

Action Points from LGA Bulletin 193 (published in late January 2020)

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<p>'Retirement planning guide' for members published by LGA</p> <p>The guide, which can be adapted by pension funds, can be found here.</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You may wish to consider adapting the guide for your pension fund and publishing it on your website. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As & when 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You may wish to liaise with the administering authority on the possibility of using the LGA's version of the guide, or, potentially, your fund's version 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As & when
<p>ABS technical guide published by LGA</p> <p>The guide, which can be adapted by pension funds, can be found here.</p> <p>The LGA have advised that the recommendations made in guide are to apply for next year's ABS (ending 31 March 2021), rather than this year's ABS.</p>					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You may wish to consider incorporating some of the suggest changes for your fund's ABS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 31 January 2021 (next year)

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<p>DWP guidance on pensions 'after Brexit' has been updated</p> <p>The guidance can be found here; as far as LGPS members are concerned, Brexit is not expected to directly affect their pensions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operations – for information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You may wish to incorporate this information into the next newsletter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Before the next newsletter is published 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You may wish to update any messages or links you have on your intranet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As & when
<p>HMRC countdown bulletins 50 & 51</p> <p>Where GMP reconciliation payments have been paid by pension funds, HMRC cannot currently identify which members that payment was made for. Bulletins 50 & 51 introduce a process that will make it easier for funds to inform HMRC of which part-payment relates to which member; a spreadsheet has been provided with Bulletin 51 for funds to use for such a process. Any pension funds that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have made a part-payment; Make a part-payment in the future; or Change a full payment into a part-payment <p>must complete the spreadsheet to inform HMRC of the individual members that the payment relates to.</p> <p>If you have fully paid, and do not intend to change this to a partial payment, then you should still contact HMRC to confirm this position. An early response will enable HMRC to move on to the next stage of allocating the payment you have made to individual members.</p> <p>The deadline for responses is 13 March 2020</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GMP reconciliation team – please take note 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 13 March 2020 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 		

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<p>'Manage Pension Scheme' service – latest newsletter published by HMRC</p> <p>The newsletter confirms that HMRC has started Phase 2 of developing the Managing Pension Schemes service and includes an outline of the development plan. Schemes using the service will be able to submit Accounting for Tax returns on this service from 1 April 2020. Future developments relevant to the LGPS include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes to practitioner registration; • Introducing the Pension Schemes Return on the Managing Pension Schemes service; • Event reporting on the Managing Pension Schemes service <p>You can find out about registering for the Managing Pension Schemes service in the newsletter, and how you can submit feedback to HMRC about the system.</p> <p>The Pension Schemes Online service will be decommissioned once Phase 2 is complete. All schemes must register for the Managing Pension Schemes service before this, but the deadline date has not yet been confirmed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operations – please take note 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A 		

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<p>'Manage Pension Scheme' service – workshops being held by HMRC</p> <p>Lorraine Bennett contacted all funds on 30 January 2020 with an update on the Managing Pension Schemes service from David Roper, Pensions Compliance Manager at HMRC.</p> <p>HMRC will be holding workshops on Phase 2 of the Managing Pension Schemes Service. The workshops will be held on 16 and 17 March 2020 at the offices of the Association of British Insurers in London.</p> <p>If you are interested in attending, please contact sarah.l.mee@hmrc.gov.uk and georgia.oreilly@hmrc.gov.uk by 7 February 2020. Let them know your preferred date and the number of spaces you would like. Attendance is limited to three per organisation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operations – if you're interested in attending the workshop, please contact georgia.oreilly@hmrc.gov.uk (max. 3 people per organisation) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 February 2020 				
<p>Pension Schemes Newsletter 116 published</p> <p>The newsletter provides information about what to do if you have received error messages when using the Pension Schemes Online service. HMRC are still looking for administrators to take part in research and to provide feedback on the 'Managing Pension Schemes' service development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operations – if you're interested in helping HMRC develop the 'Managing Pension Schemes' service, please sign up using the link found in the newsletter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As & when 				

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<p>FBU announces new legal challenge</p> <p>The Fire Brigades Union (FBU) published a FBU Circular on 23 December 2019. In the circular they announced plans to launch a legal challenge for members of the 2015 Firefighters' Pension Scheme and members of the LGPS, who will not be protected by the McCloud remedy, arguing that the cost control mechanism must be put into effect immediately and backdated to April 2019. As the cost of the career average schemes is cheaper than expected, the FBU believe that the cost cap process will lead to benefit improvements or contribution reductions for members of the career average schemes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operations – please take note 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You may wish to incorporate this information into the next newsletter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Before the next newsletter is published 		
<p>NHS Pensions tax solution for clinicians</p> <p>Following on from NHS England's decision to pay the pension tax bills of clinicians, where the tax charge arises in the 2019/20 year, further details of plan have now been set out in a statement made by Matt Hancock (Secretary of State for Health and Social Care) on 7 December 2019. More information and resources from NHS England are available here.</p> <p>NHS England's decision also applies to clinicians working for non-NHS organisations (such as local government employers), provided they're delivering NHS services and meet the eligibility criteria. They must be employed or engaged in a role that requires registration with an appropriate healthcare regulatory body and be a member of the NHS pension scheme to qualify.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operations – For information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A

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