

Update of Matters circulating that are likely to affect Scheme Administration FEB 2017

Organisation	Subject	Link	Comments
HM Treasury NEW	Pensions scams: consultation	https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/pension-scams/pensions-scams-consultation	Published 5 December and closing on 13 February 2017, This consultation sets out a package of measures aimed at tackling three different areas of pensions scams, a cold calling ban consulting on clarifying the law so that Funds can block pension transfers based if concerned it's a Scam, and looking at single member occupation pension schemes only being registered by active companies
NEW	Indexation and equalisation of GMP in public service pension schemes	https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/indexation-and-equalisation-of-gmp-in-public-service-pension-schemes	Published on 28 November 2016, and closes on 20 February 2017, this consultation is seeking views on how to address the implications of State Pension reforms for Guaranteed Minimum Pensions (GMP) of public servants below State Pension age.
UPDATED	Reforms to public sector exit payments: response to the consultation	https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/further-consultation-on-limiting-public-sector-exit-payments Enterprise Commencement Regulations http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/70/pdfs/uksi_20170070_en.pdf	Introduction of new regulations for exit payments appear to have been further delayed. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. recovery of exit payments for high earners who are re-employed actual regulations expected any time 2. the £95k cap for exit. Employment Enterprise Regulations have commencement regulations effective from 1 February 2017 short consultation possible awaiting further information 3. Third tranche on exit payments Government responded to the consultation on reforming exit payments across the public sector. Departments asked to submit details of their proposals, including limits on employer funded early access to pension benefits (e.g. redundancy and business efficiency retirements in the LGPS).
	Actual valuation and Cost cap mechanism	http://www.lgpsboard.org/images/Guidance/pspav.pdf	The review the cost cap mechanism that was implemented as part of the national reforms of Public Sector Pensions.
HM Revenues & Customs	Revenue and Customs Brief 14 (2016): VAT, Deduction of VAT on pension fund management costs following Court of Justice of the European Union decision in PPG	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/revenue-and-customs-brief-14-2016-vat-deduction-of-vat-on-pension-fund-management-costs-following-court-of-justice-of-the-european-union-decision/revenue-and-customs-brief-14-2016-vat-deduction-of-vat-on-pension-fund-management-costs-following-court-	Changes to the reclamation of VAT on fund management costs may affect LGPS funds once pooling is in place. These changes were originally due with effect from 1st January 2017 but have now been pushed back to 1st January 2018. Project Brunel will be keeping an eye on how it is evolving and take appropriate advice. Consultation closed 31 December 2017

		of-justice-of-the-european-union-decision	
DCLG	Local government pension scheme statistics	https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/local-government-pension-scheme	This collection brings together all statistics on the local government pension scheme in England and Wales
UPDATED	LGPS Regulations: Draft Amendment Regulations with Best Value & Fair Deal consultation and freedom and Choice options	https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/local-government-pension-scheme-regulations	<p>This consultation reviews the approach for Best Value and Fair Deal for the transfer of staff. Closed 20 August 2016. Response has led to DCLG deciding to split these away from the amendment regulations as rethink required. Nothing expected before June 2017</p> <p>The other amendments will be processed earlier but need changes to the Freedom and Choice section so short consultation may be required. Provisional expected date of Mar/Apr 2017 is appears unlikely</p>
	LGPS investment regulations	http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2016/946/contents/made	These regulations were laid before parliament on 23 rd September and come into force from 1st November 2016. They remove many of the investment restrictions imposed on LGPS funds, introduce a prudential framework for investment decision making, introduce a Power of Direction for the Secretary of State to intervene in the investment function of an Administering Authority if deemed necessary, and require all funds to publish a new Investment Strategy Statement by 1st April 2017
	Guidance on Preparing and Maintaining an Investment Strategy Statement' (ISS)	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-government-pension-scheme-guidance-on-preparing-and-maintaining-an-investment-strategy-statement	<p>The ISS replaces the Statement of Investment Principles and DCLG has also published their 'Guidance on Preparing and Maintaining an Investment Strategy Statement' to assist funds. This was issued on the 15th of September. Many aspects of the new ISS are similar to the SIP, although there are a few notable additions:</p> <p>The need for Administering Authorities to take proper advice (in numerous areas, although 'proper advice' does not seem to be clearly defined anywhere)</p> <p>The need to state the Authority's approach to pooling investments, including the use of collective investment vehicles and shared services The submission of an annual report on the progress of asset transfers to the Scheme Advisory Board, and A strengthened section on the exercise of rights (including voting rights) attaching to investments.</p> <p>This latter part of the guidance states that Administering Authorities should become signatories to the Stewardship Code and state</p>

			how they implement the seven principles and guidance of the Code on a “comply or explain” basis.
	Response to Investment Regulations consultations	https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/revoking-and-replacing-the-local-government-pension-scheme	Outlines the Government response to the investment regulations consultation.
The Pension Regulator (TPR)	Public Sector pensions website update	http://www.thepensionsregulator.gov.uk/public-service-schemes.aspx	The Regulator has recently made some updates to the public service toolkit. The toolkit which provides a foundation to effective scheme governance and administration has been updated and additional guides and checklist have been published.
Government Actuaries Department (GAD)	Section 13 Dry Run Report Section 13 Report appendices showing APF results	http://www.lgpsboard.org/images/Reports/Section13DryRun20160711.pdf http://www.lgpsboard.org/images/Reports/Section13DryRunAppendices20160711.pdf	The Government Actuary's Department (GAD) have completed a “dry run” section 13 analysis based on the 2013 local valuations. This analysis assesses whether the four main aims; compliance, consistency, solvency and long term cost effectiveness; have been achieved.
	Managing risks in the public service pension schemes	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/managing-risks-in-public-service-pension-schemes-thoughts-on-measures-and-control-mechanisms	GAD has published a document outlining its thoughts on a report published in June from the National Audit Office on the Government's public sector pension liability. The document sets out some ideas on appraising long-term risks for public sector pension schemes.
Financial Conduct Authority (FCA)	CP16/29: Markets in Financial Instruments Directive II implementation – Consultation Paper III	https://www.fca.org.uk/publications/consultation-papers/cp16-29-mifid-ii-implementation	This consultation closed on 4 January 2017, and looked at the Markets in Financial Instruments Directive II (MiFID II) which takes effect on 3 January 2018. The main concern for the LGPS is all investors would be treated as “retail” investors as opposed to “professional” clients. This would have significant implications for the investments available to LGPS Funds and significantly impede the implication of investment pooling. A response was drafted by the Brunel Pension Partnership on behalf of the 10 Founder Funds and can be viewed at the following link: https://www.brunelpensionpartnership.org/en/news/2017/01/bpp-response-to-mifid-ii-consultation
Scheme Advisory Board(SAB)	Academies’ review	http://www.lgpsboard.org/index.php/structure-reform/review-of-academies	SAB in support of its work plan for 2016/17, invited proposals from interested parties to assist it in developing options with regard to the plan to convert all schools to academies and what this would mean for LGPS pension funds and their host authorities. This outcome of this initial work will be considered by the SAB prior to it potentially making recommendations to the Secretary of State.
	Investment fees - Code of Transparency	http://www.lgpsboard.org/index.php/structure-reform/cost-transparency	The move toward investment fee transparency and consistency is seen by the Board as an important factor in the LGPS being perceived as a value led and innovative scheme. Transparency is also a target for the revised CIPFA accounting standard issued for inclusion in the statutory annual

			<p>report and accounts and included in the government's criteria for pooling investments.</p> <p>To assist LGPS funds in obtaining the data they require in order to report costs on a transparent basis the Board is working to develop a voluntary Code of Transparency for LGPS asset managers</p>
NEW	Committees – membership & remit	http://www.lgpsboard.org/index.php/sub-comms/membership-remit	The new Committee and sub-Committee have been announced. Alan South [Technical Advisor] is a substitute for the Cost Management & Scheme Design Committee as a practitioner representative.
CIPFA NEW	LGPS Fund Accounts 2016/17: Example Accounts and Disclosure Checklist [Dec 2016]	http://www.cipfa.org/policy-and-guidance/publications//lgps-fund-accounts-201617-example-accounts-and-disclosure-checklist-online?	
	Investment pooling guidance	http://www.cipfa.org/policy-and-guidance/publications/i/investment-pooling-governance-principles-for-lgps-administering-authorities-online	Guidance for Funds to consider when setting up pooling of investments.
	Funding Strategy Statement Guidance	http://www.cipfa.org/policy-and-guidance/publications/p/preparing-and-maintaining-a-funding-strategy-statement-in-the-lgps-2016-edition	This guidance has now been published and it helps authorities to review and update their FSS to take account of this new guidance and associated regulatory changes.

Those highlighted in Grey are those previously reported but no further developments have been made