

Scheme, legal, regulatory and Fund update

Organisation	Subject	Link	Status	Comments	Risk Ref
HM Treasury	Reforms to public sector exit payments.		No change since the last meeting	After revoking the Restrictions on Public Sector Exit Payment Regulations in early 2021 but promising replacement legislation, we are yet to hear what type of replacement regulations will be implemented or when this may apply.	PEN021
MHCLG	Fair Deal Consultation	https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/local-government-pension-scheme-fair-deal-strengthening-pension-protection	No change since the last meeting	No movement on this since 2019 although we understand that changes are still planned. Officers have responded to the consultation but have yet to hear anything further from MHCLG. The next step is likely to be either another consultation or the introduction of legislation. Due to the Parliamentary backlog, further progress may not be seen until 2022.	PEN040
	<i>Changes to the Local Valuation Cycle and the Management of Employer risk Consultation</i>	https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/800321/LGPS_valuation_cycle_reform_consultation.pdf	No change since the last meeting	Scope: 1). Amendments to the local fund valuations from the current three-year (triennial) to a four-year (quadrennial) cycle. 2). A number of measures aimed at mitigating the risks of moving from triennial to quadrennial cycles. 3). Proposals for flexibility on exit payments. 4). Proposals for further policy changes to exit credits 5). Proposals for policy changes to employers required to offer LGPS Membership (allowing further education, sixth form colleges to close entry to new employees) Reform progress: The Government has introduced legislation in relation to items 3 and 4. The changes resulting from item 4 are already embedded in the Fund's cessation policy and the changes from item 3 were covered in a paper revising the Fund's cessation policy in the December 2020 committee pack. We are unaware of any further developments on the other areas.	PEN044
	Consultation: Taking action on climate risk	https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/taking-action-on-	No change since the last meeting	MHCLG are shortly expected to release draft regulations and statutory guidance for consultation on how schemes will need to take action on climate risk. The DWP have already issued a consultation for	PEN041

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		climate-risk-improving-governance-and-reporting-by-occupational-pension-schemes-response-and-consultation-on-regulations		<p>occupational pension schemes – this is the link provided – and the MHCLG consultation will apply to the LGPS and is expected to be virtually identical.</p> <p>The Fund is in a good place here as the Committee has already done significant work to address this risk, via modelling, education (both of Committee members and the wider scheme membership), transparent reporting and meaningful actions.</p>	
The Department of Work and Pensions (DWP)	Pension dashboard project	https://pensionsdashboardproject.uk/industry/about-the-pensions-dashboard-project/	No change since the last meeting	The Fund's software provide, Aquila Heywood, is part of the national working party to help deliver the Pensions Dashboard. Implementation is likely to be in 2023 and it is still unclear what the impact may be for the Fund (as well as what level of take up for this initiative may exist from the general public).	PEN038
Financial Reporting Council	Proposed revision to the UK Stewardship Code	https://www.frc.org.uk/investors/uk-stewardship-code	No change since the last meeting	<p>The Financial Reporting Council (FRC) published the revised Stewardship Code on 24th October 2019 which sets substantially higher expectations for investor stewardship policy and practice.</p> <p>Officers will now review Fund compliance to the new code and begin drafting a new Statement of Compliance for review by the FRC, but 31 March 2021.</p>	
Scheme Advisory Board (SAB)	Cost cap mechanism & McCloud case		No change since the last meeting	<p>The McCloud consultation has now closed and officers still await to see the final outcome. The Fund's software provider is currently developing software solutions in anticipation of the final legislation being laid before parliament and passed as per expectations.</p> <p>As part of i-Connect onboarding, officers continue to update part-time hours histories for active staff. For other categories, there is little work officers can do until the final remedy is released and the administration software is updated.</p>	PEN042
	Goodwin Case		No change since the last meeting	With some similarities to McCloud, another discrimination case affecting public service schemes including the LGPS, this time on the grounds of sexual orientation whereby it has been shown that it is	PEN056

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				<p>discriminatory for female partners of members who are in a same sex or opposite sex marriage to receive different survivor benefits from one other.</p> <p>Although the funding costs will be small, this will be a further administration and communication burden to address.</p> <p>Little information has so far been provided of the impact on the LGPS, but the DfE has started a consultation in relation to the Teacher's Pension Scheme to start the process of altering the scheme rules. It is expect MHCLG will undertake a similar process for the LGPS in due course.</p>	
	Good Governance Project (formerly known as the Separation Project)	http://www.lgpsboard.org/images/PDF/BoardFeb18/PaperBItem50218.pdf	No change	<p>Hymans-Robertson, on behalf of the SAB, has released its report on phase II which outlines a number of specific recommendations.</p> <p>Hymans Robertson and SAB are now moving towards Phase III of the project and a proposal is going to MHCLG to implement the proposals.</p> <p>The timeframes for implementation are still unclear.</p>	PEN039
The Pension Regulator (tPR)	Single code of practice		No change	<p>tPR have released a consultation concerning its intention to produce a single code of practice covering all pension schemes (rather than over 15 at the moment).</p> <p>Whilst some of the exercise is merely one of administrative consolidation, tPR have also used this as an opportunity to make some changes.</p>	PEN050
Fund	Various		Updated	<p>Overseas pensioner existence exercise: There were 8 people who have still not respond and have had their pension suspended. It is assumed they have all died but so far the Fund, via its tracing agent, have been unable to confirm if this is correct plus other related details (e.g. date of death/next of Kin).</p> <p>The s151 officer is in the process of implementing some changes to the Fund senior management structure.</p>	