



ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL PENSION TRUSTEES

PRESS RELEASE

APPT COMMENTS ON DWP CONSULTATION ON TRUSTEES and GOVERNANCE, BUILDING A STRONGER FUTURE

15 December 2025: Commenting on the DWP consultation published today, *Trust-based pension schemes: Trustees and governance, building a stronger future*, Rachel Croft, Chair of the Association of Professional Pension Trustees (APPT), said:

“The consultation recognises the important role Trustees already play and that the landscape is changing. We agree that trustees need to continue to have the right skills and experience and that to be fully prepared to take schemes forward successfully. We note the important role the paper outlines that professional trustees are playing in this.

“The consultation also recognises the emergence of Professional Corporate Sole Trustee (PCST). The APPT’s PCST Code was recently updated to raise standards of this governance model and the APPT is committed to regular reviews to address the challenges outlined in the paper.

“We welcome the trustee directory, subject of course to it not being excessively onerous administratively. We also welcome the questions on accreditation and standards as areas we are already examining and looking at with key stakeholders.

“Administration is also a key consideration for the consultation. Trustees are well-placed to support the development and improvement of administration services that members receive and professional trustees are playing a key role here.

“One caveat at this early stage in our consideration of the consultation document – naturally we advise careful consideration of applying any restrictions to appointment numbers or terms, given the need to manage market capacity and encourage the continuation of training and development for professional trustees.”

For further information please contact:

Vassos Vassou, APPT Vice Chair and Council member, at vassos_vassou@dalriadatrustees.co.uk
David Robertson (Head of Secretariat) at david.robertson@appt.org.uk or 020 3102 6763

Notes to editors:

The **Association for Professional Pension Trustees (APPT)** is the industry body for professional trustees of occupational pension schemes, working to encourage best practice within the sector and promote the interests of its members. Our members work as professional trustees at over 2,000 schemes of all types, including many trustee boards for defined benefit and defined contribution schemes including DC master trusts. Our members each typically work on multiple appointments and in total are responsible for managing schemes with assets of over £1.2 tn. The APPT is one of the two recognised accreditation bodies for professional trustees, responsible for promoting and maintaining high standards amongst practitioners. Every year, members have to renew their accreditation, confirming they are working to the standards required and evidencing they have pursued their professional development over the preceding 12-months.

Association of Professional Pension Trustees

Second Floor (206) · 40 Gracechurch Street · London EC3V 0BT · T: 020 3102 6763 · E: secretariat@appt.org.uk

Association of Professional Pension Trustees Limited

Registered Office: 10 St James Road · Wokingham · RG40 4RT

Registered in England and Wales as a company limited by guarantee

Registered number 08203400