

National LGPS Technical Group meeting documents

For meeting held on 29 September 2023

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1) Meeting agenda item 5: Technical Group Minutes of 9 June 2023

The National Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) Technical Group is a member of the Local Government Pensions Committee (LGPC).

1. Meeting documents

The majority of the documents for this meeting [are contained in a single PDF](#). With the exception of the [Prudential process flow for dashboards – item 14](#)

No further hyperlinks to these documents are contained elsewhere in the minutes.

2. Date and time of meeting

The meeting started at 11.00 am and finished at 14.00 pm on the 9 June 2023.

3. Venue

The meeting was held at as held at Mercer's offices at 1 Tower Place West, London EC3R5BU.

4. Attendees and apologies for absence

Attendees

- Kevin Gerard (Chairman) - Welsh Pension Officer Group
- Joanne Griffiths - Welsh Pension Officer Group
- Ian Howe (Deputy Chairman) - East Midlands Pension Officer Group
- Phil Drury - East Midlands Pension Officer Group
- Karen Gibson - Southwest Area Pension Officer Group
- Emma Sanders - Southwest Area Pension Officer Group
- David Kellond - Southern Area Pension Officer Group
- Sandy Armstrong - Southern Area Pension Officer Group
- Louise Savage – Southeast Counties Superannuation Officer Group
- Joel Ellner - Southeast Counties Superannuation Officer Group
- Richard Smythe - London Pension Officer Group
- Martin Doyle - London Pension Officer Group
- Vicky Jenks - Shrewsbury Pension Officer Group
- Debbie Sharp - Shrewsbury Pension Officer Group
- Liz Vollans - Northeast Pension Officer Forum
- Zena Kee - Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Superannuation Committee

- Kimberly Linge - Scottish Public Pension Agency
- Jayne Wiberg - Local Government Association
- Lorraine Bennett - Local Government Association
- Joanne Donnelly – Scheme Advisory Board England & Wales
- Becky Clough – Scheme Advisory Board England & Wales
- Claire Hey – Heywood
- Martyn Slaughter - Capita
- Jacob Machin - Civica
- Dave Friend – Equiniti
- Ian Colvin - Hymans Robertson
- Justine Davies - Price Waterhouse Coopers
- Craig Payne - Aon
- Jonathan Perera – Mercer
- Kelly Scotford – Secretariat

Apologies for absence – with replacements

- Kerrie Shields – Civica replaced by Jacob Machin
- Jeremy Hughes – Scheme Advisory Board England & Wales replaced by Becky Clough
- Catherine Pearce – Aon replaced by Craig Payne

Apologies for absence – no replacements

- Erin Savage - Scottish Pensions Liaison Group (flight cancellation on the day)
- Heather Chambers - Northeast Pension Officer Forum
- William Dobbin - Department for Communities (Northern Ireland)
- Alan Wareham – Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
- Steven Moseley (Scotland) – Local Government Association
- Melanie Durrant - Barnett Waddingham

5. Minutes of the last meeting

Item 1 in the meeting documents – highlighted in grey for ease of reading within the meeting documents.

To be agreed

The minutes were agreed in their entirety.

6. Matters arising from previous minutes

None.

7. Local Government Association (LGA)

Jayne Wiberg provided an update on what's happened since the May 2023 bulletin was published. This included:

- updates to actuarial factors following a change to the SCAPE discount rate in March 2023
- confirmation the reference to a named contact within each organisation within HMRC remedy newsletter is a contact within each administering authority
- updates covering changes to the dashboards deadline announced by government on 8 June 2023
- publication of PASA value data guidance for dashboards.

8. DLUHC update (standing agenda item)

Although absent from the meeting, Alan Wareham provided an update (item 2 in the meeting documents), on behalf of the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC).

9. DLUHC update on recommendations and queries raised by the group (standing agenda item)

Updates from DLUHC are required on the following recommendations and queries raised by the group – see item 3 in the meeting documents:

- removing the five year limit on the payment of 2014 refunds
 - we are currently looking into this matter from a policy perspective and are considering a timeline for any potential change, subject to the priority of other work and Ministerial approval.
- forfeiture policy change
 - we are currently developing a consultation document featuring proposed reforms to the rules on forfeiture within the LGPS, which we plan to launch later this year:
 - to extend the time limit from three to six months for a scheme employer to submit a forfeiture application, with the timer to begin at sentencing rather than conviction
 - to remove the requirement that to be eligible for forfeiture the convicted person must have left their employment because of the offence they committed

- remove regulation 92 (interim payments directions) to due incorrect drafting.
- aggregation and concurrency
 - no update
- additional voluntary contributions (AVCs) used to purchase additional pension
 - no update
- qualifying recognised overseas pension scheme (QROPS) transfer in
 - we are working with HMT and DWP on work related to Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Bill to establish a full and current position on QROPS transfers in but have not committed to making any changes to regulations
 - following recent advice, we understand that the LGPS is not affected by the Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Bill, however there are some changes that may be required in due course to correct references that no longer work now that we have left the EU. We are currently working with HMT and DWP on some of these potential changes, but we have not yet identified a timeframe for implementation.

Update from DLUHC

In order to determine how many members are materially affected by the changes requested to refunds and QROPS transfers in, DLUHC request administering authorities, to provide the following information:

- number of 2014 refunds where the member left active membership of the scheme before 1 April 2019 – the reason for looking at cases that are more than four years old, as opposed to five years old, is to account for the time it might take to amend the regulations
- number of QROPS transfers in that have been declined / placed on hold until the regulations are amended.

Action

Group members to collate the following information from administering authorities and send to alan.wareham@levellingup.gov.uk:

- number of 2014 refunds where the member left active membership of the scheme before 1 April 2019
- number of QROPS transfers in that have been declined / placed on hold until the regulations are amended.

10. SPPA update (standing agenda item)

Kimberley Linge provided an update (item 4 in the meeting documents), on behalf of the Scottish Public Pensions Agency.

11. DfC update (standing agenda item)

William Dobbin did not provide an update on behalf of the Department for Communities.

12. LGPS England & Wales Scheme Advisory Board update (standing agenda item)

Joanne Donnelly provided an update (item 6 in the meeting documents), on behalf of the LGPS England & Wales Scheme Advisory Board (SAB).

13. Pensions Dashboards (standing agenda item)

Quarterly feedback from Pension Officer Groups

Jayne Wiberg emailed administering authorities with a revised Pensions Dashboards survey on 24 April 2023. The survey closed on 24 May 2023. Out of the 98 administering authorities responses were received from:

June 2023	Dec 2022	Sept 2022	June 2022	March 2022
50	56	63	61	77

Listed below are the location of the administering authorities who did not respond:

Area	June 2023	Dec 2022	Sept 2022	June 2022
East Midlands	2	1	1	0
London	27	24	22	22
Northeast	3	3	3	2
Southern	2	2	2	1
Southeast	3	0	0	2
Scotland	4	6	3	3

Shrewsbury	3	1	1	0
Southwest	2	3	2	1
Wales	2	1	0	0

The anonymised responses are summarised in the survey monkey feedback (item 7 in the meeting documents). Jayne Wiberg talked through the responses.

The next survey will be sent to pensions managers week commencing 23 October 2023 closing on 25 November 2023. The August 2023 survey is skipped due to school holidays resulting in low participation.

Group discussion

The group discussed the feedback. Concern arose around the difficulty in recruitment.

Quarterly feedback from software suppliers

Responses (item 8 in the meeting documents) were received from the following software providers detailing where they are in their development and support of the pensions dashboards. Each software provider talked through their update.

- Heywoods
- Civica
- Capita

An update was not received from Equiniti. The chair requested this is provided going forward to allow administering authorities to compare the position of each software provider.

Action

- each software provider to provide an update as to their latest position on dashboards.

14. Pensions Dashboards – AVCs

Jayne Wiberg and Lorraine Bennett met with Prudential on 26 April 2023 to discuss Prudential's implementation of dashboards.

Prudential kindly provided a flow chart, see addendum, of how they expected the value data to be exchanged, where Prudential provide the data directly to dashboards.

Group discussion

The group were pleased with the flowchart, though it prompted an alternative direction of thought. During the discussion it became apparent, Prudential providing AVC value data directly to dashboards, may not be the most suitable way forward. Especially if this approach is not consistent across all LGPS AVC providers. Jayne Wiberg confirmed Utmost, who took over Equitable Life policies, will not supply value data direct to dashboards, instead they will supply the data to administering authorities.

The group decided more work was needed in this area before they could consider whether to recommend Prudential:

- return value data directly to dashboards, or
- supply administering authorities with value data for them to return to dashboards.

Action

Jayne Wiberg to consider the matter further and put together a paper for the meeting on 29 September 2023. The paper should look at:

- identifying the LGPS AVC suppliers
- identifying how many AVC accounts each AVC supplier holds for the LGPS
- confirming how the AVC supplier intend to provide AVC value data to dashboards – either direct or by way of the administering authority
- how to approach queries from members about AVCs where value data is supplied by the administering authority
- engage with software suppliers to make sure AVC value data can be held on the pensions administration system
- the legislative requirements of providing money purchase value data to dashboards – there are different considerations to supplying defined benefit value data
- general pros and cons.

15. McCloud remedy (standing agenda item)

Quarterly feedback

Jayne Wiberg emailed administering authorities with a McCloud survey on 24 April 2023. The survey closed on 24 May 2023. Out of the 98 administering authorities responses were received from:

June 2023	Dec 2022	Sept 2022	June 2022	March 2022	Dec 2021
57	60	61	52	84	66

Listed below are the location of the administering authorities who did not respond:

Area	June 2023	Dec 2022	Sept 2022	June 2022
East Midlands	1	1	1	0
London	23	23	23	28
Northeast	3	3	3	4
Southern	2	1	3	0
Southeast	3	1	0	2
Scotland	3	6	4	3
Shrewsbury	3	1	2	3
Southwest	2	2	1	1
Wales	2	0	0	1

The anonymised responses are summarised in the survey monkey feedback (item 10 in the meeting documents). The chair talked through the responses.

The next survey will be sent to pensions managers week commencing 23 October 2023 closing on 25 November 2023. The August 2023 survey is skipped due to school holidays resulting in low participation.

Group discussion

The group discussed the feedback. Concern arose around the difficulty in recruitment.

Action

- Lorraine Bennett to provide a position statement on the LGAs progress towards an LGPS qualification.

16. McCloud – Collection of final salary and CARE pay as at 2009 Scheme normal pension age

Raised by Zena Kee on 11 May 2023 on behalf of NILGOSC.

See item 11 in the meeting documents.

Group discussion

The group discussed the collection of final salary pay at the 2008 scheme / 2009 scheme, normal pension age. A number of group members confirmed they had only realised this data needed to be collected recently.

The LGA confirmed the requirement to collect final pay as at the 2008 scheme normal pension age is in the [‘Guidance for administrators’](#) published in 2020 and the [‘Data issues guidance’](#) published in March 2023. Additionally, [‘the underpin guide’](#) published in 2014 also contains this requirement.

17. Prudential AVCs (Standing agenda item)

The National LGPS Technical subgroup held a meeting with Prudential on 7 June 2023 to discuss the service. This follows the two on-line administration meetings Prudential held with administering authorities on 18 May 2023.

Summary of meeting discussions

The chair of the subgroup, Ian Howe, outlined the discussions covering:

- a service update - Prudential believe the service is better than where it has been, although not perfect they are concentrating on the next level of improvements
- scheme revisions – issues of the provision of the snapshot of data by 31 May
- project advance – progressing well
- areas of concern raised by administering authorities – none have been raised so group members need to remind administering authorities of the process

- biannual administrator meetings – first meetings took place in May 2023
- dashboards – progressing.

The next meeting will be held in October 2023.

Group discussion

The groups consensus is that Prudential's performance overall is improving. A quick poll around the group indicated that, other than the provision of scheme revisions, no major issues were outstanding.

Action

- Group members to remind administering authorities at their regional POGs to email Prudential directly where there is an issue with a case. Full details of the case should be sent to the appropriate client management consultant. An email containing a brief description of the issue (no personal details) should also be sent to Ian Howe confirming a case has been raised, the date raised and with whom, so it can be picked up at the next subgroup meeting.

18. Transfer out process

At the meeting of 10 March 2023 the group agreed that Jayne Wiberg would draft the transfer out process where the member holds more than one deferred benefit. Jayne distributed the draft process to standing members of the group on 25 April 2023 – closing date for comments was 24 May 2023.

Thank you to the following standing members who supplied comments to Jayne:

- Karen Gibson on 26 April 2023
- Louise Savage on 19 May 2023
- Ian Howe on 22 May 2023
- Sandy Armstrong on 24 May 2023
- Richard Smythe on 24 May 2023

Action

- Jayne Wiberg will review all the comments and make any adjustments as necessary to the draft process. Jayne may contact members for clarification on comments. Once completed the process will be returned for approval at the September 2023 meeting. Anything queries left outstanding for discussion will be raised at that meeting.

19. Query: E-signatures for interfund adjustments

Raised by Emma Sanders on 6 April 2023 on behalf of SWAPOG.

See item 12 in meeting documents.

Group discussion

The group discussed the proposal. The group appeared to be in agreement with the proposal concerning elections by way of online portals, with the addition of a statement to be added to the screen print, confirming the following:

- date member agreed to the election
- name of administering authority to which the monies will be transferred

The group agreed this should be taken to regional POGs for agreement.

Action

- Emma Sanders to prepare a generic statement for administering authorities to use with their on-line elections including the date the member agreed to the election, dates of service to be transferred, member reference number and the name of the administering authority to which the monies are to be transferred – send to Jayne Wiberg for distribution

Postscript: on 15 June 2023 Emma Sanders supplied the following:

“I wish to elect to transfer my previous Local Government Pension Scheme membership with XXXXX pension fund relating to my employment with XXXX as a XXXX for the period XX/XX/XXXX to XX/XX/XXXX (if you have more than one period, please provide details for all the membership you wish to transfer)’ by ticking the box on this on-line form you are consenting to the transfer. Date : XX/XX/XXXX”

- Group members to discuss with their regional POGs and confirm at the meeting of the 29 September 2023 their agreement or otherwise.

20. Query: Pension on Divorce

Raised by Karen Gibson on 5 May 2023 on behalf of SWAPOG.

See paper, item 13 in the meeting documents.

Group discussion

The group discussed the query. Certain members of the group confirmed the following:

- where the pension credit member retains a pension credit in the scheme the calculation date would be the transfer day as set out in the order
- where the pension credit member elected for a CETV the calculation date would be the guarantee day in the CETV.

21. Annual Report Guidance

Raised by Becky Clough on 24 May 2023 on behalf of the Scheme Advisory Board England & Wales.

See paper, item 14 in the meeting documents.

Group discussion

Becky Clough discussed her paper with the group.

Group action

- contact becky.clough@local.gov.uk cc'ing sabsecretariat@local.gov.uk if you or members of your POG wish to volunteer or provide feedback into this workstream by 14 July 2023.

22. LGA technical queries (standing agenda item)

All [LGA technical queries](#) with DLUHC can be found on the 'technical group minutes' page of www.lgpsregs.org. The latest version is dated 21 March 2023.

All [LGA technical queries](#) with SPPA can be found on the 'technical group minutes' page of www.scotlgpsregs.org. The latest version is dated 4 May 2022.

To note.

23. LGA GAD queries (standing agenda item)

All LGA GAD queries for England & Wales can be found on the Actuarial guidance page of www.lgpsregs.org. The latest version is dated 6 April 2022.

All LGA GAD queries for Scotland can be found on the Actuarial guidance page of www.scotlgpsregs.org. The latest version is dated 6 April 2022.

To note.

24. Historical decisions (standing agenda item)

All [recommendations / agreements / outcome of decisions](#) made by the National LGPS Technical Group from 1 April 2014 to date can be found on the 'technical group minutes' page of www.lgpsregs.org and www.scotlgps.org.

To note.

25. Recommendations - SAB England and Wales (standing agenda item)

[Recommendations](#) made to the SAB England and Wales from April 2014 to date can be found on the 'technical group minutes' page of www.lgpsregs.org and www.scotlgps.org.

See update from DLUHC [agenda item 9](#) for further information.

To note.

26. Group membership (standing agenda item)

The current list of [group membership](#) can be found on the 'technical group minutes' page of www.lgpsregs.org and www.scotlgps.org.

- Claire Hey has replaced Paul Kateley as the representative from Heywood Pension Technologies
- following on from the last meeting where group members were asked to consider whether they are the most appropriate person to be the nominated individual to attend the National LGPS Technical Group – there were no further changes of membership bar those already communicated to the secretariat.

27. Any other business (standing agenda item)

- The group congratulated Melanie Durrant from Barnet Waddingham on the birth of her baby girl on 29 April 2023.
- A member of the group raised a question concerning the [McCloud remedy consultation published by DLUHC on 30 May 2023](#). The question concerned the new proposal of not having to aggregate to determine whether members qualify for underpin protection. Lorraine Bennett confirmed this was to avoid the potential for unintended differences in treatment and also to be in line with the approach to protection adopted by other public service pension schemes.

- Lorraine Bennett confirmed that GAD intend to publish all the revised factors by the end of summer 2023. The revised factors will be published in tranches, we expect early retirement, late retirement and non-club transfer in, to be next.

2) Meeting agenda item 8: DLUHC update

Provided by Alan Wareham on 18 September 2023.

OASIS / Academies

We are due to meet Department for Education colleagues later this month to discuss next steps on the consolidation.

LGPS investments / Climate

The consultation on investments will close on 2 October and we are looking forward to responses. This covers a range of issues including investing to support levelling up and next steps on pooling. We are grateful for the feedback received across the sector on our climate consultation and will be publishing a government response as soon as we are able.

Local Audit Delays / Account Separation

We have been working with a range of stakeholders to develop the policy on account separation, with a particular focus on the consequences of account separation, considering other changes being made in the local audit landscape. Engagement with the Financial Reporting Council on this matter and where it fits into the wider work being done on local audit delays has proved useful.

McCloud

The Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment) (No. 3) Regulations 2023 No. 972 has been published to legislation.gov.uk:
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/id/uksi/2023/972>.

We have also published the consultation response, a further Equality Impact Assessment and two updated member factsheets (English and Welsh) here:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/mccloud-remedy-in-the-lgps-supplementary-issues-and-scheme-regulations>.

We are currently setting up a working group to help steer forthcoming statutory guidance to support the regulations.

Survivor Benefits and Forfeiture

We are currently developing a consultation for survivor benefit reforms (application of the Goodwin case and removal of nomination requirement), with the associated

checks and processes to follow before publishing the consultation. This consultation will also feature proposed reforms to the rules on forfeiture within the LGPS.

Good Governance

Work has continued over the summer on good governance, including ongoing engagement with the various workstreams of the Compliance and Reporting Committee to develop plans for changes to regulations and guidance (where we have made progress in setting out draft contents and potential amendments/updates).

Transport for London (TfL)

Technical discussions between Government and Transport for London have started on the potential transfer of the TfL Pension Scheme into the Local Government Pension Scheme and TfL's consultation paper planned for next Summer.

Other Updates

5-year refund – we are currently looking into this item (as one of the items on the SAB technical query list) and thank everyone who provided data and comments as requested at the last technical group meeting.

3) Meeting agenda item 9: Recommendations and queries raised by the group with DLUHC

Full details of all the [recommendations](#) can be found on Technical Group page of www.lgpsregs.org.

Removing the five year limit on the payment of 2014 refunds

On 12 March 2019, the National LGPS Technical Group recommended to the Scheme Advisory Board (SAB) in England & Wales, that the five year limit on 2014 refunds be removed. On 27 September 2019 SAB wrote to the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Luke Hall MP) recommending the changes be considered by the Department. SAB confirmed on 18 November 2019 that MHCLG (now DLUHC) would be happy to take forward this recommendation for change.

Over three years since the initial recommendation, nothing has moved and at the meeting of 10 March 2023 the group request DLUHC provide a definitive timescale by when a change can be expected.

Update from DLUHC on 9 June 2023

On 9 June 2023 DLUHC confirmed they are currently looking into this matter from a policy perspective and are considering a timeline for any potential change, subject to the priority of other work and Ministerial approval. In order to determine how many members are materially affected by the changes requested to refunds, DLUHC request administering authorities to provide the following information:

- number of 2014 refunds that where the member left active membership of the scheme before 1 June 2019 – the reason for look at cases that are more than 4 years old is to account for the time it might take to amend the regulations

Update from DLUHC on 29 September 2023

Alan confirmed DLUHC are deciding whether to take this request for change forward and thank everyone who provided data and comments as requested at the last technical group meeting. DLUHC received data from 35 administering authorities indicating in aggregate they hold around 60,000 deferred refunds. If this data is an indication of the average held across the scheme, this would mean that there are around 150,000 deferred refunds. If the change is approved it will be included in the amending statutory instrument covering survivor benefits.

Forfeiture policy change

On 26 November 2018, the National LGPS Technical Group recommended to the Scheme Advisory Board (SAB) in England & Wales to change the policy behind the forfeiture regulations. Currently, the wording does not address historical events coming to light, which are now more frequent in today's society. On 27 September 2019 SAB wrote to the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Luke Hall MP) recommending the changes be considered by the Department. SAB confirmed on 18 November 2019 that MHCLG (now DLUHC) would be happy to take forward this recommendation for change.

Over three years since the initial recommendation, nothing has moved and the group request DLUHC to provide a definitive timescale by when a change can be expected.

On 9 September 2023 DLUHC confirmed they are currently developing a consultation document for survivor benefit reforms (application of the Goodwin case and removal of nomination requirement), with the associated checks and processes to follow before publishing the consultation. This consultation will also feature proposed reforms to the rules on forfeiture within the LGPS, which we plan to launch later this year:

- to extend the time limit from three to six months for a scheme employer to submit a forfeiture application, with the timer to begin at sentencing rather than conviction
- to remove the requirement that to be eligible for forfeiture the convicted person must have left their employment because of the offence they committed
- remove regulation 92 (interim payments directions) to due incorrect drafting.

Update from DLUHC on 29 September 2023

We are currently developing a consultation for survivor benefit reforms (application of the Goodwin case and removal of nomination requirement), with the associated checks and processes to follow before publishing the consultation. This consultation will also feature proposed reforms to the rules on forfeiture within the LGPS.

Aggregation and concurrency

On 12 March 2019, the National LGPS Technical Group recommended to the Scheme Advisory Board (SAB) in England & Wales, to change the regulations concerning aggregation and concurrency to reflect the position prior to 1 April 2014 (i.e. upon leaving active membership in a concurrent employment, and upon

aggregation with the continuing employment, administrators are required to apply an adjustment to the pre 1-April 2014 final salary membership).

On 27 September 2019 SAB wrote to the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Luke Hall MP) recommending the changes be considered by the Department. SAB confirmed on 18 November 2019 that MHCLG (now DLUHC) would be happy to take forward this recommendation for change.

Over three years since the initial recommendation, nothing has moved and the group request DLUHC to provide a definitive timescale by when a change can be expected.

There was no update from DLUHC on 9 September 2023.

Update from DLUHC on 29 September 2023

Alan confirmed when DLUHC have available resources this matter will be looked at.

AVCs used to purchase additional pension

On 13 December 2019, the National LGPS Technical Group recommended to the Scheme Advisory Board (SAB) in England & Wales, to change the policy behind the regulations that restrict a deferred member who left the Scheme before 1 April 2014, from using their AVC pot to purchase additional pension in the Scheme. Currently, only members who left the Scheme after 31 March 2014 are able to make use of this provision. On 16 December 2019 the SAB Secretariat proposed the change to MHCLG (now DLUHC).

Over three years since the initial recommendation, nothing has moved and the group request DLUHC to provide a definitive timescale by when a change can be expected.

There was no update from DLUHC on 9 September 2023.

Update from DLUHC on 29 September 2023

Alan confirmed when DLUHC have available resources this matter will be looked at.

QROPS transfer in

The LGPS regulations prescribe that a transfer in can only be accepted from a registered pension scheme or a European pensions institution. When defining a European pensions institution we need to look at the Pensions Act (PA) 2004. The wording in section 293(8) of the PA 2004 that previously referred to an EU directive, have been removed post UK withdrawal from the EU on 31 December 2020. This means that until / if the LGPS regulations are updated, overseas transfers cannot be

accepted. The matter was raised with DLUHC following the National LGPS Technical Group meeting on 17 June 2022.

At the last meeting on 10 March 2023 DLUHC confirmed this issue is included with the wider EU law issue. This covers areas of the scheme that have been impacted due to the UK's withdrawal from the EU. Alan confirmed he had a meeting on the afternoon of 10 March 2023 covering this matter and agreed to contact the group with an update before the next meeting on 9 June 2023.

On 9 June 2023 DLUHC confirmed they are working with HMT and DWP on work related to Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Bill to establish a full and current position on QROPS transfers in but have not committed to making any changes to regulations. Following recent advice, we understand that the LGPS is not affected by the Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Bill, however there are some changes that may be required in due course to correct references that no longer work now that we have left the EU. We are currently working with HMT and DWP on some of these potential changes, but we have not yet identified a timeframe for implementation. In order to determine how many members are materially affected by the changes requested to QROPS transfers in, DLUHC request administering authorities to provide the following information:

- number of QROPS transfers in that have been declined / placed on hold until the regulations are amended

Update from DLUHC on 29 September 2023

Alan confirmed DLUHC are deciding whether to take this request for change forward and thank everyone who provided data and comments as requested at the last technical group meeting. DLUHC received data indicating one administering authority has one case outstanding.

4) Meeting agenda item 10: SPPA update

Not provided.

5) Meeting agenda item 11: DfC update

Not provided.

6) Meeting agenda item 12: SAB England & Wales update

Becky Clough provided this update on 3 October 2023.

Code of transparency roadshows

The SAB Secretariat has just finished running the free regional training sessions on investment cost transparency for local pension board and committee members, as well as fund officers. The sessions took place in London, Manchester, Wolverhampton, Leeds, Edinburgh, Cardiff and online. They were very successful and insightful for both delegates and the Board with approximately 180 attendees across the sessions.

Working group membership update

The Board recently asked for volunteers for two working groups. One group will decide what to do next after the publication of the Gender Pensions Gap report commissioned by the SAB. The other group will deal with the possible issues that may arise from more funds being in surplus. Many practitioners showed interest in both working groups and they now have full membership. The Board thanks all those who have volunteered their time to be involved in these important workstreams. The first meetings will take place on 4 October 2023 for the Surpluses Working Group and the 9 October for Gender Pensions Gap report.

Investment issues consultation: key messages from the Board

The Board has published a statement setting out some key principles that will form the basis of its response to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) consultation on investment issues. The statement confirms that the Board welcomes the consultation and will engage fully and positively with DLUHC, administering authorities and pools to build as broad a consensus as possible on the way forward. It then goes on to set out key principles on investment pooling, levelling up and the proposed private equity target. The Board will submit a full response to the consultation, which closes on 2 October 2023.

Compliance and reporting committee (CRC)

The Board has three committees under the main board, with one being the CRC. One of the CRC's workstreams is looking at updating the current CIPFA guidance for producing the fund Annual Report and this will be discussed separately at agenda item 12. The other workstreams are looking at the Funding Strategy Statement guidance, Knowledge and Skills, Audit issues and Good Governance.

Update on SAB's cost control mechanism

The Board is considering its own cost control mechanism following changes made to HM Treasury's mechanism. The assumptions on which this process is based are

currently being agreed. HM Treasury changed its mechanism after a review by the Government Actuary and public consultation.

Sharia report

The Board has progressed with the project to obtain an opinion from an expert in Islamic finance to provide evidence on a range of issues involving the LGPS from an Islamic perspective. The report is currently being prepared and will be available on the Board website soon.

Data on Optants out

The SAB secretariat team are continuing its research in how to obtain the most up to date information on the number employees who opt out of the LGPS. Following a survey issued to funds in 2022, it was found that the data on optants out of the scheme may not be a true reflection of the actual number of optants out and the data may not be held in a consistent format. The team are considering other approaches to obtaining more data from LG employers and/or the Pensions Regulator.

7) Meeting agenda item 13: Dashboards survey responses

No survey was sent to administering authorities during the summer of 2023 due to school holidays resulting in low participation. The next survey will be sent to pensions managers week commencing 23 October 2023 closing on 25 November 2023.

8) Meeting agenda item 13: Dashboards updates software suppliers

Heywood Pension Technologies update

Provided by John Dale on 21 August 2023.

- Sales/Implementation Update
 - first LGPS customer fully contracted for our Integrated Service Provider solution and a further 11 LGPS customers at the contract negotiation stage
 - Implementation activity has been reduced due to the DWP reset.
- Customer Engagement Update:
 - a total of 36 pensions dashboards overviews have been performed for existing customers
 - the CLASS Group Annual General Meeting was held on 12 and 13 July 2023, with pensions dashboards sessions held on both days on the following topics:
 - dashboards matching confidence
 - data cleansing and automation
 - data, the four letter word everyone is talking about.
- Data Readiness Update:
 - 65 per cent of customers have signed up for our free Dashboard Data Accuracy Report, with around 20 per cent of those customers contracted or contracting for the full data cleanse service.
- Development Update:
 - possible match processing work in progress
 - matching user interface in development
 - customer workshop programme commenced.

Civica update

Not provided.

Equiniti update

Provided by Dave Friend on 14 September 2023.

We continue to have regular engagement with the Pensions Dashboards Programme and the Money and Pensions Service and are continuing to assess our plans for initial integration based on the replanning of the programme.

The development of our integrated service provider is progressing well and our initial connection has been tested internally and is ready for test within the Dashboard ecosystem once we are given access to the test infrastructure.

Plans for the generation and storage of value data continues based on annual benefits statement routines, coverage is currently being assessed.

Capita update

Provided by Martyn Slaughter on 14 September 2023.

Capita remain signed up to be an early participant with Money and Pensions Service and continue to work with the Pensions Dashboards Programme (PDP) and the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) on their plans following the reset.

Capita have been involved in discussions around the reset with DWP and PDP and are part also of the PASA working group. However, we are under a non-disclosure agreement with PDP, so can't provide further detail at this stage.

Capita continue to invest in their PDP and, in line with the Pensions Regulators guidance, are supporting clients in the preparation for readiness to connect to the Pensions Dashboards.

Capita have undertaken a replan of their Pensions Dashboard internal programme and will continue to engage with each client, based on their original staging dates set out in the (now amended) regulations, and will refine plans when the new Staging dates are provided in guidance which is expected in early 2024.

By the time the LGPS is currently due to be onboarded Capita anticipate (subject to the reset) that they will already have connected and onboarded a considerable number of clients. This experience will result in a refined process.

Currently working on a client-by-client basis; to date, the LGPS is still in a discovery phase regarding exactly what 'value data' will be provided for all scenarios. However, there is a common solution in place for holding and retrieving the information that will be delivered to the Dashboard.

Generic 'value data' that Capita is currently working towards providing:

- accrued value & projected value (active members, where annual benefit statement (ABS) exists) – use latest ABS data on file
- accrued value & projected value (active members, where ABS doesn't exist) – to be confirmed/developed
- accrued value (deferred members, where member is under normal pension age (NPA)) – use latest ABS data on file (where an ABS hasn't been prepared, it's possible to obtain info from the deferred 'event' on the system)
- accrued value (deferred members, where member is over NPA, but has deferred benefits beyond NPA and is currently under 75) – use latest ABS data on file
- accrued value (deferred members, where member is over NPA, but has not deferred benefits beyond NPA or is currently under 75) – undecided; PDP allows pension providers to not provide a value and instead provide 'warning flags' (though only in certain circumstances), such as:
 - action outstanding from member (ie member is beyond NPA and is now technically a pensioner, so will need to claim benefit) – for reference, we don't provide an ABS for similar members and, instead, send them a letter that relays a message very similar to this
 - estimate retirement income is unavailable (similar to above, but the reason for the 'flag' is not particular informative to the member.
Alternatively, we're developing a 'flag' that still provides a value, but it's the same value as that at the member's NPA:
 - member is post NPA and needs to claim their benefits; therefore, the values shown are the same as those at NPA.
Based on the PDP rules, our PDP team are unclear on whether such members are defined under the legislation as 'pensioners' but we can see that there is a strong argument that they are such a member; after all, if such a member died today, they'd be treated a deceased pensioner.

9) Meeting agenda item 14: Dashboards - AVCs

Report from Jayne Wiberg supplied to group on 23 August 2023.

10) Meeting agenda item 15: McCloud survey responses

No survey was sent to administering authorities during the summer of 2023 due to school holidays resulting in low participation. The next survey will be sent to pensions managers week commencing 23 October 2023 closing on 25 November 2023.

11) Meeting agenda item 19: E-ticks for interfund adjustments

Raised by Emma Sanders on 6 April 2023 on behalf of SWAPOG.

With the move to more communications and actions being carried out on-line usually through a member portal could an agreement be set up between administering authorities to accept on-line election for the aggregation of benefits where an interfund is payable.

In these cases the member will have to sign into the Portal for example Member Self-Service (Altair) and to do this there would be a two way authentication. When signed into the portal they would tick a box to agree to the aggregation of their benefits which would be accepted as an e-signature (there would be no physical signature), ie. the box would be next to a statement requesting the aggregation.

When requesting the payment of the interfund a screenshot of the member's election could be shared with the previous administering authority so that they have a copy of the election.

12) Apprenticeships and qualifications

LGPS apprenticeship and qualification proposal

Background

LGPS administering authorities in England and Wales have asked LGA to investigate the viability of providing an LGPS apprenticeship and/or pension qualification.

The LGA has undertaken the following research:

- Survey of administering authorities between 30 March and 21 April 2023 – summary of the results is available in the [June bulletin](#). We received 45 responses representing 61 administering authorities.
- Meetings with:
 - the Institute for Apprenticeship and Technical Education (IFATE) – a non-departmental body of DfE
 - the Pensions Management Institute (PMI)
 - the Chartered Institute for Payroll Professionals (CIPP)
 - the Growth Company – apprenticeship training provider
 - Croydon College – apprenticeship training provider

- LGPS administering authorities that have used the workplace pensions administration apprenticeship.

Findings

Apprenticeships (England only)

The apprenticeship standards in England are under review. The workplace pensions administrator apprenticeship is being replaced by a [pensions administrator apprenticeship](#) from 12 August 2023.

The old workplace pensions administrator apprenticeship was thought to be too wide ranging with too many qualifications attached. The new apprenticeship will no longer have a qualification mandated; however, funding for a qualification can still be provided if the training provider evidences that the qualification matches the knowledge, skills and behaviour (KSBs) requirements set out in the apprenticeship standard.

The LGA has been asked to join the trailblazer group for the new pensions administrator apprenticeship going forwards. This will involve being involved in checking progress, discussing promotional activity and troubleshooting anything within the apprenticeship delivery that is causing the sector concern.

The [DfE funding rules](#) will help LGPS administering authorities understand how the apprenticeship programme runs. The new pension administrator apprenticeship will be a level 3 qualification.

There is currently a lack of training providers who can deliver the apprenticeship. This is something the trailblazer group are aware of and will be working to improve. Some of the current providers are likely to agree to 'scale up' if the demand is there.

The survey results indicate that only four LGPS funds have used the old workplace pension apprenticeship and only 42 per cent of respondents were aware of it.

The work involved in setting up a new apprenticeship standard is extensive. If the LGA were to set up an LGPS specific apprenticeship it would take around three and a half years.

There is currently no equivalent pensions administrator apprenticeship in Wales.

Qualifications

The survey results indicate that 67 per cent of respondents currently offer pension administration qualification. These are provided by either PMI or CIPP. Common issues with these qualifications are:

- lack of tutors
- too much payroll focus
- lack of LGPS specific content
- concern about the long-term future of the qualifications.

Proposal

The LGA is proposing that it should work with the PMI to provide an LGPS specific level 3 qualification, similar in format to the current [Certificate in Pensions Essentials](#). This will involve the LGA:

- providing LGPS specific training material to PMI
- assisting PMI in writing assessments for LGPS specific content
- running tutorials for LGPS specific material.

We will set up a qualification working group to help shape the qualification so that it meets the needs of administering authorities. It is not possible to provide indicative costs at this stage because it will depend on the structure of the course and how much tutorial support is put in place.

Providing a new LGPS specific qualification will involve significant resource from the LGA pensions team. **Therefore, we will only proceed with the proposal if 75 per cent of LGPS administering authorities agree to it in principle.** We will also need administering authorities to confirm how many employees they plan to enrol on the new LGPS qualification each year.

If take up of the qualification is good, we could look at the viability of providing a level 5 qualification in the future.

The LGA will not be progressing with the option of providing an LGPS specific apprenticeship. We will instead work with the IFATE, the trailblazer group and the training providers to provide LGPS administering authorities with more information about the new pensions administration apprenticeship in England. This could take the form of:

- webinars with the various parties
- a 'how to' guide.

