

Pensions Technical Practitioner Group Agenda

20 September 2023 10:45–13:00

Virtual meeting

Please ensure that you have an understanding of the items and papers on the agenda and are prepared to discuss them.

1. Welcome and introductions. SD

Members are reminded that they should not breach Competition legislation during discussions at ILAG meetings and that SL will record the meeting for the accuracy of minute taking, which will be deleted once the minutes are issued.

The meeting is scheduled for over an hour and will include a short break for health and safety purposes.

2. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising. SD

3. Update from industry meetings attended and future meetings.

- Digitisation of Relief at Source Collaboration Forum – 27 July. **TB**
 - *Notes and slides from the meeting were circulated 8 August*
- Discussion with TPR about Pensions Dashboards - 24 August. **JC**

4. LTA Abolition.

- General discussion. **SD**
- Update on progressing LTA concerns PTPG wanted highlighted to HMRC. **SL**

5. Industry Papers – Consultation Responses. SD

- **Consultation Matrix issues – new and forthcoming publications**
 - [Link](#) to latest version of the matrix.
- **Consultation paper responses under consideration/being responded to**
 - None.
- **Consultation paper responses submitted since the last meeting.**
 - DWP – Consultation - Ending the proliferation of deferred small pension pots. [Submitted](#) 31 August.
 - DWP – Consultation - Helping savers understand their pension choices: supporting individuals at the point of access. [Submitted](#) 1 September.

6. Other industry papers and articles.

SD

- **ABI**

- Nothing of relevance issued during the period.

- **DWP**

- Options for Defined Benefit schemes: [a call for evidence](#).
- Pension trustee skills, capability and culture: [a call for evidence](#).
- Pensions Dashboards: [guidance](#) on deferred connection. The guidance and forms have been updated to reflect changes made by the Pensions Dashboards (Amendment) Regulations 2023, including introducing a single connection deadline of 31 October 2026.
- [Consultation outcome](#) - Value for Money: A framework on metrics, standards, and disclosures.
- [Consultation outcome](#) - Addressing the challenge of deferred small pots.
- [Consultation outcome](#) - Defined benefit pension scheme consolidation.
- [Consultation outcome](#) - Extending opportunities for collective defined contribution pension schemes.

- **FCA**

- [Press release](#): Two individuals face bans and £1.3m fine for pension transfer advice failings.
- [Read](#): How to support consumers with characteristics of vulnerability when providing pension transfer advice.
- Investment pathways: [Post-implementation review](#).

- **FRC**

- Nothing of relevance issued during the period.

- **Fraud & Pension scams (including Pensions Scams Industry Working Group)**

- The Work and Pensions Committee: [New inquiry](#) - Norton pension schemes and the Fraud Compensation Fund.
- TPR's Pension Scams [Reporting campaign](#) and [Toolkit](#).

- **HMRC/HMT**

- HMRC: Employer Bulletin: [August 2023](#).

- HMRC: Pension schemes newsletter 152 — [July 2023](#).
- HMRC: [Research and analysis](#) - Understanding pension scheme administrators and their needs for migrating to the Managing Pension Schemes service.
- HMRC: [Abolishing](#) the pensions lifetime allowance.
- **Legislation**
 - The Pensions Dashboards (Amendment) Regulations 2023 ([SI 2023/858](#)).
- **Money and Pensions Service (MaPS) and Pension Dashboard Programme**
 - MaPS [publishes](#) 2023/24 Corporate Plan
 - [Update](#) on the Pensions Dashboards Programme reset.
- **Overseas inc Channel Islands, Isle of Man, Scotland, and Wales**
 - Nothing of relevance issued during the period.
- **TPO**
 - Nothing of relevance issued during the period.
- **TPR**
 - [Focus on value](#) from DC pension investments set to increase after regulation changes.
 - Start preparing for this year's [DC scheme return](#). Find out everything you need to prepare for the scheme return.
 - Almost 2 million to be paid to pension scheme after [tribunal backs TPR decision](#).
 - [Blog](#): Time to offer your members a MOT.
 - [Blog](#): How trustees can improve pension industry diversity in just 20 minutes.
 - [Blog](#): Supporting innovation in DB superfunds to drive better saver outcomes.
- **PASA**
 - PASA [releases Data Guidance](#) on DB benefit accuracy.
 - PASA releases [updated Dashboards Data Accuracy Guidance](#).

- **PLSA**
 - Pension sharing on divorce - [summary of survey results](#).
- **PPI**
 - [PPI Press Release](#): The Pensions Primer 2023 edition.

7. Questions from the Group and topics for discussion. All

None submitted for the meeting.

8. Hot topics – what’s keeping you up at night? All

Opportunity to raise any issues on the day. Discussions do not have to be minuted.

9. Watching briefs from the Board. All

- Pensions Dashboards.
- Pension tax reforms.

There may not always be anything to refer to the board on these topics.

10. Issues for referral to the other ILAG PGs All

There may not always be anything to refer to other groups.

11. AOB. All

12. Date, time, and venue of the next meeting. SD

Wednesday 8 November, 10:45–13:00, virtual meeting.

13. Guest speaker, joining from 12:00 - Simon Wasserman, Project Director Pensions, Financial Reporting Council.

Simon will be looking at the FRCs AS TM1 guidance and will address questions already submitted by the group. Simon is also happy to take any additional questions on the day.

Areas to be addressed by Simon:

- What the timescales will be for the FRC review of AS TM1 and what changes they may be considering for 6 April 2024.
- Discussion on SMPI issues and whether FRC believe a template to explain to members what has changed, and the potential impact of the changes, would be a viable solution to meet the requirements.

- Whether FRC believes the industry is struggling generally with the proposed changes to growth rates for SMPIs, and how volatility data quality is expected to improve over time.
- The group sometimes find that detailed fund information, specifically in regard to volatility, is not always readily available from investment providers. Is FRC aware of a more general issue sourcing this data and has any consideration been given to how this might be overcome?
- For an investment fund that does not have a full five-year price history at the end of September then C.2.10 of the Regulations addresses the steps that providers should take by effectively linking to another fund that has sufficient history. If a fund is available that has its own price history, but the fund has undergone a step-change in its investment aims/objective/structure during that five-year period, can some or all of the fund-specific data be ignored, and be supplemented with appropriate collateral data as if the fund didn't have a full history? This does not refer to funds where the investment structure has evolved slowly but rather ones where there is a significant shift at a given point in time.
- Where a fund carries an investment growth guarantee that is higher than the growth assumption resulting from the volatility-driven methodology, some firms are intending to use that guaranteed growth in their projections and quote it in the statement even if the growth rate is not one of the four specified in the Regulations. Is there anything being missed that precludes firms from taking this approach?

** Supporting papers attached to this email.*

*** Supporting papers circulated separately.*