

March 2016

BULLETIN

The Pensions Regulator

The Board received a presentation from staff of The Pensions Regulator at the February meeting. They set out the role of the regulator and the range of resources available for pension board members and others. They also outlined the findings of the regulator's recent survey of progress on governance and administration. Further information is available on their [website](#).

SAB Work Plan

The Deputy First Minister has approved the SAB work plan.

The first data collection exercise has been completed and a summary will be published in the Annual Report later this year. In the morning awareness session, the Board received a presentation from Dr Chris Sier on pension data, with a focus on transparency of investment costs. There are UK wide developments on this issue that the Board will follow with interest. The data will also feed into the Board's review of the structure of SLGPS funds.

The Board also noted developments in England and Wales on pooling of investments and the [recommendations](#) of the Scottish Parliament Local Government and Regeneration Committee inquiry on pension fund investments. While the committee was less attracted to the formal pooling arrangements in England and Wales, they did recommend that funds work collaboratively to identify infrastructure investment.

A related issue also highlighted by the Local Government Committee is fiduciary duty. The Board noted a legal opinion on this issue it had commissioned from Pinsent Masons. The Board will consider guidance to funds at its next meeting.

Cessation Valuations

The SPPA has conducted a data collection exercise in relation to existing and potential cessation valuations. This gives a broad indication of the extent of the risks. The Board agreed that there was enough information to proceed with guidance to funds and that will be drafted for consideration at the next meeting.

Review of Regulations

The Board welcomed the very speedy amendment to the regulations that will allow funds to increase investment in infrastructure. This is an interim solution and the Board remains committed to a more substantial review of the investment regulations that gives funds greater investment flexibility.

There will be further discussions through the Joint secretaries on early retirement and pensionable pay regulation proposals.

SAB Website

It was agreed that the Board will develop a website to improve communications with stakeholders.