

Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS)

National Technical Group

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1. Approval

These terms of reference were approved by ‘standing members’ of the National LGPS Technical Group at the meeting held on 8 March 2019.

2. Purpose

The purpose of the National LGPS Technical Group is to:

- consider the general direction and content of the statutory framework of the LGPS in England & Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.
- provide advice and guidance to LGPS regional pension officer groups (POGs), administering authorities, local pension boards and pension committees, especially with regards to legislation that is open to different interpretations.
- liaise, as and when required, with Scheme Advisory Boards by way of the Local Government Pensions Committee (LGPC).

- liaise, as and when required, with the responsible authority:
 - LGPS England & Wales - Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government on behalf of Secretary of State
 - LGPS Scotland - Scottish Public Pensions Agency on behalf of Scottish Ministers
 - LGPS Northern Ireland - Department for Communities
- liaise, as and when required, with other government departments (e.g. HMRC, DWP etc) in matters pertaining to the LGPS.
- assist with the development of consistent standards and improve the quality of information available to LGPS scheme managers.
- voice the views of LGPS scheme managers in consultation with stakeholders or when a change to the LGPS is being considered.
- appoint representatives to serve on other bodies.

The National LGPS Technical Group will not:

- Provide legal advice
- Undertake risk management

3. Membership principles

The National LGPS Technical Group shall consist of:

Standing members

Standing members are members because they have been elected as representatives by their respective regional pension officer groups (POGs). Each POG (excluding the Scottish and Northern Irish POG) may nominate up to two members. Scotland and Northern Ireland may nominate up to one member each.

The standing members may determine which bodies may nominate representative members.

Representative Members

Representative members are members because they represent a government department or local government body, these are:

- Local Government Association (LGA)
- Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG)
- Scottish Public Pensions Agency (SPPA)

- Department for Communities (Northern Ireland)

Ad-hoc members

Ad-hoc members are persons who are invited to attend by the National LGPS Technical Group and may include such organisations, bodies or individuals as the group deem to be appropriate for the efficient functioning of the group or to generally assist LGPS colleagues in the devolved administrations. Examples include but are not limited to actuaries and software providers.

4. Voting Rights

Only standing members have voting rights.

National LGPS Technical Group decisions are normally reached by general agreement of the standing members present as determined by the Chairman, unless a vote is requested by any standing member. In the latter case the vote shall rest upon a simple majority of those standing members present and will normally be conducted by a show of hands. In the event of a tie, the Chair shall have an additional casting vote. The vote shall normally be recorded in the minutes.

If a change to the terms of reference is proposed, then the agreement of 75 per cent of all standing members is required.

5. Officers

The group shall have three officers:

- Chairman
- Deputy Chairman
- Secretary

Each post-holder will be appointed by election, with each standing member of the group having a single non-transferable vote. Voting shall take place at the relevant National LGPS Technical Group meeting. There shall be no voting by proxy or by mail, email or other method which allows voting from non-attending standing members.

The post-holder is elected for the duration of their membership of their regional pensions officers group or until the standing members of the National LGPS Technical Group decide that there should be an election. Such elections may be called by a vote of the standing members attending a regular group meeting. 75 per

cent of the standing members present need to vote in favour of an election for one to take place.

6. Sub- groups

Standing members of the National LGPS Technical Group may, from time to time, decide to form a sub-group or sub-groups of the National LGPS Technical Group.

Generally, any sub-group will be formed for the purpose of examining in more detail any subject that the National LGPS Technical Group wishes to be considered.

The terms of reference for any sub-group will be decided by the standing members of the National LGPS Technical Group at the meeting in which the sub-group is proposed.

Membership of the sub-group will also be determined by the standing members of the National LGPS Technical Group at the meeting in which the sub-group is proposed.

Any sub-group can be dissolved at any time by the standing members of the National LGPS Technical Group at any meeting of the National LGPS Technical Group by a simple majority of the standing members.

7. Publication

The National LGPS Technical Group is not affiliated with the Local Government Pensions Committee (LGPC) though, its agenda and minutes are published under the banner of LGPC secretariat.