

The Pensions Regulator's website

<https://www.thepensionsregulator.gov.uk/en/public-service-pension-schemes>

Public service schemes

This section of our website is for anyone involved in the governance and administration of public service pension schemes. This includes scheme contacts, scheme managers, pension board members, administrators and professional advisers.

Initially these will be the schemes for civil servants, armed forces, health service workers, teachers, judiciary, police, firefighters and local government workers. In due course it may also include some public body schemes..

Understanding your role

If you're involved in governing and administering public service pension schemes you should understand your role and have the appropriate skills and expertise.

Scheme management

The areas of governance and administration you need to focus on when running, overseeing or advising a public service pension scheme.

Further resources

Resources you can use to help you run, oversee or advise a public service pension scheme – includes pension guides, consultations, research, analysis and useful links.

Understanding your role

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Importance of good governance

Running a public service pension scheme can be complex and challenging. Good governance can help you to overcome these challenges and deliver good member outcomes.

Roles and responsibilities

A number of people and organisations are involved in making sure that public service pension schemes are well run. Make sure you understand your role and the role of others involved in the scheme.

Knowledge and understanding duty on board members

If you're a pension board member for a public service pension scheme you must meet certain legal requirements that relate to your knowledge and understanding.

Learn about managing public service schemes

Use our Public Service toolkit to learn about managing public service pension schemes and to increase your knowledge and understanding.

Investments and funding of local government schemes

If you are involved in running a local government pension scheme you may have investment responsibilities.

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Reporting duties

Managers of public service pension schemes must ensure that the scheme return we issue each year is completed on time. They must also tell us of any changes to their scheme's 'registrable information' as soon as possible.

Internal controls and managing risks

Public service pension schemes need to have good internal controls. They are a key characteristic of a well-run scheme and will enable risks to the scheme to be managed effectively.

Record-keeping

Failing to maintain complete and accurate records can affect the ability of your public service pension scheme to carry out basic functions. Accurate record-keeping is crucial in ensuring that benefits are paid correctly.

Communicating to members

Members of public service pension schemes need to receive information to help them understand their pension arrangements and make informed decisions.

Publishing scheme information

Certain information relating to public service pension schemes needs to be published so that scheme members and interested parties know that their scheme is being managed effectively.

Maintaining contributions

Public service pension schemes need to have procedures and processes that enable you to effectively monitor pension contributions, resolve payment issues and report payment failures.

Pension board conflicts of interest and representation

In public service pension schemes, potential conflicts of interest need to be identified and managed to prevent actual conflicts of interest arising.

Resolving internal disputes

Internal dispute resolution (IDR) arrangements play an important part in the management of a public service pension scheme. They enable someone with an interest in the scheme to ask for a matter in dispute to be resolved.

Reporting breaches of the law

Certain people involved with the governance and administration of a public service pension scheme must report certain breaches of the law to us.

Further resources

Resources you can use to help you run, oversee or advise a public service pension scheme – includes pension guides, consultations, research, analysis and useful links.

Code of practice

Read our code of practice for public service pension schemes. This code came into legal effect on 1 April 2015.

Tool for assessing your scheme

It's important you assess how you are running your public service pension scheme so that you can identify any areas in need of improvement.

Pension guides

Clear and simple guides on different aspects of public service pension schemes.