

National LGPS Technical Group minutes

4 October 2024

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

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1. Meeting documents

The documents for this meeting are contained in a [single PDF](#) plus a separate letter from the PLSA.

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

2. Date and time of meeting

The meeting started at 11.00am on the 4 October 2024.

3. Venue

The meeting was held at PWC, 1 Embankment Pl, London WC2N 6RH and online.

4. Attendees and apologies for absence

Attendees

1. Kevin Gerard – Welsh Pension Officer group (Chair)
2. Joanne Griffiths - Welsh Pension Officer Group
3. Ian Howe (Deputy Chair) - East Midlands Pension Officer Group
4. Phil Drury - East Midlands Pension Officer Group
5. Heather Chambers – Northeast Pension Officer Forum
6. Lisa Garton – Northeast Pension Officer Forum
7. Emma Sanders - Southwest Area Pension Officer Group
8. Karen Gibson - Southwest Area Pension Officer Group
9. Jim Woodlingfield - Southern Area Pension Officer Group
10. Matt Mott - Southeast Counties Superannuation Officer Group
11. Claire Bennett - Southeast Counties Superannuation Officer Group
12. Richard Smythe - London Pension Officer Group
13. Martin Doyle - London Pension Officer Group
14. Helen Tomkins – Shrewsbury Pension Officer Group
15. Vicky Jenks - Shrewsbury Pension Officer Group
16. Erin Savage - Scottish Pensions Liaison Group
17. Zena Kee - Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Superannuation Committee
18. Craig Finlay - Scottish Public Pension Agency
19. Jayne Wiberg - Local Government Association
20. Lorraine Bennett - Local Government Association
21. Steven Moseley (Scotland) – Local Government Association

22. Jeremy Hughes – Local Government Association
23. Claire Hey – Heywood Pension Technologies
24. Lissa Evans - Civica
25. Martin Slaughter - Capita Experience Pension Solutions
26. Gavin Paul - Barnett Waddingham
27. Ian Colvin - Hymans Robertson
28. Justine Davies - Price Waterhouse Coopers
29. Catherine Pearce - Aon
30. Jonathan Perera – Mercer
31. Kelly Scotford - Secretariat

Apologies with replacements

- Joel Ellner – South East Counties Superannuation Officer Group replaced by Claire Bennett
- Sandy Armstrong - Southern Area Pension Officer Group replaced by Jim Woodlingfield
- Meanie Durrant – Barnet Waddingham replaced by Gavin Paul
- Kimberly Linge - Scottish Public Pension Agency replaced by Craig Finlay

Apologies with no replacements

- Suzanne Firth – Northeast Pension Officer Forum
- David Kellond- Southern Area Pension Officer Group
- Dave Friend – Equiniti

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 of the last meeting held on 7 June 2024 were agreed in full.

6. Matters arising from previous minutes

Deferred member transfer pack

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 who provided comments. The new process and deferred member transfer pack is created

and gone through its final check. We expect to publish the pack in Spring 2025, following consultation with certain administering authorities before national distribution.

7. Local Government Association (LGA)

Jayne Wiberg asked for questions on 252, 253, 254 and 255 published since the last meeting. All bulletins can be found in the Bulletin pages of www.lgpsregs.org and www.scotlgpsregs.org.

Group discussion

No questions arose.

8. MHCLG update (standing agenda item)

Will King provided a verbal update under Chatham house rules on behalf of the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG).

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

Will King provided a verbal update under Chatham house rules on the progress of amending the regulations – item 2 in the meeting documents.

10. SPPA update (standing agenda item)

Kimberley Linge, prior to the meeting, provided an update on behalf of the Scottish Public Pensions Agency (SPPA) – see item 6 of meeting documents.

Group discussion

No questions arose.

11. LGPS England & Wales SAB update (standing agenda item)

Jeremy Hughes provided an update on behalf of the Scheme Advisory Board (SAB) in England & Wales – item 5 of meeting documents.

Group discussion

A question arose concerning the Virgin media issue, see [bulletin 253](#) for more information. As far as the group is aware, HMT are looking into the impact for all public service pension schemes.

12. Pensions Dashboards (standing agenda item)

Update from Jayne Wiberg

On 2 August 2024, Jayne Wiberg published version 1.0 of the LGPC dashboards connection guide and version 1.0 of the AVCs & Dashboards administrator guide.

The aim of the connection guide is to help administering authorities identify the steps needed to connect to the pensions dashboards ecosystem.

The AVCs & Dashboards guide supplements the connection guide. Its aim is to establish common approaches on the preparation and provision of AVC view data to the pensions dashboards ecosystem. Many thanks go to representatives from the Prudential, Leicestershire Pension Fund, Northern Ireland Local Government Superannuation Committee, Tyne and Wear Pension Fund, West Yorkshire Pension Fund, Heywood Pension Technologies, Civica and the Pensions Administration Standards Association, who all contributed their expertise to help make the guide possible.

In September 2024 TPR published their Compliance and Enforcement Policy and a document called 'Assess whether to report a breach of the law guidance'. We have updated version 1.0 of the Dashboards connection guide to include these documents. In particular we have updated section 16 to include TPR's view on the impact of not aligning illustration dates between main scheme calculations and AVC calculations. Also we have added additional wording and examples clarifying what a 'new joiner' is for the purpose of returning administrative data, value data and contextual information to the ecosystem in section 17. Version 1.1 of the guide will be published once it has undergone its final check.

Update from software suppliers – item 3 of the meeting documents

The group discussed the updates from the software suppliers.

13. McCloud remedy (standing agenda item)

Update from Lorraine Bennett

Lorraine provided an update on McCloud and confirmed:

- version 2 of the administrator guide will be published by the LGA week ending 11 October 2024
- the LGA are running two webinars in October 2024 - one on transfers and one on general McCloud issues.

Group discussion

A question arose about the PCSPS and the information they provide upon sending transfer documentation to the LGPS. Lorraine asked if there are any issues with the information received to send an email to Query.Lgps@local.gov.uk the LGA will raise the matter directly with PCSPS.

14. Scottish Widows

At the March 2024 meeting, the group agreed to establish a subgroup to look at the administrative issues surrounding Scottish Widows and AVCs, with Heather Chambers chairing the Scottish Widows group. Other group members are made up of representatives from administering authorities affected by the issue.

Update from Heather Chambers

Heather confirmed she is struggling to make contact with Scottish Widows due to the fact TWPF is not a client of Scottish Widows. The group remarked the issues are still there and have expanded to include Clerical Medical, whose administration has been taken over by Scottish Widows.

Group agreement

The group agreed that Joanne Griffiths, who is a client of Clerical Medical, would contact Heather to agree the way forward.

15. Request to increase probate limit.

Query received from Phil Drury – EMPOG, on 30 August 2024 and Erin Savage – SPLG, on 22 September 2024

Would it be possible for MHCLG to highlight to HM Treasury the impact of the current probate limit and the benefit of a revised and updated limit? Item 4 of the meeting documents.

Group agreement

The group agreed the probate limit should be raised to £20,000 in line with the limit in Northern Ireland, and the limit should increase each year with inflation.

The Chair will draft a proposal to reflect the above agreement and raise this with SAB England & Wales and SAB Scotland.

16. LGA technical queries (standing agenda item)

All [LGA technical queries](#) with MHCLG 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.

17. 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, as on 4 October 2024.

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, as on 4 October 2024.

To note.

18. 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.

19. 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.

This is updated to include the recommendation to increase the Grant of Probate limit – see agenda item 15.

To note.

20. 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.

- Kimberly Linge - Scottish Public Pension Agency to be replaced by Eva Sobek.

21. Any other business (standing agenda item)

None supplied.

22. Terms of reference discussion – Standing members only

The Terms of Reference (ToR) were last approved in March 2019.

A closed session will take place with standing members discussing amendments to the ToR.

Background to group agreement

The Group was initially established in the 1970s by a group of like-minded pension managers. Its purpose was to provide consistent technical guidance to administering authorities on LGPS regulations. It worked in conjunction with the Officers Advisory Group (OAG) which maintained regulatory oversight of the Scheme.

The Group dealt with complex regulatory matters, obtained legal advice and made recommendations to OAG where it felt regulations needed amending. It worked closely with DLUHC’s predecessor organisations in recommending any changes.

The OAG was disbanded following the introduction Scheme Advisory Boards (SABs).

Not all regions held POG meetings quarterly and they were not always attended by an LGA representative.

The purpose of the Group has changed over time. The LGPS has become increasingly complex to administer. This, combined with recruitment and retention issues, means standing members do not always have the time to research complex regulatory issues before meetings.

The Group has grown in size, mainly due to the attendance of ad hoc members. Ad hoc members include actuarial advisers and software suppliers. It now comprises 36 members and effective discussion is often difficult to achieve.

In addition, many of the functions set out in the 'Purpose section' of the current [Terms of Reference](#) are no longer being delivered by the Group.

Some of these functions are carried out by the LGA team. For example:

- providing guidance on the interpretation of legislation
- getting legal advice
- liaising with Government departments
- representing the views of the sector etc.

SABs are now responsible for making recommendations about regulations changes to Government departments.

The LGA team now attends all regional POG meetings – there are nine POG regions, so this equates to 36 meetings a year. DLUHC officials also attend POG meetings occasionally.

Group agreement

The group agreed:

- the National LGPS Technical Group will be disbanded with immediate effect and replaced by a new group called the National Pension Officer Group (NPOG) with different terms of reference and members
- an in person meeting will take place on 6 December 2024 to finalise the terms of reference and appoint the Chair and Vicechair, of the NPOG.

23. PLSA request to attend the National LGPS Technical group – Standing members only

On 24 May 2024, the PLSA submitted a written request to attend the National LGPS Technical Group. See PDF accompanying minutes. Due to the disbandment of the National LGPS Technical Group this request is no longer applicable.