



Surrey Local Pension Board

13 February 2020

Recent developments in the LGPS

Recommendations:

1. The Board is asked to **note** the content of this report.
2. The content is an abridged version of Amanda Jupp's monthly bulletin, which summaries LGA bulletins and circulars published in quarter three (Oct – Dec).

Bulletin 190 - October

For Action:

3. **Possible McCloud remedy** – it is possible that the remedy will involve an extension of the underpin. This would require part time hour changes and service break information from 1 April 2014 and therefore employers should be made aware of the retention policies. Fund and employer templates can be found at: http://lgpslibrary.org/assets/gas/uk/GDPR_AARPV1.0.pdf and http://lgpslibrary.org/assets/gas/uk/GDPR_EmpRPV1.0.pdf

For Information:

4. **McCloud data request** from MHCLG and HM Treasury – this has been sent to the LGA as requested.
5. **GAD request** – valuation data was submitted for those funds who advised GAD that they would submit data. All other funds should have submitted it by 18 November 2019.
6. **HMRC Countdown Bulletin 49** – the Scheme Reconciliation Service has ended and the final data cut is due later in 2019. No further queries will be accepted, unless a 'life event' is occurring.
7. **CEPs** – all outstanding invoices have been reported and HMRC will now complete the reconciliation exercise. No further CEP payments or notifications will be accepted by HMRC.

8. **TPO** - has upheld a complaint regarding a transfer to an occupational scheme, where the member was not an 'earner', despite the member receiving a scorpion warning leaflet and signing a declaration.
9. **TPR** – has announced a crackdown on poor record keeping and is targeting funds who have not had a data review in the past three years. It has published a regulatory intervention report outlining how it worked with the LB of Barnet PF to improve governance and administration.
10. **CPI** – the September rate of CPI was 1.7%.

Bulletin 191- November

For Action:

11. **Pensions Made Simple member videos** – seven videos have been produced. Administering Authorities are asked to let their employers know, so that they can publicise them to their employees. We will contact you separately regarding adding these to the fund sites where applicable.
12. **Pension Fund Annual Report** – Administering Authorities are reminded that they must email a copy of their report or hyperlink to liam.robson@local.gov.uk. (Publication of the Annual Report and Accounts was due on 31 July).
13. **Investment Guidance Consultation** – part 1 of the consultation can be found on the [SAB website](#). Comments on the draft guidance to Robert.holloway@local.gov.uk by 11 January 2020. A Responsible Investment workshop will be held on 15 January 2020 at 18 Smith Square.
14. **TPR Scheme Return** – confirmation that the data extract report circulated in July was the final document (not draft). TPR will be checking the 2018/19 returns for consistency and accuracy. They may decide to make a mandatory data extract. Administering Authorities are asked to email Robert.holloway@local.gov.uk with details of how they have scored their conditional data or intend to score it.
15. **Teacher's Pensions** – employer contribution grant being funded by the Department of Education. Administering Authorities are asked to forward information about the grant to your schools and academies.

For Information:

16. **Good Governance Project** – SAB have published Phase 11 of the Good Governance Guide report. This report makes recommendations for new standards of governance and administration. All comments on the report should be sent to Robert.Holloway@local.gov.uk. Final proposals for phase 111 of the project will be considered by SAB on 3 February 2020.
17. **McCloud Update** – The SAB have updated the McCloud page of www.lgpsboard.org. We have supplied the required information, regarding the underpin data, to MHCLG.
18. **SAB Meeting** – Summary of meeting held on 6 November 2019 can be found on www.lgpsboard.org.

19. **LGPS (Amendment) Regulations 2019** – laid before Parliament on 5 November 2019 and are effective from 31 December 2019, and introduce survivor benefits payable under earlier regulations for opposite sex civil partnerships. The Government have not made a provision to allow a conversion of a marriage into a civil partnership.
20. **ABS Consultation** – by DWP regarding simpler ABS statements for workplace pensions. Doesn't include DB or public sector, but Question 3 asks whether these schemes should be included. Consultation closes 20 December 2019.
21. **HMRC - CEP payments** – HMRC confirm that it is no longer possible to pay CEPs. Processes to be reviewed by the Pension Administration Team to ensure no further CEP payments or notifications to HMRC.
22. **Pension Scheme Newsletters** – HMRC have published a new guide about paying the AA tax charge.
23. **TPO - Ill Health Determination** – Council instructed to pay £1000 compensation for administrative delays and requesting the member pay the cost of a specialist report.
24. **TPR - News roundup and messages published** - on 14 November 2019
25. **FCA Guidance on transfers and conversions updated** – on 9 December, the FCA is replacing its Approved Persons Regime with the Senior Managers & Certification Regime. Only senior managers and selected roles need to be registered. Orbits will still check the Register for firm details, but will have to contact the firms directly to confirm that the relevant individual works for that firm.
26. **FCA** – published video regarding pension transfer advice. Orbis will contact you separately regarding adding a link to the fund website and will make members aware of the video before making an election.

Bulletin 192 - December

For Action:

27. **Transfer-out Declaration Forms updated** – to reflect the recent Pensions Ombudsman determination. The declaration forms now include questions about whether a member is an 'earner', where the transfer is buying transfer credits in an occupational pension scheme. These will be updated by Orbis shortly.

For Information:

28. **National LGPS Framework** – [December news bulletin](#) issued.
 29. **Equitable Life transfers to Utmost Life and Pensions** – the High Court approved the transfer and the proposed change will be implemented with effect from 1 January 2020.
 30. **Royal London and Eversheds Sutherland publish financial advice paper** – which provides guidance to trustees and employers about facilitating financial advice for members on whether or not to transfer.
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Sources/background papers: Embedded in document

Annexes: