value of the amount(s) crystallised and is using their BCE statement percentage to calculate it. If the actual amount is known, or can be obtained from the scheme administrator, then this should be used instead where it provides a higher value because the LTA percentage was rounded down to two decimal places.*

Example 4 – Pension rights exceeding £1.25 million at 5 April 2014 but less than £1.5 million

On 23 May 2008, Matt who is then aged 61 takes a scheme pension of £45,000 (a BCE 2) and a pension commencement lump sum of £300,000 (a BCE 6) from his employer's occupational pension scheme. At that time, Matt has no form of protection and has not previously taken any pension benefits. His BCEs use up £1,200,000 of his lifetime allowance (£45,000 x 20 plus £300,000). In tax year 2008-09 the lifetime allowance was £1,650,000. So Matt's BCEs use up 72.72% (rounded down) of the standard lifetime allowance at the time and his scheme administrator is required to give Matt a statement showing this percentage. The scheme administrator will provide a statement annually until Matt reaches age 75 (in 2022). Matt has no further BCEs before 6 April 2014.

On 5 April 2014, Matt has uncrystallised rights valued at £400,000 (see Chapter 3.4: **valuing uncrystallised rights (Amount C)**). He decides to apply for IP 2014. He knows

from his lifetime allowance statement that in 2008-09 he crystallised 72.72% of £1,650,000. This converts into an amount of £1,199,880 (the rounding down accounts for this figure being less than the original value).

The revalued amount is £1,090,800 ($£1,199,880 \times 1,500,000/1,650,000$).

Matt's total pension savings on 5 April 2014 are therefore:
 $£1,090,800 + £400,000 = £1,490,800$.

So his IP 2014 protected lifetime allowance is £1,490,800. As he has already used up 72.72% of his lifetime allowance, he still has 27.28% of £1,490,800 available to him before exceeding his lifetime allowance and becoming liable for a lifetime allowance tax charge. This means he can take £406,690.24 in further benefits before having to pay the lifetime allowance charge.

Example 5 – Pension rights exceed £1.5 million on 5 April 2014

Holly has three personal pensions. On 5 July 2008, Holly who is then aged 56 takes a pension commencement lump sum of £100,000 (BCE 6) and purchases an annuity for £300,000 (BCE 4) from one of her personal pension schemes. At that time Holly has no form of protection and has not previously taken any pension benefits. Her BCEs use up £400,000 of her lifetime allowance. In tax year 2008-09 the lifetime allowance is £1,650,000. So her BCEs use up 24.24% (rounded down) and her scheme administrator is required to give Holly a statement showing this percentage. The scheme administrator will provide a statement annually until Holly reaches age 75 (in 2027).

On 2 August 2011, Holly takes a pension commencement lump sum of £150,000 (BCE 6) from another of her personal pension schemes and designates £450,000 as being available for the provision of drawdown pension. Her BCEs use up £600,000 of her lifetime allowance. In tax year 2011-12 the lifetime allowance is £1,800,000. So these BCEs use up 33.33% (rounded down) and her scheme administrator is again required to give Holly an annual statement showing this percentage. Holly now has 2 certificates showing that in total she has used up 57.57% of her lifetime allowance.

On 5 April 2014, Holly has uncrystallised rights valued at £700,000 (see Chapter 3.4: **valuing uncrystallised rights (Amount C)**). She decides to apply for IP 2014. She knows from her BCE statements that in 2008-09 she crystallised 24.24% of £1,650,000 and in 2011-12 33.33% of £1,800,000. This converts into amounts of £399,960 and £599,940 (the rounding down accounts for these figures being less than the original value of the benefits).

The revalued amounts are:

£363,600 ($£399,960 \times 1,500,000/1,650,000$), and
£499,950 ($£599,940 \times 1,500,000/1,800,000$)

Holly's total pension savings on 5 April 2014 are therefore
 $£363,600 + £499,950 + £700,000 = £1,563,550$.

This is more than £1.5 million, so her personalised lifetime allowance for IP 2014 is £1,500,000. As she has already used up 57.57% of her lifetime allowance, Holly has 42.43% of £1.5 million available to her before exceeding her lifetime allowance. This means she can take £636,450 in further benefits before having to pay the lifetime allowance charge.

**I have taken pension benefits from a registered pension scheme since 5 April 2012 while I had valid Fixed Protection. I wish to apply for IP 2014. How are those benefits valued for the purposes of IP 2014?
[Paragraph 3 Schedule Finance Act 2014]**

These benefits are valued in the same way as any other crystallised benefits (see the question immediately above). But, when converting the percentage shown on your lifetime allowance statement into a capital value you need to remember that this has been calculated as a percentage of your £1.8 million fixed protection lifetime allowance and not the standard lifetime allowance of £1.5 million.

So if your lifetime allowance statement shows say 50% of your lifetime allowance as having been used up by the BCEs, this converts into £900,000 (50% of £1.8 million) for IP 2014 purposes.

However, if you know the actual value of the amount(s) crystallised or this can be obtained from the scheme administrator of the scheme(s) from which you have taken benefits, you should use this amount instead where it provides a higher value than that obtained by converting the lifetime allowance statement percentage because the lifetime allowance percentage has been rounded down to two decimal places.

Example 6 – valid FP on 5 April 2014, IP 2014 if FP is subsequently lost

Samina has three personal pensions. On 5 July 2008, Samina was aged 55 and took a pension commencement lump sum of £100,000 (BCE 3) and purchased an annuity for £300,000 (BCE 4) from one of her personal pension schemes. At that time, Samina had no form of protection and had not previously taken any pension benefits. Samina's BCEs used up £400,000 of her lifetime allowance. In tax year 2008-09 the lifetime allowance was £1,650,000. So her BCEs used up 24.24% of the standard lifetime allowance (rounded down). The scheme administrator will provide a statement showing this percentage annually until Samina reaches age 75 (in 2028).

Samina applied for fixed protection so has a lifetime allowance of £1.8 million from 6 April 2012. On 9 September 2012, Samina took a pension commencement lump sum of £150,000 (BCE 6) from another of her personal pension schemes and designated £450,000 as being available for the provision of drawdown pension. Her BCEs used up £600,000 of her lifetime allowance. In tax year 2012-13 the standard lifetime allowance was £1,500,000. But Samina has fixed protection so the percentage to be shown on her lifetime allowance statement is a percentage of £1,800,000 and not of the £1,500,000 standard lifetime allowance. So her BCEs use up 33.33% (rounded down) and her scheme

administrator gives her an annual statement showing this percentage. Samina now has 2 certificates showing that in total she has used up 57.57% of her lifetime allowance.

On 25 March 2013, Samina loses her fixed protection. Samina has uncrystallised rights valued at £700,000 on 5 April 2014 (see Chapter 3.4: **valuing uncrystallised rights (Amount C)**). She decides to apply for IP 2014. She knows from her BCE statements that in 2008-09 she crystallised 24.24% of £1,650,000 and in 2012-2013 33.33% of her £1,800,000 fixed protection lifetime allowance. This translates into amounts of £399,960 and £599,940 (the rounding down accounts for these figures being less than the original value of the benefits).

The revalued amounts are:

£363,000 ($£399,960 \times 1,500,000/1,650,000$), and
£499,950 ($£599,940 \times 1,500,000/1,800,000$ (this being Samina's FP12 lifetime allowance at the time of the BCE)

Samina's total pension savings on 5 April 2014 are therefore $£363,000 + £499,950 + £700,000 = £1,562,950$

As this is more than £1.5 million, Samina's personalised LTA for IP 2014 is £1,500,000. As she has already used up 57.57% of her lifetime allowance she still has 42.43% of £1.5 million available to her before exceeding her lifetime allowance. This means she can take £636,450 in further benefits before having to pay the lifetime allowance charge.

3.4 Valuing uncrystallised rights at end of 5 April 2014 under registered pension schemes (Amount C)

[Paragraph 4 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2014]

I have not taken my registered pension scheme pension benefits yet – how are they valued for IP 2014?

[Section 212 Finance Act 2004]

[Paragraph 4 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2014]

Pension benefits from savings in a registered pension scheme that you have not yet taken are referred to as “uncrystallised rights” in the pensions tax legislation.

For IP 2014 purposes, these rights are valued in the same way as for other purposes of the pension tax rules. The valuation method to be used differs depending on the type of arrangement that your pension savings are in.

Your savings in a registered pension scheme could be in any - or all - of the following types of arrangement:

- other money purchase arrangements (that is money purchase arrangements that are not cash balance arrangements),
- cash balance arrangements (a form of money purchase arrangement),
- defined benefits arrangements, and
- hybrid arrangements.

What is an other money purchase arrangement?

[Section 152 Finance Act 2004]

Other money purchase arrangements (which are sometimes known as defined contribution arrangements) are where the level of benefits provided to a member under the arrangement is calculated by reference to a capital amount of money that is made available to provide benefits, normally through a mixture of contributions and investment growth. This capital amount may be more colloquially referred to as the individual's 'pot'. The precise amount of benefits the member receives will not be known in advance; it will depend on what the capital amount of money can provide at the time, which may depend on factors such as prevailing annuity rates.

Under the pensions tax legislation these are known as 'money purchase arrangements that are not cash balance arrangements'.

What is a cash balance arrangement?

[Section 152 Finance Act 2004]

A cash balance arrangement is a particular type of money purchase arrangement. Under a cash balance arrangement, the amount available to provide the member's benefits is not calculated purely by reference to payments made under the arrangement by or on behalf of the member.

For example, the scheme may promise that on retirement a specified amount will be made available to provide the member with benefits for each year of pensionable service. The specified amount might be an absolute amount, for example £5,000 for each year of service, or it might be a percentage of the member's salary for each year of service.

Although the benefits provided under the arrangement will still be money purchase benefits (because they are calculated by reference to the member's pot), a cash balance arrangement is treated differently from other money purchase arrangements for the purpose of valuing the member's uncrystallised pension rights.

What is a defined benefits arrangement?

[Section 152 Finance Act 2004]

Defined benefit arrangements are where the level of benefits provided to a member is calculated in any way other than by reference to a capital amount of money that is made available to provide benefits to or in respect of the member. This includes benefits calculated and paid by reference to the earnings and/or service with an employer (or any other similar factor). So the member may have a promise of a certain level of benefit based on what their salary/service etc. is at a given point, irrespective of the funds (if any) built up by that time from contributions made by and on behalf of the member. The member knows in advance what their entitlement will be (if not the exact level of benefits).

Arrangements where benefits are built up by reference to final salary and years of service and career average arrangements are examples of defined benefits arrangements.

What is a hybrid arrangement?

[Section 152 Finance Act 2004]

A hybrid arrangement is an arrangement where the type of benefit that will be provided is not known in advance because it will depend on certain given circumstances at the point benefits are drawn.

For example, the arrangement may provide the member with other money purchase benefits based on the contributions that have accrued over time, but be subject to a defined benefits minimum or underpin. So if, at the point in time when the member decides to take their benefits, the value of the benefits that could be provided by the money purchase pot is less than a certain defined level, for example a pension of 1/60th of final salary for every year worked, that higher defined benefit is provided instead.

There are various combinations of hybrid arrangement. The member may be provided with:

- either other money purchase or cash balance benefits,
- either other money purchase or defined benefits,
- either cash balance or defined benefits, or
- other money purchase, cash balance or defined benefits.

At the point in time when benefits are drawn or entitlement arises under a hybrid arrangement it ceases to be a hybrid arrangement, and will either be a money purchase arrangement or a defined benefits arrangement, as appropriate. In other words, if the benefits provided are other money purchase or cash balance benefits then the arrangement will become a money purchase arrangement. And if the benefits provided are defined benefits then the arrangement will become a defined benefits arrangement.

I have pension savings in a money purchase arrangement that is not a cash balance arrangement. How should they be valued for IP 2014?

[Section 212(5) Finance Act 2004]

The value of your uncrystallised rights on 5 April 2014 will be the aggregate on that day of the value of any cash held under the arrangement and the market value of the other assets such as property and shares held by the arrangement. Any loans or other indebtedness should be included in the calculation.

My pension savings include an insurance policy - how should this be valued for IP 2014?

The Association of British Insurers (ABI) and HMRC have agreed a protocol for the valuation of insurance policies (including with-profits policies) as at 5 April 2014. This is not a detailed prescriptive method of valuing policies, rather it is a broad framework. Insurance policies should be valued in accordance with the ABI protocol.

If you have any questions about valuing insurance policies as at 5 April 2014, you should raise these with the insurer providing the policy.

Example 7 - Valuing on 5 April 2014 pension savings in a money purchase arrangement that is not a cash balance arrangement.

On 5 April 2014, Fred has an arrangement in a self-invested personal pension scheme (SIPP). On that day the arrangement has £350,000 in cash at the bank and holds quoted shares worth £500,000 and a commercial property for which a valuation of £800,000 as at 5 April 2014 has been obtained. The scheme borrowed £400,000 to fund the purchase of the commercial property and the amount still owing on the loan on 5 April 2014 is £150,000. The value of Fred's SIPP for IP 2014 is therefore £1.5 million (£1.65 million cash and assets - £150,000 outstanding on the loan).

I have pension savings in a cash balance arrangement. How should they be valued for IP 2014?

[Sections 212(4) and 277 FA 2004]

The value of your uncrystallised rights on 5 April 2014 is the amount that would be available for the provision of immediate benefits if you had been entitled to receive them on that day but subject to two valuation assumptions.

The two valuation assumptions are that:

- the benefit should be calculated assuming, if you have not already done so, that you have reached the age at which no reduction would apply under your scheme's rules to the payment of an immediate benefit, and
- you are deemed to be in good physical and mental health on 5 April 2014.

Example 8 - Valuing on 5 April 2014 pension savings in a cash balance arrangement

Joan has pension savings in a cash balance arrangement. Under her pension scheme rules, Joan is promised a pension pot equal to £20,000 for each year of service. On 5 April 2014, Joan, who is 54, has completed exactly 20 years of service. For IP 2014 purposes, the value of Joan's pension pot is £400,000 regardless of how much money is actually in her pot on 5 April 2014.

I have pension savings in a defined benefits arrangement. How should they be valued for IP 2014?

[Sections 212(6) and 277 Finance Act 2004]

The value of your uncrystallised rights on 5 April 2014 will be the total of

- 20 x your gross annual pension built up to date, ignoring any potential commutation of part of the pension for a tax-free lump sum (known as a pension commencement lump sum), and
- the value of any separate lump sum built up to date. For example if you are in a pension scheme that provides a pension of 1/80th final salary and a separate lump sum of 3/80ths final salary for each year of pensionable service.

The annual pension and separate lump sum to be valued are those which would be paid if you were to take them on 5 April 2014 but subject to two valuation assumptions.

The two valuation assumptions are that:

- the benefit should be calculated assuming, if you have not already done so, that you have reached the age at which no reduction would apply under your scheme's rules to the payment of an immediate benefit, and
- you are deemed to be in good physical and mental health on 5 April 2014.

Example 9 - Valuing on 5 April 2014 pension savings in a defined benefits arrangement where pension commencement lump sum is by commutation

Raj is a member of a defined benefits scheme with an accrual rate of 1/40th of pensionable earnings for each year in the scheme.

On 5 April 2014 Raj is aged 50, is still in pensionable service, has pensionable earnings of £90,000 and has completed exactly 20 years pensionable service. His normal retirement age under the scheme is 60. Under the scheme's rules, when a pension is taken before age 60, the pension is reduced by 5% for each year the member is below that age. So if Raj actually took his pension on 5 April 2014 it would be reduced by 50%.

For the purposes of the IP 2014 valuation however Raj is assumed to be 60 and so his promised pension is £45,000 ($20/40 \times £90,000$) with a value for IP 2014 of £900,000 ($20 \times £45,000$).

Example 10 - Valuing on 5 April 2014 pension savings in a defined benefits arrangement where pension commencement lump sum is separate i.e. not by commutation

Sue is a member of a defined benefits scheme providing a pension with an accrual rate of 1/80th and a lump sum of 3/80ths of pensionable earnings for each year in the scheme.

On 5 April 2014 Sue is aged 53, is still in pensionable service, has pensionable earnings of £80,000 and has completed exactly 30 years pensionable service. Her normal retirement age under the scheme is 60. Under the scheme's rules, when a pension is taken before age 60, the pension is reduced by 4% and the lump sum by 2% for each year the member is below that age. So if Sue actually took her pension and lump sum on 5 April 2014 they would be reduced by 28% and 14% respectively.

For the purposes of the IP 2014 valuation however Sue is assumed to be 60 and so her promised pension is £30,000 ($30/80 \times £80,000$) with a value for IP 2014 of £600,000 ($20 \times £30,000$) and her promised lump sum is £90,000 ($90/80 \times £80,000$). The aggregate value of her pension rights is £690,000.

Example 11- Valuing on 5 April 2014 pension savings in a defined benefits arrangement where accrual rate is uneven and pension commencement lump sum is by commutation

Harry is a member of a defined benefits scheme with an accrual rate of 1/60th of pensionable earnings for each year in the scheme up to 20 years and 2/60ths of final salary for each year of service from 20 to 30 years.

On 5 April 2014 Harry is aged 61, is still in pensionable service, has pensionable earnings of £120,000 and has completed exactly 26 years pensionable service. His normal retirement age under the scheme is 60. Under the scheme's rules, when a pension is taken before age 60, the pension is reduced by 4% and the lump sum by 2% for each year the member is below that age. There is no late retirement uplift if benefits are taken after age 60. He has accrued a pension worth 32/60ths because he has 20 years' service at 1/60th and 6 years at 2/60ths of his pensionable earnings.

For the purposes of the IP 2014 valuation Harry's actual age (61) is used as this is more than 60. His promised pension is £64,000 ($32/60 \times £120,000$) with a value of £1,280,000 ($20 \times £64,000$).

I have pension savings in a defined benefits arrangement. As well as providing a pension with a lump sum by commutation, I am also entitled to a lump sum of 4 times my salary if I die in service. Does the value of my death benefit count for IP 2014? [Section 212(6) FA 2004]

No. This value should not be included in your IP 2014 valuation as only your promised pension benefits count as your uncrystallised rights.

I have pension savings in a hybrid arrangement. How should they be valued for IP 2014? [Section 212(7) and if appropriate section 277 FA 2004]

Your uncrystallised pension rights are valued on the basis of whichever rights have the highest or higher value.

For example, you may have rights in an arrangement to take benefits from your fund on a money purchase basis, or take benefits at say 1/100th of pensionable earnings for each year of service. Your money purchase fund and your defined benefits would both be valued as at 5 April 2014 and the higher value would apply for the purposes of IP 2014. For details of how the values are arrived at see the earlier guidance in Chapter 3.4.

3.5 Valuing uncrystallised rights at end of 5 April 2014 under relieved non-UK pension schemes (Amount D) [Paragraph 5 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2014]

What is a relieved non-UK pension scheme? [Paragraphs 13(3) and 18 Schedule 34 Finance Act 2004]

Very broadly, this is a particular type of overseas pension scheme. See [RPSM13102520](#) for more detail about which overseas pension schemes are relieved non-UK pension schemes.

I am a member of a relieved non-UK pension scheme - how do I tell if I am a relieved member of the scheme? [Paragraphs 13(2) and 18 Schedule 34 Finance Act 2004]

You may be a relieved member of a relieved non-UK pension scheme if you have funds in an overseas pension scheme and the contributions going into the scheme got UK tax relief.

The precise conditions for this are set out in [RPSM13102530](#) (relieved members) and [RPSM13102520](#) (relieved non-UK pension schemes).

I am a relieved member of one or more relieved non-UK pension schemes. Which of my pension rights in the scheme will count towards the relevant amount? How is this done?

[Paragraph 5 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2014][Paragraph 14 Schedule 34 Finance Act 2004]

Your relevant amount will be or will include (if you also have any of Amounts A, B and C) the “untested portion” of your “relevant relieved amount” in each scheme. Solely for the purpose of valuing these rights for IP 2014, there is deemed to be a benefit crystallisation event occurring on 5 April 2014 in relation to each of your “relevant relieved amounts” so the “untested portion” can be identified. The aggregate of the untested portions is Amount D and is your relevant amount or, if you also have any of Amounts A, B and C it is added to those amounts to arrive at your relevant amount.

Why is there a deemed benefit crystallisation amount in relation to my untested portion?

The deemed benefit crystallisation event triggers the valuation process for the untested portion.

I am a relieved member of one or more relieved non-UK pension schemes. What is my relevant relieved amount in that scheme?

[Paragraph 5 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2014][Paragraph 14 Schedule 34 Finance Act 2004]

The relevant relieved amount is that part of your scheme fund which gets tested for lifetime allowance when you take benefits as a relieved member of a relieved non-UK pension scheme. It is limited to only that part of your savings in the scheme derived from contributions which received UK tax relief and which were made to the scheme after 5 April 2006. This category includes any such savings transferred as part of a bulk transfer between schemes in certain specified circumstances. For more detail about the relevant relieved amount see [RPSM13102540](#).

What is the untested portion?

[Paragraph 5 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2014][Paragraph 14 Schedule 34 Finance Act 2004]

The untested portion of your relevant relieved amount is your total relevant relieved amount less all the amounts previously crystallised in respect of you under the relieved non-UK pension scheme. For more detail about how this applies see [RPSM13102540](#) and the examples at [RPSM13102550](#) and [RPSM13102560](#).

Chapter 4 – Pension debits

[Paragraph 1(6)-(8) Schedule 6 Finance Act 2014]

Can I lose IP 2014?

[Paragraph 1(6)-(8) Schedule 6 Finance Act 2014]

There is only one situation where you may have your IP 2014 protection reduced or lose it altogether. This is if, after 5 April 2014, you become subject to a pension debit as a result of a pension sharing order following your divorce, as this will reduce the value of your relevant amount (see page 7).

What is a pension debit?

[Section 46(1) Welfare Reform and Pensions Act 1999 and Article 43(1) Welfare Reform and Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 1999]

An individual's pension rights may be reduced as a result of the rights becoming subject to a pension debit. This happens when an individual divorces and their pension rights become the subject of a pension sharing order. A pension debit is the amount by which the value of the individual's pension rights are reduced, with a corresponding pension credit in the same amount being given to their ex-spouse or former civil partner. The reduction due to the pension debit applies from the effective date of the pension sharing order and not, where this is later, the date on which your pension rights are actually split by your pension scheme(s).

When will a pension debit result in a reduction of my IP 2014 protection?

[Paragraph 1(6) Schedule 6 Finance Act 2014]

Your IP 2014 will be reduced if the pension debit's transfer day happens on or after 6 April 2014. The "transfer day" is the day set out in section 29 Welfare Reform and Pensions Act 1999 or Article 26 Welfare Reform and Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 1999.

What happens to my IP 2014 when I have a pension debit?

[Paragraph 1(6)-(8) Schedule 6 Finance Act 2014]

If you become subject to a pension debit your relevant amount for IP 2014 will be reduced by the amount of the pension debit. However, if the transfer day occurs on or after 6 April 2015 then (for IP 2014 purposes only) the amount of the pension debit is reduced by 5% for each full tax year (there is no reduction for a part year) that has elapsed since tax year 2013-14. Your relevant amount is then reduced by that reduced pension debit.

Where the pension debit reduction results in your relevant amount being less than £1.25 million you will lose your IP 2014 and revert to the standard lifetime allowance. The standard lifetime allowance will only apply to any benefit crystallisation events (see [RPSM11102020](#)) that take place after your rights have been reduced by the pension debit. So if you have already relied on your IP 2014 to take benefits in excess of the standard lifetime allowance before your rights are reduced, these remain protected.

Example 12 – impact of post 5 April 2014 pension debit on amount of protected LTA – no effect

Gianni has no protection other than IP 2014. The value of his pension savings on 5 April 2014 was £1.7 million. This is Gianni's relevant amount and his protected lifetime allowance for IP 2014 is therefore £1.5 million.

In June 2014, Gianni's pension rights are subject to a pension debit of £200,000 with the transfer date being 15 June 2014. As no complete tax year has elapsed, his relevant amount is reduced by reference to the full pension debit to £1.5 million. Gianni's protected lifetime allowance however remains at £1.5 million as this is now the amount of his relevant amount.

Gianni crystallises his benefits in December 2017 when the standard lifetime allowance is £1.25 million. Gianni's pension savings are now worth £1.6 million for lifetime allowance purposes. Gianni can take benefits valued up to £1.5 million without being subject to the lifetime allowance charge, with the charge applying to the remaining £100,000.

Example 13 – impact of post-5 April 2014 pension debit on amount of protected LTA - protected LTA is reduced

Kevin has no protection other than IP 2014. The value of his pension savings on 5 April 2014 was £1.7 million. This is Kevin's relevant amount and his protected lifetime allowance for IP 2014 is therefore £1.5 million.

In June 2014, Kevin's pension rights are subject to a pension debit of £400,000 with the transfer date being 15 June 2014. As no complete tax year has elapsed, his relevant amount is reduced by reference to the full pension debit to £1.3 million. Kevin's protected lifetime allowance is therefore reduced to £1.3 million.

Kevin crystallises his benefits in December 2014 when the standard lifetime allowance is £1.25 million. Kevin's pension savings are now worth £1.6 million for lifetime allowance purposes. Kevin can take benefits valued up to £1.3 million without being subject to the lifetime allowance charge, with the charge applying to the remaining £300,000.

Example 14 – impact of post-5 April 2014 pension debit on amount of protected LTA where debit is reduced – no effect

Julie has no protection other than IP 2014. The value of her pension savings on 5 April 2014 was £1.8 million. This is her relevant amount. As Julie's relevant amount exceeds £1.5 million, her protected lifetime allowance for IP 2014 is £1.5 million.

In March 2015 Julie crystallises benefits worth £1.4 million relying on IP 2014 to prevent a lifetime allowance charge arising as the standard lifetime allowance at that time is £1.25 million. This uses up 93.33% of Julie's protected lifetime allowance. So she has unused lifetime allowance of 6.67%.

In December 2020, the value of Julie's remaining pension rights have risen to £600,000 but are reduced by a pension debit of £400,000 as a result of a pension sharing order with a transfer date of 15 August 2020. This leaves Julie with £200,000 of pension rights.

By 15 August 2020, six complete tax years have passed since tax year 2013-14. So the pension debit that is applied to her relevant amount is reduced by 30% to £280,000. Julie's £1.8 million relevant amount is therefore reduced to £1.52 million because of the reduced £280,000 pension debit. Julie's protected lifetime allowance therefore remains at £1.5 million.

Julie crystallises her remaining £200,000 pension rights in March 2021 when the standard lifetime allowance is still £1.25 million. Julie has 6.67% remaining lifetime allowance available. Applying this percentage to her protected lifetime allowance of £1.5 million produces an amount of £100,050 as available lifetime allowance. Julie is therefore subject to a lifetime allowance charge on £99,950.

Example 15 – impact of post-5 April 2014 pension debit on amount of protected LTA where debit is reduced – protected LTA is reduced

Irmgard has no protection other than IP 2014. The value of her pension savings on 5 April 2014 was £1.4 million. This is her relevant amount. As Irmgard's relevant amount is less than £1.5 million, her protected lifetime allowance for IP 2014 is £1.4 million.

In March 2015 Irmgard crystallises benefits worth £1.3 million relying on IP 2014 to prevent a lifetime allowance charge arising as the standard lifetime allowance at that time is £1.25 million. This uses up 92.85% of Irmgard's protected lifetime allowance. So she has unused lifetime allowance of 7.15%.

In December 2020, the value of Irmgard's remaining pension rights have risen to £150,000 but are reduced by a pension debit of £100,000 as a result of a pension sharing order with a transfer date of 15 August 2020. This leaves Irmgard with £50,000 of pension rights.

By 15 August 2020, six complete tax years have passed since tax year 2013-14. So the pension debit is reduced by 30% to £70,000. Irmgard's relevant amount is therefore reduced to £1.33 million because of the reduced £70,000 pension debit. Irmgard's protected lifetime allowance is now also £1.33 million.

Irmgard crystallises her remaining £50,000 benefits in March 2021 when the standard lifetime allowance is still £1.25 million.

As Irmgard has £95,095 remaining lifetime allowance available (£1.33 million x 7.15%), she is not subject to a lifetime allowance charge.

Do I have to tell HMRC if my pension rights are reduced as a result of a pension debit?

[Regulation 9 of the Registered Pension Schemes and Relieved Non-UK Pension Schemes (Lifetime Allowance Transitional Protection) (Individual Protection 2014 Notification Regulations 2014 [SI 2006/1842]]

Yes. If, at any time after we have issued you with an IP 2014 certificate, your pension rights become subject to a pension debit, you must inform us about this within 60 days of the date of the pension debit. The date of a pension debit is the date on which the notice of discharge of liability is issued under regulation 8(1) of the Pensions on Divorce etc. (Provision of Information) Regulations 2000 (SI 2000/1048).

You must give HMRC the following information:

- the date of the pension debit (see above),
- the amount of the pension debit,
- the net amount of the pension debit taking into account any required reduction to this (see above for more detail).

HMRC will then either revoke your IP 2014 certificate if your relevant amount is reduced to £1.25 million or less, or issue a replacement certificate in relation to the reduced relevant amount if this is still in excess of £1.25 million.

If you do not provide this information within 60 days you may be liable to penalties.

Chapter 5 – Taking benefits

Example 16 – Individual with IP 2014 protection only who has taken benefits between (but not before) 6 April 2006 and 5 April 2014

Andrei applies for IP 2014 and his relevant amount is £1.45 million meaning he has a protected lifetime allowance of that amount. Andrei has not had any other form of protection. He continues to accrue benefits in his current registered pension scheme. He has had the following benefit crystallisation events (BCEs) since 6 April 2006:

- a. On 20 June 2007 he crystallised benefits with a value of £300,000,
- b. On 5 May 2008 he crystallised benefits with a value of £500,000,
- c. On 5 August 2011 he crystallised benefits worth £400,000.

On 21 September 2016, when the standard lifetime allowance is £1.25 million, he crystallises his remaining benefits which are money purchase benefits and at that time have a value of £400,000. He takes a tax-free lump sum of £100,000 and designates £300,000 as available for drawdown pension. Is he liable to a LTA charge and if so how much?

First calculate how much lifetime allowance Andrei has already used up:

- a. The 2007 benefits crystallised when the LTA was £1.6m so Andrei used up **18.75%** of his lifetime allowance ($£300,000/£1.6m \times 100$).
- b. The 2008 benefits crystallised when the LTA was £1.65m so Andrei used up **30.30%** (rounded down to two decimal places) of his lifetime allowance ($£500,000/£1.65m \times 100$).
- c. The 2011 benefits crystallised when the LTA was £1.8m so Andrei used up **22.22%** (rounded down to two decimal places) of his lifetime allowance ($£400,000/£1.8m \times 100$).

Andrei has therefore already used up **71.27%** of his lifetime allowance so has **28.73%** of his protected lifetime allowance available. This amounts to benefits valued at £416,585.

As Andrei has crystallised benefits worth £400,000 he is not liable for any lifetime allowance charge.

Example 17 – Individual with IP 2014 protection only who has not taken benefits between 6 April 2006 and 5 April 2014 but is receiving a pre-6 April 2006 pension

Bridget applies for IP 2014 and her relevant amount is £1.6 million meaning she has a protected LTA of £1.5 million. She has not had any other form of protection. Her benefits on 5 April 2014 consist of an occupational pension that came into payment before 6 April 2006 and uncrystallised pension rights. Bridget continues to accrue benefits in her current registered pension scheme.

On 21 September 2016, when the standard lifetime allowance is £1.25 million, Bridget crystallises her remaining benefits which are defined benefits. She receives a scheme pension of £20,000 per annum and a pension commencement lump sum (PCLS) of £120,000. For lifetime allowance purposes Bridget has crystallised benefits worth £520,000 (scheme pension £20,000 x 20 + PCLS £120,000). Is she liable to a LTA charge and if so how much?

When Bridget takes her benefits, the annual rate of her pre-6 April 2006 pension (her pre-commencement pension) is £48,000. Under the tax rules, there is a deemed benefit crystallisation event in relation to this pre-commencement pension on 21 September 2016 which crystallises £1.2 million (£48,000 x 25).

Bridget has £300,000 of her protected lifetime allowance left after the deemed benefit crystallisation event. She can take 25% of this (£75,000) as a pension commencement lump sum.

Bridget's total crystallised benefits are valued at £1.72 million. As Bridget's protected lifetime allowance is £1.5 million, she is liable to a lifetime allowance charge on £220,000. Bridget's lump sum is paid 2 weeks after she becomes entitled to her pension so £75,000 is a pension commencement lump sum and £45,000 is a lifetime allowance excess lump sum subject to a 55% lifetime allowance charge. That part of Bridget's scheme pension which has a lifetime allowance value of £225,000 uses up her remaining available lifetime allowance. Using the 20:1 factor, this amounts to scheme pension of £11,250 per annum. So the lifetime allowance value of the remainder (£8,750 x 20 = £175,000) of Bridget's scheme pension is liable to a 25% lifetime allowance charge.

Bridget's lifetime allowance liability is therefore

£45,000 @ 55%	=	£24,750
£175,000 @ 25%	=	<u>£43,750</u>
Total		£68,500

Example 18 – Individual with IP 2014 protection only who has taken benefits between 6 April 2006 and 5 April 2014 and is receiving a pre-6 April 2006 pension

Chandra applies for IP 2014 and his relevant amount is £1.4 million meaning he has a personalised LTA of that amount. He has had one benefit crystallisation event since 6 April 2006 and also has an occupational pension that came into payment before 6 April 2006. Chandra has not had any other form of protection. He continues to accrue benefits in his current registered pension scheme.

On 1 July 2016 Chandra crystallises his remaining benefits which are money purchase benefits and at that time have a value of £600,000. He takes a tax-free lump sum of £150,000 and designates £450,000 as available for drawdown pension. Is he liable to a LTA charge and if so how much?

First calculate how much lifetime allowance Chandra has already used up. Chandra crystallised (took) benefits worth £200,000 on 15 August 2009 when the lifetime

allowance was £1.75 million. When he crystallised these benefits the annual rate of Chandra's pre-6 April 2006 pension (his pre-commencement pension) was £32,000. Under the tax rules, there is a deemed benefit crystallisation event in relation to this pre-commencement pension which crystallises £800,000 ($£32,000 \times 25$). Note: A scheme administrator should not include the LTA value of a deemed BCE for a pre-commencement pension in the LTA statement they issue to the member. However, they will normally tell the member the amount of LTA used up by the deemed BCE as a percentage of the LTA. In Chandra's case this is 45.71% ($£800,000/1.75 \text{ million} \times 100$).

Chandra has crystallised benefits with a LTA value of £200,000. This used up 11.42% (rounded down to two decimal places) of the standard lifetime allowance at the time ($£200,000/£1.75 \text{ million} \times 100$) and it is this percentage that will be shown on Chandra's LTA statement.

Chandra has **42.87%** of his protected lifetime allowance (£1.4 million) available. This amounts to £600,180. Chandra is therefore not subject to a lifetime allowance charge as his crystallised benefits are £600,000.

Example 19 – Individual with FP and IP 2014 protection who takes benefits after 6 April 2014 while FP valid then loses FP and reverts to IP 2014

Darlene has already applied for fixed protection 2012, giving her a protected lifetime allowance of £1.8 million. She has not had any benefit crystallisation events and has benefits in both money purchase and final salary defined benefits arrangements. She applies for IP 2014 and has a relevant amount of £1.5 million. Her protected lifetime allowance is £1.5 million.

So long as Darlene's FP12 protection is valid it takes priority over her IP 2014 protection as it is more advantageous. Darlene will not therefore receive her IP 2014 certificate unless she loses FP12.

Darlene has not made any contributions to her money purchase arrangement since 5 April 2012. She has continued in active membership of her defined benefits scheme but, as Darlene has a substantial number of years of pensionable service and her pensionable salary has not been increased since 2011, her defined benefits pension rights increase by less than the relevant percentage so she does not have benefit accrual in the tax years 2012-2013 to 2015-2016.

On 31 December 2015, Darlene crystallises her money purchase rights. These were valued at £800,000 on 5 April 2014 but due to good investment decisions these have increased to £1.2 million by the time they crystallise. Darlene has used up **66.66%** of her FP12 protected lifetime allowance of £1.8 million. Her scheme administrator gives her a lifetime allowance statement showing this.

On 1 June 2016 Darlene receives a large salary increase from her employer which means she has benefit accrual and her fixed protection is lost. Her previous BCEs are not revisited.

Darlene notifies HMRC that she has lost her FP12 and is issued with her IP 2014 certificate showing that she now has a protected lifetime allowance of £1.5 million.

Darlene crystallises her defined benefits on 1 June 2017 when the standard lifetime allowance is £1.25 million. She receives a pension of £20,000 and a lump sum of £125,000. For lifetime allowance purposes these are valued at £525,000 (£20,000 x 20 + £125,000).

Darlene shows her scheme administrator the lifetime allowance statement for the previous benefit crystallisation events. So the final salary scheme administrator knows that she has **33.34%** (£500,100) of her £1.5 million protected lifetime allowance available. Darlene has exceeded her available lifetime allowance so has a lifetime allowance charge on the excess (£24,900). As 25% of her available protected lifetime allowance is £125,025 her entire lump sum is a pension commencement lump sum and under the tax rules this crystallises before her pension. So the excess is paid in the form of pension benefits and subject to the lifetime allowance charge at the rate of 25% giving a tax charge of (£6,225).

Example 20 – Individual with FP 2014 and IP 2014 protection who takes benefits after 6 April 2014 while FP 2014 valid then loses FP 2014 and reverts to IP 2014

Debbie has already applied for fixed protection 2014, giving her a protected lifetime allowance of £1.5 million. She has not had any benefit crystallisation events and has benefits in both money purchase and final salary defined benefits arrangements. She applies for IP 2014 and has a relevant amount of £1.4 million.

So long as Debbie's FP 2014 protection is valid it takes priority over her IP 2014 protection as it is more advantageous. Debbie will not therefore receive her IP 2014 certificate unless she loses FP 2014.

Debbie has not made any contributions to her money purchase arrangement since 5 April 2014. She has continued in active membership of her defined benefits scheme but, as Debbie has a substantial number of years of pensionable service and her pensionable salary has not been increased since 2014, her defined benefits pension rights increase by less than the relevant percentage so she does not have benefit accrual in the tax years 2014-15 and 2015-16.

On 31 December 2015, Debbie crystallises her money purchase rights. These were valued at £500,000 on 5 April 2014 but due to good investment decisions these have increased to £900,000 by the time they crystallise. Debbie has used up **60%** of her FP 2014 protected lifetime allowance of £1.5 million. Her scheme administrator gives her a lifetime allowance statement showing this.

On 1 June 2016 Debbie receives a large salary increase from her employer which means she has benefit accrual and her fixed protection is lost. Her previous BCEs are not revisited.

Debbie notifies HMRC that she has lost her FP 2014 and is issued with her IP 2014 certificate showing that she now has a protected lifetime allowance of £1.4 million.

Debbie crystallises her defined benefits on 1 June 2017 when the standard lifetime allowance is £1.25 million. She receives a pension of £25,000 and a lump sum of £150,000. For lifetime allowance purposes these are valued at £650,000 ($£25,000 \times 20 + £150,000$).

Debbie shows her scheme administrator the lifetime allowance statement for the previous benefit crystallisation events. So the final salary scheme administrator knows that she has **40%** (£560,000) of her £1.4 million protected lifetime allowance available. Debbie has exceeded her available lifetime allowance so has a lifetime allowance charge on the excess (£90,000). As 25% of her available lifetime allowance is £140,000 her maximum lump sum payable as a pension commencement lump sum, which under the tax rules crystallises before her pension, is £140,000.

Debbie's pension commencement lump sum (£140,000) and £420,000 of her pension have used up all her available lifetime allowance. The lump sum is not paid until after Debbie's entitlement to her pension has arisen so the £10,000 that does not qualify as pension commencement lump sum is paid as a lifetime allowance excess lump sum. This is subject to the 55% lifetime allowance charge for lump sums giving a tax charge of £5,500. The remaining £80,000 excess over Debbie's protected lifetime allowance is paid in the form of pension benefits and subject to the lifetime allowance charge at the rate of 25% giving a tax charge of £20,000. Debbie's total lifetime allowance tax charge is therefore £25,500.

Chapter 6 - Additional information for scheme administrators

A member says they have IP 2014 and wants to take benefits relying on this protection. Do they have to provide any information? And is there any additional information I should ask them for?

[Regulation 11 Registered Pension Schemes (Provision of Information) Regulations 2006 – SI 2006/567 as amended]

The member is only required to provide you with the IP 2014 reference number received from HMRC if they tell you they want to take their benefits relying on IP 2014. You may wish to ask them also to give you a copy of their IP 2014 certificate for evidence of the value of their protected pension rights and to enable you to provide the correct percentage of LTA used up on the LTA certificate you will need to give them.

In addition, you should ask them

- to say whether they have had any previous BCEs. If they have had previous BCEs you should ask for copies of their lifetime allowance statements from those BCEs.
- if they are in receipt of a pre-6 April 2006 pension(s) or annuity/annuities from a scheme that is a registered pension scheme or would have been one had it not been opted out of registration. If the answer is yes, you should ask the member to tell you either the current annual rate of the pre-6 April 2006 pension(s) or annuity/annuities they are receiving or, if they have had any BCEs, the annual rate at which it was/they were payable immediately prior to the first BCE that occurred after 5 April 2006.
- to confirm that they do not have valid enhanced protection (EP), fixed protection (FP) or fixed protection 2014 (FP 2014). As these protections all take priority over IP 2014, if the member has one of them you need to carry out the lifetime allowance test in accordance with the rules applying to the protection concerned. If a member has EP, then there is no lifetime allowance charge due regardless of the amount of benefits taken. If the member has FP or FP 2014 then their lifetime allowance is £1.8 million or £1.5 million respectively.

A member wants to take their benefits in June 2014. They say they will be applying for IP 2014 as their total benefits are worth more than £1.25 million but the IP 2014 legislation has not been enacted. What should I do?

Scheme administrators have until 45 days after the quarter in which the lifetime allowance charge arises to report and pay the tax to HMRC (see [RPSM12301300](#)). Before the tax is due to be paid to HMRC the individual may receive their certificate and so be able to provide the administrator with the relevant details.

You will have to decide what you want to do as there is nothing in the tax rules specifically covering this situation. There are a number of options available which you may wish to consider.

Option 1: Member defers taking their benefits

You could suggest to the member that they postpone taking their benefits until they have received their IP 2014 certificate from HMRC. This will not always be possible however. For example, the scheme's rules may require benefits to be paid at a certain age or the BCE may be one of those which is triggered because the member has reached age 75, that is a BCE 5, 5A or 5B (see [RPSM11102020](#)).

Option 2: Member takes benefits up to £1.25 million standard LTA and defers taking the rest

You could suggest to the member that they take benefits up to the standard lifetime allowance and defer taking their remaining benefits until they have received their IP 2014 certificate from HMRC. This could be done where the member wishes to take drawdown pension for example. But this option may also not be possible for the sort of reasons referred to in Option 1 above.

Option 3: Assume member has no protection and test against the standard LTA of £1.25 million

A scheme administrator and the member have joint and several liability for the lifetime allowance charge. However, your liability to account for the charge as scheme administrator arises before the member's does. Where a lifetime allowance charge applies, you have to account for the tax within 45 days of the end of the quarter in which the relevant BCE(s) occurred. The member liable to the charge has to declare it on a Self-Assessment tax return for the tax year in which the BCE occurred. A Self Assessment return need not be submitted until the 31 January after the end of the tax year to which it relates. As the BCE occurs in June 2014 this means that the member has until 31 January 2016 to declare the charge.

As the member has not yet got IP 2014 and the legislation hasn't been enacted yet, you may therefore decide to deduct a lifetime allowance charge based on the £1.25 million standard lifetime allowance. The lifetime allowance charge should be at 25% of the excess if the member decides to take the maximum PCLS of £312,500 and the rest as pension or 55% if the member takes all or part of the excess as a lifetime allowance excess lump sum (LAELS). See [RPSM11105210](#) for more guidance on which rate (25% or 55%) of lifetime allowance charge you should deduct.

You would account for the lifetime allowance charge in the normal way on an Accounting for Tax return (AFT) for the quarter ending 30 June 2014 - that is, it must be reported to HMRC and the tax paid by 14 August 2014.

If the member subsequently successfully applies for IP 2014 they must provide you with the reference number received from HMRC. You may also wish to ask them to give you a copy of their IP 2014 certificate, and confirm that they have had no other BCEs since 5 April 2014.

You will now be able to work out how much available lifetime allowance the member had when they crystallised their benefits from your scheme and how much of the amount of the lifetime allowance charge which you have deducted was not in fact due. You would then submit an amended AFT for the quarter ending 30 June 2014 to obtain repayment of the tax (plus any interest due). See [RPSM11105360](#) for more information on how you should do this. This page also provides guidance on how the refund of the tax and interest should be used to provide further benefits.

These further benefits can include a further pension commencement lump sum (as the member has IP 2014, their maximum pension commencement lump sum will be greater than £312,500). However, you need to be aware that if you paid a LAELS and the member subsequently successfully applies for IP 2014, some or all of the lump sum originally treated as a LAELS may become an unauthorised payment. This will occur if, as a result of the member being entitled to a higher protected lifetime allowance under IP 2014, the member now has available lifetime allowance and therefore the lump sum paid to the member no longer meets the conditions to be a LAELS and it can't be paid as another authorised lump sum. If the amount of the lump sum paid as a lifetime allowance excess lump sum exceeds the maximum payable as a further pension commencement lump sum (see [RPSM09104185](#) for more detail) then it will be an unauthorised member payment and taxed accordingly. See [RPSM04104000](#) for more detail on the unauthorised payment tax charges.

Option 4: Assume an IP 2014 certificate will be issued and pay without deducting an LTA charge.

You may decide to do this because for example the member has confirmed that your scheme is the only one in which they have pension rights (that is they are not entitled to benefits under any other registered pension schemes or as a relieved member of a relieved non-UK pension scheme).

You may decide to take this risk where the member has already submitted an online application for IP 2014 and received confirmation of receipt of the application. As you have until 45 days after the quarter in which the lifetime allowance charge arises to pay the tax to HMRC (see [RPSM12301300](#)), you may take the view that the member is likely to receive their IP 2014 certificate and so be able to provide you with the relevant details before the tax is due to be paid to HMRC.

Should you choose not to deduct any lifetime allowance charge on benefits crystallising over the standard lifetime allowance taking account of the value of any previous BCEs and/or any pensions in payment since before 6 April 2006 and a lifetime allowance charge is later found to be due, you are still jointly and severally liable to the tax. Your tax liability would have arisen in the quarter in which the benefits crystallise. So if you opt for this course of action you must do so in the knowledge that there is a risk that tax is due and, consequently, you may be liable to tax, interest and penalties. In these particular circumstances, HMRC is unlikely to accept that liability to any tax, interest and penalties should be discharged through the 'good faith' provisions.

**Will crystallising benefits while relying on IP 2014 give rise to any reportable events?
[Regulation. 3 Registered Pension Schemes (Provision of Information) Regulation
2006 – SI 2006/567as amended]**

Yes in certain circumstances.

There may be a reportable event 6 if the BCE (either alone or combined with other BCEs for the member) exceeds the standard LTA and the member has relied on IP 2014 to reduce or eliminate the LTA charge. For more detail on what needs to be reported see [RPSM12301070](#).

When a member crystallises benefits while relying on IP 2014 should his/her LTA statement show the amount of LTA used up by their BCE(s) as a percentage of the standard LTA or of their personalised LTA under IP 2014?

The statement should show the value of the crystallised rights as a percentage of the member's personalised LTA, not the standard LTA.

So if say a member has IP 2014 and a personalised LTA of £1,429,546 and crystallised benefits with a value of £628,914 for LTA purposes, the LTA certificate should show the percentage of LTA used up as 43.99% ($628,914/1,429,546 \times 100$, rounded down to 2 decimal places).

In order to do this, you should ask the member to give you a copy of their certificate so you can be certain of the correct amount of their personalised LTA.

How does IP 2014 interact with lifetime allowance enhancement factors other than that for primary protection?

For more information on these lifetime allowance enhancement factors see [RPSM11101070](#).

A person with IP 2014 can still apply for one or more of the available lifetime allowance enhancement factors (apart from primary protection) in the normal way.

If an application for such a lifetime allowance enhancement factor is made on or after 6 April 2014, the factor will be calculated by reference to the member's protected lifetime allowance where this is higher than the standard lifetime allowance that would otherwise be used, unless they have already applied for a different lifetime allowance factor before that date. In such cases, the value of the aggregate factor should be calculated along the lines set out at [RPSM11101100](#).