



PRESS RELEASE

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PASA launches DB Transfers Code of Good Practice

The Pensions Administration Standards Association (PASA), the independent body dedicated to driving up standards in pensions administration, launched a [Consultation on its DB Transfers Code of Good Practice](#) at its annual conference held in London today,

Chair of the PASA DB Transfers Working Group, James Ellison, said “The time taken to process defined benefit (DB) transfers varies hugely, some taking months to execute. Unfortunately, delays damage relationships with scheme members and lead to a breakdown of trust. This can result in members making decisions which are not in their best interest, or worse still, increase the risk of becoming victims of pension scams. Scammers often use the time taken to process a transfer to create an impression of trustees seeking to hold on to a member’s money and to incite them. It is a horribly sophisticated process and there are lots of members already making poor choices.

“We are extremely mindful of needing to find the balance between member protection and their statutory right to take their pension in a different shape or form, via a flexible arrangement. As a group, our key objective is to create a framework to help deliver this balance. This Code sets out to create faster, well-communicated, efficient and cost-effective strategies scheme administrators and wider stakeholders can execute.”

In July 2019 the PASA DB Transfers Working Group released Guidance focusing on what was defined as a “Standard” or straightforward case. It was originally intended this Guidance would be Part 1 of a two-part release with Part 2 covering “Non Standard” Cases. It was subsequently agreed, rather than produce a Part 2, a Code of Good Practice (the Code) would be created to cover all DB transfers and look to consult with the Industry prior to finalising.

Margaret Snowdon, OBE, PASA President said: “We’re committed to driving high standards and improved transfer option communications, helping members to make informed choices in a secure environment. Throughout the document we have raised questions which we invite the Industry to provide responses on within set timelines*. We ask that we come together and work together to get the Code implemented.”

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- Consultation launched February 2020
- Response to Consultation required by 30 April 2020
- Code expected to be released 1 September 2020
- Schemes/Administrators will be given 12 months to comply with the Code

Responses should be sent to PASA at: info@PASA-UK.com

- ENDS-

Notes To Editors

The Pensions Administration Standards Association (PASA) has been created to provide an independent infrastructure which will set, develop, guide and assess administration standards.

PASA will act as a focal point and engage with industry and government to create protocols for understanding good administration - but also appreciates there is no one size that fits all. PASA will develop evidential accreditation practices which will allow benchmarking across and between the industry regardless of how the administration is being delivered.

As well as raising the profile of pension administration generally, PASA will focus on three core activities.

1. Defining good standards of pensions administration relevant to all providers, whether in-house, third party or insurers
2. Publishing guidance to support those standards
3. Being an independent accreditation body, assessing the achievement of good standards by schemes (regardless of provider)

There is no organisation providing such services across schemes, yet there is a demand for evidence of service quality from scheme trustees, sponsors, administrators, insurers, scheme members and regulators.

About PASA Accreditation

PASA Accreditation is open to all corporate members of PASA (DB, DC, trust-based and contract-based schemes). PASA Accreditation is granted following an independent evaluation and

assessment process, which includes on-site visits and the review of documentation to evidence controls, procedures, process, staff development and contractual positions with clients.

Full details on PASA can be found by visiting www.pasa-uk.com.

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Media contacts

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