

Report of the Managing Director, West Yorkshire Pension Fund to the meeting of West Yorkshire Pension Fund Pension Board to be held on 20th June 2023.

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Subject:

Pensions Dashboard

Summary statement:

This report gives an update on the progress of the introduction of the Pensions Dashboard.

EQUALITY & DIVERSITY:

None

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Portfolio:

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Overview & Scrutiny Area:

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Pensions Dashboards regulations enable all people who have a pension in the UK, 52 million, to see their pension provision via an online digital portal. This includes state pension benefits. An early mock-up of how a dashboard may look is at the end of this paper.
- 1.2 The Pensions Dashboard national digital ecosystem interacts with circa 50,000 pension providers in real-time identifying and retrieving data, allowing millions of savers to access information on their pensions and better plan for their retirement.
- 1.3 The Department and Work and Pensions (DWP) have a number of key aims for Pensions Dashboard:
 - to change the way people engage with and prepare for retirement by enabling individuals to see all their pensions information in one place online, including their state pension
 - reunite lost and forgotten pensions pots with their owners, therefore, enabling savers to better plan for their future
 - increase competition in the pensions market therefore driving down costs e.g., consolidation of pensions small pots
 - making dashboard free to use ensuring universal coverage
- 1.4 Pensions Dashboards can be accessed by pension holders who do not live in the UK but have a UK pension. The dashboards will not show pensions that are already being paid.
- 1.5 IPSOS research, undertaken by the Pensions Dashboard Programme (PDP) in 2022, finds that 57% of people would be likely to use a Pension Dashboard and 8 out of 10 had at least one private pension.
- 1.6 The Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden and Australia are amongst the countries that already operate Pensions Dashboards successfully. All have had significant up take at circa 40%+, which has increased individuals' awareness and understanding of their pension provision and built a greater sense of control and ownership.

2.0 Legislation and Regulatory Framework

- 2.1 In March 2023, Pensions Minister Laura Trott announced a resetting of the Pensions Dashboard Programme outlining additional time is required to deliver the complex technical solution to enable the connection of pension providers and schemes, in accordance with the connection deadlines set out in the Pensions Dashboards Regulations 2022.

“More time is needed to deliver this complex build, and for the pensions industry to help facilitate the successful connection of a wide range of different IT systems to the dashboards digital architecture.”

“Given these delays, I have initiated a reset of the Pensions Dashboards Programme in which DWP will play a full role. The new chair of the Programme Board will develop a new plan for delivery.”

- 2.2 Since March WYPF officers have had formal meetings with both TPR and DWP regarding the arrangements for the reset. We have also been discussing the impact of the Fire Authority Remediation “Matthews” on Pensions Dashboard for Local Government.
- 2.3 DWP will issue a formal statement prior to summer recess followed by information from the Pensions Dashboard Programme.
- 2.4 PDP announced a change to the way AVCs will operate in the program. Under the Pensions Dashboards Regulations 2022 AVC providers were compelled to provide AVC holders pensions data and values to the Pension Dashboards. PDP’s announcement now allows 3 operating models one of which sees WYPF provide AVC data and their values directly to the Pension Dashboard. WYPF has 5 AVC providers. This has been raised with both TPR and DWP.
- 2.5 The legislation allows for multiple Pensions Dashboards e.g. Lloyds could host one as could Aviva. The introduction of such commercial dashboards was planned for after the initial launch of the DWP Pension Dashboard. This has now changed and commercial dashboards will be available and advertised from launch, called Dashboard Availability Point (DAP).

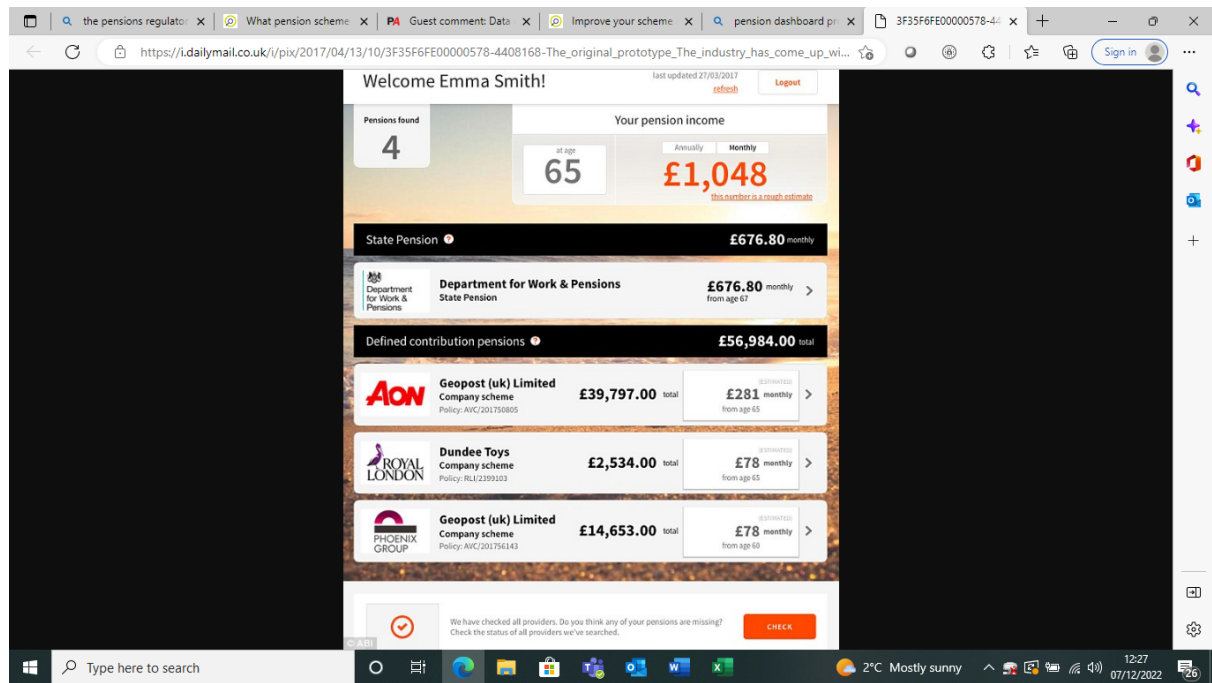
3.0 WYPF Project Update

- 3.1 The WYPF project remains on track and our formal meetings with TPR continue to be productive. TPR have stated that they are not worried about us (WYPF).
- 3.2 The formal Invitation To Tender, for our connection to the ecosystem, had 47 expressions of interest and 7 full bids. The bidders are of good quality and provide a range of options from which WYPF can select the best match. We are currently clarifying a number of items in the bids after receiving formal documentation and having presentations.
- 3.3 Early educational communications are being deployed so both clients, employers and internal staff understand Pensions Dashboard. TPR have a speaker spot at our next Big 6 employers meeting to help with this early awareness program.

4.0 Summary:

- 4.1 Internally we have made good progress and the team works well together.
- 4.2 All providers including WYPF are waiting for the DWP reset statement in order to commence replanning.

Mock-up of dashboard



OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

None

5. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

None

6. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

None

7. LEGAL APPRAISAL

8. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

8.1 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

None.

8.2 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

None.

8.3 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

None.

8.4 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

None.

8.5 TRADE UNION

None.

8.6 WARD IMPLICATIONS

None

**8.7 AREA COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN IMPLICATIONS
(for reports to Area Committees only)**

None

8.8 IMPLICATIONS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

None.

8.9 ISSUES ARISING FROM PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESMENT

None.

9. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

None

10. OPTIONS

N/A

11. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Pension Board note the report.

12. APPENDIX

N/A