

Organisation	Subject	Link	Status	Comments	Risk
HM Treasury	Reforms to public sector exit payments: response to the consultation	https://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/publicsectorexitpaymentslimitation.html	Updated	The Bill was presented to Parliament on Tuesday 5 September 2017 and there was no debate and the second reading has been repeatedly delayed since and now there is now no specific date scheduled. It is a Private Member's Bill, which are often not printed until close to the second reading debate and hence no text is still available.	
CIPFA	Preparing the Annual Report: Guidance for LGPS Funds	https://www.cipfa.org/policy-and-guidance/consultations/lgps-%e2%80%93-preparing-the-annual-report,-c,-guidance-for-lgps-funds	New	CIPFA released a consultation on proposed changes to the Annual Report to reflect changes to the operation of the Scheme since the last publication in 2014 (e.g. asset pools, legislation etc). The new guidance is considered statutory by MHCLG and includes new additions such as standardised KPIs and cost figures which appears to partially replace the purpose of the voluntary CIPFA benchmarking exercise. The consultation closed on 7 December 2018 and requirements are now being finalised.	
The Pension Regulator (tPR)	Miscellaneous		New	<p>There has been increased communications from the Pension Regulator to check that Funds are meeting their duties. This has come in the form of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An enhanced annual written survey; • A phone survey; • The first submission of common and conditional data scores as part of the Scheme Returns • Checking that Funds had submitted Benefit Statements and if they need to report themselves to tPR; and • Stressing that the tPR expects to see improvements in data quality over time. <p>The Scheme Advisory Board has also exchanged letters with tPR to query tPR's approach to enforcement action on certain LGPS Funds. The two parties have agreed to meet and work together on such matters.</p>	
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-	No change since the last meeting	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 at least 1st January 2018. Project Brunel will be keeping an eye on how it is evolving and take appropriate advice.	

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		costs-following-court-of-justice-of-the-european-union-decision			
MHCLG	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	No change since the last meeting	<p>Following the High Court ruling on 23rd June 2017 that elements of the Governments Statutory Guidance on preparing and maintaining an Investment Strategy Statement was unlawful the Government subsequently published updated guidance removing the offending clauses - that funds should not pursue policies that are contrary to UK foreign policy or UK defence policy.</p> <p>The Government has been given leave to appeal the High Court decision, so further updates will be given once the outcome of any appeal is known.</p>	
	Fair Deal Consultation	https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/local-government-pension-scheme-fair-deal-strengthening-pension-protection	Updated	<p>On 10 January 2019, MHCLG released a new Fair Deal Consultation which proposes a number of changes to the LGPS Regulations to strengthen the protections that apply when LGPS Employees are transferred to service providers and try to make the process smoother.</p> <p>Officers have reviewed the proposals and, whilst on the whole, they believe them to be sensible and a step in the right direction, officers feel further clarity and development is still needed to maximise their effectiveness and reduce the risk of process becoming worse.</p> <p>Changes on this area could be of material significance to the operation of the Fund and hence officers intend to response by the deadline of 4 April 2019 with their views.</p>	
The Department of Work and Pensions (DWP)	Pension dashboard project	https://pensionsdashboardproject.uk/industry/about-the-pensions-dashboard-project/	Updated	<p>DWP is leading this project and the intention was to 'go live' during 2019.</p> <p>DWP released a feasibility report and consultation in early December which closed on 28 January 2019. We did not respond to the consultation and we have yet to see anything further from DWP on this. Officers agree with the general principle and ideas but need to see more detail about how it would in practice before it can form a full view.</p>	

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Financial Reporting Council	Stewardship code consultation	https://www.frc.org.uk/news/january-2019-(1)/frc-strengthens-stewardship-code	New	The Financial Reporting Council (FRC) is consulting on a new Stewardship Code (PDF) that sets substantially higher expectations for investor stewardship policy and practice. The Code will focus on how effective stewardship delivers sustainable value for beneficiaries, the economy and society.	
Scheme Advisory Board (SAB)	Academies' review	http://www.lgpsboard.org/index.php/structure-reform/review-of-academies	No change since the last meeting	<p>SAB commission PwC to produce a report on "Options for Academies in the LGPS" commissioned and the report was published in May 2017. The report identified and highlighted problems/issues experienced by stakeholders. No recommendations were made in the report, although the potential benefits of new approaches to the management of academies within the LGPS were highlighted. The proposals were wide ranging from minor alterations to academies being grouped together in a single LGPS Fund.</p> <p>SAB's work is still on-going and Bob Holloway from the LGA previously stated that a wide range of options in both work streams are still be considered. For example, changing the administration arrangements or putting academies into their own Fund etc. However, a consultation will be released on any changes proposed before they are put into force.</p>	
	Cost cap mechanism & McCloud case	Summary by Osborne Clarke (our external legal advisers)	Updated	<p>In a fairly swift turn of events, the planned changes to the LGPS from 1 April 2019 have now been cancelled due to an on-going court case (referred to as the McCloud case) which may also result in changes to the LGPS and all other public service schemes.</p> <p>The SAB has decided to await the outcome to the court case before making any changes. This is far from ideal, as this could well mean we made to make onerous retrospective changes to the Scheme (w/e from April 2019 but not known until the end of 2019/early 2020) and that such changes would not be included within the triennial valuation.</p>	
	Investment fees - Code of Transparency	http://www.lgpsboard.org/index.php/structure-reform/cost-transparency	No change since the last meeting	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 report and accounts and included in the government's criteria for pooling investments.	

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				To assist LGPS funds in obtaining the data they require in order to report costs on a transparent basis SAB has published its Code of Transparency in May 2017. The Code is voluntary and asset managers who sign up will demonstrate their commitment to transparent reporting of costs. SAB will procure a third party to monitor compliance of those who sign up.	
	Tier 3 employers review	http://www.lgpsboard.org/index.php/board-publications/invitation-to-bid	No change since the last meeting	Covers those Fund employers with no tax raising powers or guarantee (excludes academies). SAB is keen to identify the issues and risks related to these employers' participation in the LGPS and to see if any improvements/changes can be made. There are currently two concurrent phases of work involved – collating data and identification of issues. SAB will then assess the risks to Funds and consider next steps. Aon Hewitt has recently produced a detailed report which is available on the SAB website which outlines its finding on the identification of issues but the report doesn't make any specific recommendations. SAB is yet to advise what actions it will take following receipt of the report.	
	Good Governance Project (formerly known as the Separation Project)	http://www.lgpsboard.org/images/PDF/BoardFeb18/PaperBItem50218.pdf	Updated	Formerly 'the separation project', the scope of this project has now evolved following feedback from the industry and it is now focused on ensuring any conflicts of interest are addressed and managed, the LGPS remains appropriately resourced to delivery its statutory function. Hymans Robertson has been commissioned to assist the SAB on this review which will initially involve a short online questionnaire and a focus on effectiveness. Later on, there will be interviews and workshops with key stakeholders.	
	Guidance Project	http://www.lgpsboard.org/images/PDF/BoardFeb18/PaperBItem50218.pdf	No change since the last meeting	The Guidance project will identify regulations which may be better sited within statutory guidance and to both propose the necessary amendments and assist HMCLG with the drafting of guidance. This project is at an early stage and no further information is available at this time.	

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	Data Project	http://www.lgpsboard.org/images/PDF/BoardFeb18/PaperBItem50218.pdf	No change since the last meeting	<p>The SAB describes this project as: The Data project will aim to assist administering authorities in meeting the Pension Regulators requirements for monitoring and improving data and include the identification of scheme specific conditional data and the production of guidance for authorities and employers.</p> <p>No further information is currently available from the SAB. However, the SAB did consult on a common set of data points for the part of the project relating to scheme specific conditional data over the last couple of months before deciding to postpone implementation until 2019, in time for the 2019 tPR Scheme Return.</p>	