

07 June 2010

At a glance

COMMITTEE OF EUROPEAN INSURANCE AND OCCUPATIONAL PENSIONS SUPERVISORS (CEIOPS)

- Annual Report 2009

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SCHEME

- FAS actuarial factors published

HM REVENUE & CUSTOMS

- Pensions Industry Information Guide

PENSIONS POLICY INSTITUTE

- Briefing Note 56: What could the Coalition Government mean for pensions policy?

THE PENSIONS REGULATOR

- Revised record-keeping guidance published
- Winding up guidance

SO7

Abbreviations commonly used in 7 Days

Alert/News: Sackers Extra publications (available from the client area of our website or from your usual contact)

DB: Defined benefit

DC: Defined contribution

FAS: Financial Assistance Scheme

HMRC: HM Revenue & Customs

PPF: Pension Protection Fund

TPR: The Pensions Regulator

COMMITTEE OF EUROPEAN INSURANCE AND OCCUPATIONAL PENSIONS SUPERVISORS (CEIOPS)

Annual Report 2009

On 27 May 2010, CEIOPS published its [annual report](#) for 2009.

The report examines the work carried out by CEIOPS during 2009, which included:

- an update to its Report on Market Developments, tracking overall activity and developments in the European cross-border occupational pensions market since the deadline for implementing the Pensions (or “IORP”) Directive in September 2005;
- the publication of a brief overview of all legal requirements with which cross-border pension schemes operating in a “Host” Member State must comply. The overview includes a summary of the position in each Member State, based on national social and labour law relevant to occupational pensions, investment restrictions and additional information requirements; and
- as part of measures taken by CEIOPS in response to the financial and economic crisis, an internal survey was carried out among the CEIOPS Member Supervisory Authorities to identify approaches to stress testing for European workplace pensions.

Looking ahead, the report also considers the work submitted by CEIOPS to the European Commission by way of input into forthcoming Green Paper on Pensions (due to be published later this month). The Green Paper “is expected to set a challenging agenda” for the regulation of cross-border pensions, focusing on the harmonisation of solvency rules across the EU.

CEIOPS also plans to publish an issues paper on the ring-fencing of assets and liabilities in cross-border pensions “around the middle of 2010”.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SCHEME

FAS actuarial factors published

The PPF (which is now responsible for FAS compensation) has published the actuarial factors currently used to determine a member’s entitlement under FAS. The factors have been provided for information purposes only, to help trustees and administrators understand how FAS assistance is calculated. The PPF notes that these factors will be reviewed from time to time and that they may be changed without notice.

The factors can be found in the FAS section of the PPF website, under the heading: [Information for Pensions Professionals](#)

HM REVENUE & CUSTOMS

Pensions Industry Information Guide

The National Insurance Services to Pensions Industry (NISPI) directorate of HMRC has updated its [information guide](#) to the services it provides.

The guide includes a summary of the functions provided by NISPI, contact details and the answers to some “FAQs”.

PENSIONS POLICY INSTITUTE

Briefing Note 56: What could the Coalition Government mean for pensions policy?

The PPI's latest [Briefing Note](#) summarises the Coalition Government's policies on pensions and older people, and considers the impact that the Coalition may have on pensions policy and provision for retirement.

THE PENSIONS REGULATOR

Revised record-keeping guidance published

On 2 June 2010, TPR published revised [guidance on record-keeping](#). This follows a consultation which took place between February and April 2010 on proposals for updating the guidance which was first published in January 2009.

TPR's [response](#) to this consultation has been published alongside the revised guidance. TPR notes that “in the light of wide support for the changes that were proposed, the regulator has not made significant modifications to these proposals”.

From the end of 2012, TPR will require all schemes to achieve a target of 100% accuracy for new data and 95% accuracy for legacy data (defined as any data created before June 2010). TPR will also use regulatory powers to investigate standards within schemes, including sampling schemes for data audit and potential enforcement action where there is a breach of legislation.

[TPR Press Release](#)

Winding up guidance

Revised [guidance on winding-up](#) was also published on 2 June 2010, together with TPR's [response](#) to consultation.

TPR notes that progress against its original two-year target for the completion of scheme wind-ups (set out in its guidance of June 2008) has been positive, particularly with DC schemes, and remains of the view that the two-year target is reasonable.

Changes made to the guidance include:

- acknowledgment that schemes which are being actively managed through transition and/or assessment are to be passed to the PPF and FAS for stewardship;
- the addition of references to revised guidance on record-keeping and increased regulatory expectations on accurate record-keeping for schemes;
- some amendments to the exceptions to the two-year deadline; and
- the removal of references to GMP equalisation. TPR's response notes that this change was made following the statement in Parliament on this subject by the then Pensions Minister (for more information on this, please see [7 Days dated 1 February 2010](#)). We assume that the new administration will pick up this particular pensions baton and we will report on developments as they arise.

TPR states that it will scrutinise "intensively" those schemes which have failed to meet the two-year target.

[TPR Press Release](#)