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To the listed addressees

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Our ref: LGT/12/01/17

30 July 2007

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Dear Sir/Madam

## **PROPOSAL FOR A NEW LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME IN SCOTLAND**

1. With the agreement of Scottish Ministers, I enclose a consultation document which sets out proposals for a new Local Government Pension Scheme [LGPS] in Scotland for introduction in April 2009.
2. Your views on these proposals and responses to the specific questions posed in Annex A are now invited and they should be returned to the SPPA **NO LATER THAN 31<sup>st</sup> OCTOBER 2007**.

### **Background**

3. The Scottish Local Government Pensions Advisory Group (SLOGPAG), consisting of representatives from COSLA, trades unions and the Scottish Executive, has been holding tripartite discussions in order to jointly develop consensus based proposals for a new LGPS in Scotland. The overall aim is to reform the LGPS to ensure that it is cost effective, viable and sustainable over the longer term. The new LGPS is also required to meet the needs of the modern workforce, through the provision of a valued set of benefits to members and a useful tool for employers to aid recruitment and workforce change. The proposals aim to provide equal access for all local government employees to a set of scheme benefits that are both fair and affordable.

### **Consultation Paper**

4. The Consultation Paper outlines the new Scheme proposals, the cost of the proposals, and the next steps and timetable. A Respondent Information Form and Consultation Questionnaire is also provided at Annex A for completion and return to SPPA. We would be grateful if you would use the consultation questionnaire provided or could clearly indicate in your response which questions or parts of the consultation paper you are responding to as this will aid our analysis of the responses received.



## **Handling your response**

5. We need to know how you wish your response to be handled and, in particular, whether you are happy for your response to be made public. Please complete and return the **Respondent Information Form** which forms part of the consultation questionnaire as this will ensure that we treat your response appropriately. If you ask for your response not to be published we will regard it as confidential, and we will treat it accordingly.

6. All respondents should be aware that the Scottish Executive is subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 and would therefore have to consider any request made to it under the Act for information relating to responses made to this consultation exercise.

## **Next steps in the process**

7. Where respondents have given permission for their response to be made public (see the attached Respondent Information Form), these will be made available to the public in the Scottish Executive Library after the consultation period. We will check all responses where agreement to publish has been given for any potentially defamatory material before logging them in the library. You can make arrangements to view responses by contacting the SE Library on 0131 244 4556. Responses can be copied and sent to you, but a charge may be made for this service.

## **Completed information**

8. The completed Respondent Information Form and Consultation Paper Questionnaire (Annex A) should be returned, by the deadline of **31<sup>st</sup> October 2007**, to Jean Steel, Policy Officer, Scottish Public Pension Agency, 7 Tweedside Park, Tweedbank, Galashiels TD1 3TE (tel: 01896 893229). The Consultation Document can be accessed on the [Pension Reforms & Taxation](#) area of the SPPA website, together with an 'MS word' version of the questionnaire to enable respondents to return their responses electronically. Responses can be sent to [locgovpensionsreform@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:locgovpensionsreform@scotland.gsi.gov.uk).

## **What happens next?**

9. Following the closing date, all responses will be analysed and considered along with any other available evidence to help us reach a decision on how best to reform the new Local Government Scheme in Scotland. We aim to issue a feedback report on the consultation exercise in due course, and prepare draft regulations for the new scheme for consultation by the end of the year.

## **Comments and complaints**

10. Information on the Scottish Executive Consultation Process can be found in Annex A of the consultation document. If you have any comments about how this consultation exercise has been conducted, please contact Chad Dawtry by telephone on 01896 893221 or by e-mail to [chad.dawtry@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:chad.dawtry@scotland.gsi.gov.uk).



11. If you wish to discuss the proposals for the new scheme in more detail please do not hesitate to contact myself either by telephone on 01896 893227 or by e-mail to [david.lauder@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:david.lauder@scotland.gsi.gov.uk).

Yours faithfully



D Lauder  
Policy Manager, LGPS

**Addressees**

COSLA  
TGWU  
GMB  
STUC  
UNISON  
AMICUS  
Secretary, LGPC  
Educational Institute for Scotland  
Union of Construction, Allied Trades and Technicians  
Strathclyde Passenger Transport Authority  
Audit Scotland  
National Association of Pension Funds  
Scottish Local Government Pension Scheduled Bodies  
Scottish Local Government Pension Funds  
CIPFA  
Women's National Commission  
Other Relevant Government Departments  
National Association of Councillors  
CEMVO Scotland  
Commission for Racial Equality in Scotland  
BEMIS  
Scottish Women's Convention  
Equal Opportunities Commission in Scotland  
Disability Rights Commission Scotland  
Centre for Research into the Older Workforce  
LGBT Youth Scotland  
Employers Forum on Age  
Age Positive Team  
Age Concern Scotland  
Stonewall Scotland  
Inclusion Scotland  
Scottish Interfaith Council  
Equality Network  
Women and Equality Unit  
Institute for Race Relations  
Women's National Commission  
ACAS  
Perth & Kinross Access Group

