Lost Pots

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Pensions Policy Institute

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Our Mission

Better informed policies and decisions that improve later life outcomes

To promote, evidence-based policies and decisions for financial provision in later life through INDEPENDENT research and analysis.

We believe that better information and understanding will lead to better policy framework and better provision of retirement for all

We aim to be the authoritative voice on policy on pensions and the financial and economic provision in later life

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Introduction



- What are lost pots, and why should we care?
- What is the scale of the problem?
- What are the solutions?

What are lost pots?



- > A pot is lost if the provider can't contact the owner.
 - Usually this means their address has changed.
- For savers, they lose their ability to plan, and could lose the money altogether.
- > For providers, they are an administrative burden.

Why do pots get lost?



- Providers usually use your address as your primary contact information. If you change house, you may forget to inform them.
- If you change jobs often, you may accumulate many pots. This makes them hard to keep track of.
- > Automatic enrolment leads to the creation of many small pots.

PPI Lost Pots Survey



- ➤ We have found that the problem is steadily growing. Without policy intervention, it will continue to grow.
- The PPI has conducted three surveys of workplace DC pensions to date, in 2018, 2022, and 2024.
- > The work is supported by providers.

Headline figures



Year	Lost Assets (£ Billion)	Number of lost pots (millions)
2018	19.4	1.6
2022	26.6	2.8
2024	31.1	3.3

Average lost pot by age



Year	Under 55 years old	55-75 years old	75+ years old	All ages
2018	£12,570	£13,160	£7,080	£12,670
2022	£7,400	£16,000	£12,190	£9,470
2024	£7,820	£13,620	£6,540	£9,470

How can we solve it?



- Reunite savers with currently lost pots
- > Stop newly created pots from getting lost in the first place
- Government, providers, individuals and private services can all help

What solutions exist already?

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- Provider led solutions:
 - Pay Your Pension Some Attention
 - > Third party tracing services
- Government led solutions:
 - National Pension Tracing Service
 - > MAPS
- Private solutions:
 - > Tracing services

What solutions might exist in the future?



- Government led:
 - Dashboards
 - Small pots consolidators
 - Other solutions considered but dismissed

Conclusions



- > £31.3 billion assets in 3.1 million pots.
- > The problem will continue to grow without policy intervention.
- > We could have new solutions soon, and future lost pots surveys will help to evaluate them.

Any Questions

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Thank you

For further information on the PPI please visit our website www.pensionspolicyinstitute.org.uk

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