



PRESS RELEASE

FIRST PROFESSIONAL TRUSTEES RECEIVE OFFICIAL APPT ACCREDITATION

22 May 2020: The Association of Professional Pension Trustees (APPT) is pleased to announce that more than 50 professional trustees have now passed through their official accreditation programme – including the industry’s first accredited female professional trustee.

In a progress update issued today (May 22), the APPT can confirm that 14 professional trustees have attained the gold standard of becoming fully accredited, while a further 40 professional trustees have gained provisional accreditation status. These 40 will become fully APPT accredited as soon as they are able to complete the accreditation examinations and gain final DBS approval.

The official accreditation framework, which is overseen by the APPT, is designed to promote and maintain the highest possible standards across the professional trustee industry. In order

to become accredited, professional trustees will need to demonstrate their competency through passing exams covering technical and soft skills, as well as demonstrating that they are fit and proper, through criminal record and professional reference checks.

The first group to receive full APPT accreditation includes the industry’s first accredited female professional trustee, **Shona Goulds at AAATrustee Ltd** who said: *“APPT accreditation is the gold standard for our industry and I am delighted to be one of the first professional trustees to receive full accreditation through their programme. Accreditation is an important step forward for professional trustees, now more than ever, and will enable us to deliver the best outcomes for our members during these challenging times.”*

Nita Tinn, Chair of the Association of Professional Pension Trustees said: *“We are very happy with the response received so far from the professional trustee community and are pleased that many of the applications received are from new members. The response indicates that professional trustees do see the benefits in being accredited and we expect to see the numbers of professional trustees gaining official APPT accreditation increase over the coming months.”*

Notes to editors:

The **Association for Professional Pension Trustees** is the industry body for professional trustees of occupational pension schemes, working to encourage best practice within the sector and promote the interests of our members. We are the recognised accreditation body for professional trustees, responsible for promoting and maintaining high standards amongst practitioners.

Key facts about accreditation:

- The APPT's accreditation year will run from 1st July 2020 to coincide with the current membership year; however, trustees are able to apply now provided they meet all the criteria for Provisional Accreditation
- Professional trustees will need to demonstrate their competency through passing two exams, covering technical and soft skills
- Accredited trustees will be required to comply with the professional standards; undertake a minimum of 25 hours a year of continuing professional development; and demonstrate that they are fit and proper through criminal records and professional reference checks
- Accredited trustees will automatically renew or become members of the APPT
- The full set of professional standards can be found [here](#)
- Click [here](#) for the updated Guidance Notes and the APPT Accreditation Scheme Application

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