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*President: George Bell*

*www.abaponline.org*

*Chair: Mark Fielder*

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## **ABAP response to BA's Appeal allowed**

After a prolonged and expensive legal battle, members of BA's Airways Pension Scheme (APS) are bitterly disappointed that BA's appeal against Mr. Justice Morgan's 2017 judgement was allowed. This means that yet more BA pensioners will not live to see any benefit from the modest rise proposed by the Scheme's Trustee in 2013. The Association of British Airways Pensioners (ABAP) hopes that the Trustee will not give up the fight to restore the pensions which were promised to staff in 1984, when half of BA's staff chose – with full company blessing – to pay higher contributions to remain in APS.

The total costs of this legal action are not yet known but are quite likely to exceed the cost of paying the rise in the first place. BA also benefited from a 14 year pension contribution holiday. The conclusion of this appeal will allow the completion of the 2015 valuation which will confirm that APS is in a position to afford the rise. The decision to pay a rise was not a wilful action taken by the Trustee, it is part of a carefully considered discretionary increase framework taking full account of affordability. It is particularly disappointing when the pension schemes of the UK's biggest companies in the FTSE 100 are now back in aggregate surplus having run a substantial multi-billion pound deficit since the financial crisis of 2007.

As of 31 March 2017, APS had 431 members still working and contributing, 23,839 members receiving pensions and 1,083 members with deferred pensions. The average pension in payment was £15,416 p.a. However, the typical pension in payment is considerably less than this because a small number of highly paid pensioners in a company like BA can skew the average.

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