



Important Announcement to members and potential members of the following Pension Schemes (“The Schemes”)

**Malvern Retirement Benefits Scheme
Mendip Retirement Benefits Scheme
Pennines Retirement Benefits Scheme**

Background

We are writing to you as we believe that you may have joined one or more of the Schemes and transferred-in pension benefits from a previous arrangement, or are in the process of considering such a transfer.

The Pensions Regulator has appointed Dalriada Trustees Limited as independent trustee (the “Trustee”) with exclusive powers to the Schemes. All trustee powers and rights are now held by Dalriada Trustees Limited.

The Pensions Regulator is a statutory body which is responsible for the regulation of work-based pension schemes in the UK. Its aims include protecting the benefits of scheme members together with promoting good administration and understanding of occupational pension arrangements.

Why have we been appointed as Independent Trustee to the Schemes?

Dalriada Trustees Limited is a firm which operates solely to provide trusteeship services to UK occupational pension schemes. We currently act as Independent Trustee to a number of schemes where we have been appointed by the Pensions Regulator and we have considerable knowledge and experience in all aspects of pension scheme management.

The Pensions Regulator has the power to appoint a trustee under section 7 of the Pensions Act 1995 where it is reasonable to do so:

- a) to secure that the trustees as a whole have, or exercise, the necessary knowledge and skill for the proper administration of the Schemes,
- b) to secure that the number of trustees is sufficient for the proper administration of the Schemes,
- c) to secure the proper use or application of the assets of the Schemes , or
- d) otherwise to protect the interests of the generality of the members of the Schemes.

It is not appropriate for Dalriada Trustees Limited to comment on any detail in relation to the regulator’s decision to appoint an Independent Trustee since this decision is subject to a further review by the Regulator’s internal Determinations Panel.



Our role as Independent Trustee is as follows:

- To administer the Schemes,
- To manage the Schemes' assets and understand the nature of all assets held,
- To act in the best interests of all members and beneficiaries,
- To assist the Pensions Regulator with any enquiries in relation to the management of the Schemes.

What action have we taken so far?

We have assumed exclusive control of the existing Trustee bank accounts. In addition, we understand that there may be other assets of the Schemes which are held elsewhere and we are currently making investigations in order to gain a full understanding of all assets of the Schemes, including where and how they are held.

We have requested the previous administrators of the Schemes to provide us with all documentation, membership and financial records associated with the Schemes and we are presently undertaking a detailed analysis of all information provided, as is our duty as Trustee.

What does this mean for you?

Until further notice:

- We do not wish to receive further contributions or transfers-in.
- No payments will be made to any members of the Schemes.

These steps are necessary to ensure that the Trustee is able to obtain all relevant information on the assets and liabilities of the Schemes, and clarify the basis on which the Schemes should be administered and managed, before any further financial transactions take place.

If you are in the process of transferring to one of the Schemes we recommend that you contact your existing pension administrator or provider and inform them that transfers into the Schemes should not be made, and instruct them to take no further action in relation to your proposed transfer. It should be noted that if a transfer is made even after our appointment we cannot guarantee that no loss will be suffered.

What happens next?

We will continue to work with the existing trustees and previous administrators in order to obtain full details of all aspects of the Schemes as part of our normal due diligence process upon assuming trusteeship of an occupational pension scheme.

We are presently unable to provide further information in relation to any possible implications for Scheme members and will endeavour to provide you with a further update at the earliest opportunity.

Please be assured that we are devoting our full attention to this matter and will work closely and co-operatively with all relevant parties on your behalf and in the best interests of all members.



What should I do if I have any further questions?

Should you have any queries in relation to this announcement or your membership of the Schemes, please contact us. It will help us to resolve any query if you are able to supply copies of all correspondence or other communications which you may have had with

- Hedge Tax Mitigation Limited,
- Hedge Capital Investment Limited,
- Hedge Capital Limited,
- Hedge Capital Investment Group plc,
- Clarendon Hill Investments Limited,
- T12 Administration
- or any other person who has been involved in the proposed transfer:

You can contact us as follows:

By Telephone: 02890 412880

By Post: Dalriada Trustees Limited
22 Great Victoria Street
Belfast
BT2 7BA

Via e-mail: penninesandmendip@dalriadatrustees.co.uk

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