

Dalriada. *A better way*

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# **Pennines RBS**

## **Report and Financial Statements For the year ended 31 March 2020**

Registration number: 12004678

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**Pennines RBS**  
**Principal Employer and Advisers to the Scheme**

**Scheme Provider**

Clarendon Hill Investments Limited  
St Georges Court  
Winnington Avenue  
Cheshire  
CW8 4EE

**Administrator**

Dalriada Trustees Limited  
Linen Loft  
27 - 37 Adelaide Street  
Belfast  
BT2 8FE

**Auditor**

Johnston Carmichael LLP  
Statutory Auditor  
227 West George Street  
Glasgow  
G2 2ND

**Legal Adviser**

Pinsent Masons LLP  
30 Crown Place  
Earl Street  
London  
EC2A 4ES

**Investment manager**

Hedge Capital Investment Group Ltd (removed: 12 May 2017)  
c/o KPMG LLP  
15 Canada Square  
London  
E14 5GL

**Pennines RBS**  
**Principal Employer and Advisers to the Scheme**

**Bankers**

NatWest  
Northwich Branch  
The Bull Ring  
Cheshire  
CW9 5BN

Barclays Bank PLC  
Imperial House  
Donegall Square East  
Belfast  
BT1 5HL

**Pennines RBS  
Trustees' Report**

**Introduction**

The Trustees of the Pennines RBS ("the Scheme") present their report together with the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2020. The Scheme is a defined contribution scheme.

The Scheme was established on 23 August 2011, and is currently governed by the trust deed and rules dated the same date. In accordance with the provisions of Schedule 36 of the Finance Act 2004, the Scheme is a registered pension scheme under Chapter 2 of part 4 of the Finance Act 2004. The Scheme was contracted-out of the S2P (previously known as the State Earnings-Related Pension Scheme) under certificates issued by the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions. Funds derived from contracting out payments were known as protected rights benefits. From 6 April 2012, it was no longer possible to contract out of the S2P through a defined contribution scheme. All existing contracted out payments will be treated as non-protected rights benefits.

The Compliance Statement set out on pages 21 and 22, and the Annual Governance Statement included as Appendix 1 form part of this report.

**Scheme management**

The Trustees are

John Laurence Woodward.  
Jennifer Doris Ilett.  
Dalriada Trustees Limited.

The directors of Dalriada Trustees Limited are DN Copeland, RD Fogarty (appointed 30 June 2020), CM Johnstone, AB Kennett, T Lukic, CJ Roberts (appointed 18 October 2019) BD Spence and V Vassou (appointed 18 October 2019). The directors of Dalriada Trustees Limited ("Dalriada") were appointed in accordance with that company's Memorandum and Articles of Association.

In accordance with the provisions of the Pensions Act 1995 as amended, The Pensions Regulator has the power to appoint an independent trustee. Dalriada Trustees Limited was so appointed, with exclusive powers, on 28 March 2012 under section 7 of the Pensions Act 1995, and may only be removed by The Pensions Regulator.

Dalriada have appointed external specialists to advise on legal and accounting matters.

**Internal Dispute Resolution Procedure (IDRP)**

It is a requirement of the Pensions Act 1995 that all occupational pension schemes must have a dispute resolution procedure in place for dealing with any disputes between the Trustees and the Scheme beneficiaries. A dispute resolution procedure has been agreed by the Trustees, details of which can be obtained by writing to Dalriada Trustees Limited, Linen Loft, 27 - 37 Adelaide Street, Belfast, BT2 8FE or by download from the members' website page <http://dalriadatrustees.co.uk/pennines-and-mendip> or request by email, address: [penninesandmendip@dalriadatrustees.co.uk](mailto:penninesandmendip@dalriadatrustees.co.uk)

**Financial development of the Scheme**

The financial statements of the Scheme for the year ended 31 March 2020 are set out on pages 14 to 18; the Trustees' summary of contributions and the Auditor's statement about contributions are set out on pages 19 and 20. The financial statements have been prepared and audited in accordance with the regulations made under section 41(1) and (6) of the Pensions Act 1995. They show that the value of the fund decreased from £432,074 at 31 March 2019 to £396,052 at 31 March 2020.

However, these figures should be read alongside the comments made later in this Report, particularly in the 'Investment Report' section.

**Pennines RBS  
Trustees' Report**

Dalriada was unclear as to the value of the underpinning investments and, so, to the actual value of the Scheme's investment in HCIG and, as such, had difficulty in showing a correct asset value in previous accounts.

This report and the accompanying financial statements relate to a period during the outbreak of the current Corona (Covid-19) Virus and the ensuing health and financial crisis. Dalriada is monitoring the impact on the Scheme and is following guidance from The Pensions Regulator and, where appropriate, appointed scheme advisers. At this time, however, an estimate of the substantive effect, if any, on the Scheme remains to be determined. Consequently, the measurement of assets and liabilities in the accounts is not being adjusted, and Dalriada considers that it is appropriate to prepare the Scheme financial statements on a going concern basis.

**Transfers at less than cash equivalent**

No transfer values have been paid from the Scheme.

**Membership**

As at 31 March 2020, 303 members were entitled to benefits from the Scheme.

There were no changes to the membership of the Scheme during the year as set out in the following table.

	<b>Active</b>	<b>Deferred</b>	<b>Pensioner</b>
Membership at 01/04/2019	-	303	-
<b>Membership at 31/03/2020</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>-</b>

One member died in 2013, this has not been reflected in the membership figures as no payment has been made in respect of this member.

**Pension increases**

No pensions were paid in the year.

**Changes to the Scheme rules**

There were no changes to the Scheme Rules during the year.

**Governance and Risk Management**

Following their appointment, Dalriada identified a number of concerns with the incumbent administrator (T12), not least the significant charges being levied. Dalriada gave notice to T12 of termination of their contract shortly after their appointment, which was resisted by T12 who claimed payment of outstanding fees in excess of £100,000. This was disputed and resisted by Dalriada. T12 was subsequently dissolved on 17 March 2015. Legal advice is that T12 would also extremely likely to be time barred from issuing any claim. Given this, we have not included this money as a potential contingent liability in these accounts.

Other than the funds held in cash in the Scheme's bank account, all monies transferred into the Scheme were invested in preference shares in Hedge Capital Investment Group plc, which later became Hedge Capital Investment Group Limited. Dalriada's concerns are set out later on in this Report in the 'Investment Report' section.

**Pennines RBS  
Trustees' Report**

There appears to have been limited investment advice taken by the previous trustees and no evidence of an appropriate investment adviser being appointed, as required under legislation.

Dalriada has now put in place a more robust administration database and created proper accounting records, the information within which underpins the accounts appended to this Report and which have been independently audited.

Dalriada has developed and will continue to develop its business plan which set out its objectives in various key areas and, alongside the business plan, a risk register has been put in place, setting out the key risks to which the Scheme is subject and the controls in place to mitigate these.

**Trustee knowledge and understanding**

The Pensions Act 2004 requires trustees to have sufficient knowledge and understanding of pensions and trust law and be conversant with the Scheme documentation. The Pensions Regulator has published a Code of Practice on Trustee Knowledge and Understanding to assist trustees on this matter which became effective from 6 April 2006 and was updated with effect from November 2009. Dalriada is aware of these requirements and, as a professional trustee, maintains an ongoing training programme for all of its staff.

**Further information**

Further information about the Scheme is available, on request, to members, their spouses and other beneficiaries.

If members have any complaints or queries regarding the Scheme, or wish to obtain further information, they should contact Dalriada Trustees Limited, Linen Loft, 27 - 37 Adelaide Street, Belfast, BT2 8FE. Email address [penninesandmendip@dalriadatrustees.co.uk](mailto:penninesandmendip@dalriadatrustees.co.uk)

The General Data Protection Regulations 2016/679 (Regulations) cover information which is held electronically, i.e. computer based information and extend data protection laws to cover paper-based records held for individuals. The Regulations contain restrictions on the processing of special categories of data as defined in the Regulations, to which individuals must give their consent. This category of data can include information on, for example, the health of a member or marital status.

Members' personal data will be used by the Scheme's advisers, where appropriate, to assist in the administration of the Scheme, and may be passed to other professional providers or advisers.

The Trustees and the Scheme's advisers each have a legal obligation and a legitimate interest to process data relating to members for the purposes of administering and operating the Scheme, which includes passing on data to third parties, as mentioned above.

The Trustees are regarded as 'Controller' for the purposes of the Regulations, in relation to the process referred to above. The advisers appointed by the Trustees are usually 'Processors', however, some advisers, such as scheme actuary and auditors are considered to be controllers by the various professional regulatory bodies. Under the Regulations where two or more controllers jointly determine the purposes and means of processing, they shall be joint controllers of the data.

**Pennines RBS  
Trustees' Report**

**Investment report**

Other than funds held in cash in the Scheme's bank account, all monies transferred into the Scheme were invested in preference shares in Hedge Capital Investment Group plc/Limited (HCIG). Within HCIG, the monies were ultimately used for investment in a range of 'alternative' investments and to facilitate the offer of personal loans back to Scheme members.

On appointment Dalriada commenced high court action against the previous trustees and the organisers of the Scheme to seek recovery of the monies paid to HCIG, claiming, not least, that monies were paid in breach of trust. It also sought, and obtained, a freezing order over the assets of the Hedge companies.

Dalriada's claim was subject to a summary judgment application but this was rejected by the Court and, subsequently, there was a protracted period of negotiation, looking to reach a settlement of Dalriada Trustees' claim.

As we also reported, the settlement, once agreed, would require the sanction of the Court.

Settlement was reached with the Hedge Companies in the autumn of 2016. The key terms of the settlement were:

- Dalriada took ownership of the various Hedge Companies, with the exception of Hedge Capital Limited (the company that made the loans).
- Hedge Capital Limited was placed into Administration and KPMG were appointed as Administrators.
- All legal action was discontinued and agreement was reached on payment of costs to Hedge's legal advisers.

An application was then made to Court to have the terms of the settlement sanctioned. The application was heard in May 2017. This hearing was held in private, but we can confirm that the Court approved the intended settlement, which enabled Dalriada and the Hedge entities (as well as Mr Woodward, a previous trustee and director of the Scheme sponsor) to proceed with implementing the steps required under the terms of the settlement.

In addition to the main settlement with Hedge, Dalriada also reached agreement with another party who had invested funds in HCIG. However, as previously reported to members, their investment was small.

Following the Court sanction and the conclusion of the settlement between Dalriada and the various Hedge entities, all funds held in cash by HCIG totaling £4,495,551 were returned to the Scheme.

Dalriada appointed Andrew Conquest as director to each of the following companies – Hedge Capital Investment Group (HCIG), Hedge Capital Investments Limited (HCIL), Hedge Tax Mitigation Limited (HTML) and Hedge Capital Markets Limited (HCML).

HCML was a dormant company and was dissolved.

HCIG, HCIL and HTML were placed into voluntary liquidation on 27 November 2017 and KPMG appointed as liquidators of each of the companies on 8 December 2017.

It was always the intention that, once the settlement was achieved and Dalriada took ownership of the various Hedge companies, it would look to strip away the corporate structure and look to identify, and place a value on, the assets underlying the companies, in particular HCIL.

As we have reported previously, Dalriada is aware of some of these underlying investments, which include a mobile learning application for phones and tablets and an investment linked to Brazilian teak plantations. Whilst any recovery is now in the hands of KPMG as liquidators, it was always anticipated that there would be little value in these investments.



## **Pennines RBS Trustees' Report**

Dalriada is also aware that a significant sum was paid to Sustainable Wealth Group. Investments in Sustainable Wealth Group were promoted by Forensic Review, a company offering cash inducements for members to transfer. Forensic Review was under investigation by the FSA (now FCA). Sustainable Wealth itself entered administration following an application by the Serious Fraud Office. Over £2m of funds was transferred to the US without the knowledge of Hedge and Dalriada supported legal action for recovery of these monies. However, this is now a matter for KPMG and it remains unclear how much is likely to be recovered, if anything.

Dalriada understands that, ultimately, the monies were returned to the UK and were to be included in the general Sustainable Wealth liquidation. Whether there is ultimately any recovery will become evident as the liquidation of HCIL progresses but it is now unlikely that there will be any material recovery from this particular investment.

Finally, as commented above, a significant sum had been used to provide unsecured personal loans. It was hoped that this loan book might have some value. However, KPMG have identified a number of issues with the loans that will require to be corrected if it is going to be possible to realise any value in the loan book. Dalriada is considering with KPMG the options in this regard and the associated costs and what the net value to the Scheme, if any, will be.

KPMG, as liquidators, have a number of powers with regard to recovery of assets and investigation into the actions of the previous directors. Dalriada is continuing to work with KPMG to try to ascertain what value there might be in each of the companies. KPMG are required to produce regular progress Reports on the liquidations.

Dalriada, as a Trustee to the Schemes, is by far the major creditor.

### **Custodial arrangements**

Dalriada has been unable to obtain details of any custodial arrangements having been put in place.

### **Investment principles**

Trustees are required to produce a Statement of Investment Principles, which incorporates the investment strategy, in accordance with section 35 of the Pensions Act 1995. Dalriada has had sight of what appears to be a template, unsigned and undated Statement of Investment principles, prepared by the previous trustees and/or their administrators. Dalriada will update the Statement once it has a clear understanding of the value of the underlying investments and what options there are with regard to their realisation.

### **Employer related investments**

There were no employer related investments at any time during the year within the meaning of section 40(2) of the Pensions Act 1995.

**Pennines RBS  
Trustees' Report**

**Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities**

The financial statements, which are prepared in accordance with UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, including the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (FRS 102), are the responsibility of the Trustees. Pension scheme regulations require, and the Trustees are responsible for ensuring, that those financial statements:

- show a true and fair view of the financial transactions of the Scheme during the Scheme year and of the amount and disposition at the end of the Scheme year of its assets and liabilities, other than liabilities to pay pensions and benefits after the end of the Scheme year; and
- contain the information specified in Regulation 3A of the Occupational Pension Schemes (Requirement to obtain Audited Accounts and a Statement from the Auditor) Regulations 1996, including making a statement whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the relevant financial reporting framework applicable to occupational pension schemes.

In discharging the above responsibilities, the Trustees are responsible for selecting suitable accounting policies, to be applied consistently, making any estimates and judgments on a prudent and reasonable basis, and for the preparation of the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Scheme will not be wound up.

The Trustees are also responsible for making available certain other information about the Scheme in the form of an Annual Report.

The Trustees also have a general responsibility for ensuring that adequate accounting records are kept and for taking such steps as are reasonably open to them to safeguard the assets of the Scheme and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities, including the maintenance of an appropriate system of internal control.

The Trustees are responsible under pensions legislation for securing that a payment schedule is prepared, maintained and from time to time revised showing the rates of contributions payable towards the Scheme by or on behalf of the Employer and the active members of the Scheme and the dates on or before which such contributions are to be paid. The Trustees are also responsible for keeping records in respect of contributions received in respect of any active member of the Scheme and for adopting risk-based processes to monitor whether contributions are made to the Scheme by the Employer in accordance with the payment schedule. Where breaches of the schedule occur, the Trustees are required by the Pensions Acts 1995 and 2004 to consider making reports to The Pensions Regulator and the members.

Signed for and on behalf of the Trustees

For Dalriada Trustees Limited.....

Date..... Aug 13, 2020

**Pennines RBS**  
**Independent Auditor's report to the Trustees**

**Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of Pennines RBS (the 'Scheme') for the year ended 31 March 2020 which comprise the fund account, statement of net assets and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- show a true and fair view of the financial transactions of the Scheme during the year ended 31 March 2020, and of the amount and disposition at that date of its assets and liabilities, other than liabilities to pay pensions and benefits after the end of the year;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- contain the information specified in Regulation 3A of the Occupational Pension Schemes (Requirement to obtain Audited Accounts and a Statement from the Auditor) Regulations 1996, made under the Pensions Act 1995.

**Basis for opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Scheme in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

**Conclusions relating to going concern**

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the Scheme's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

**Pennines RBS**  
**Independent Auditor's report to the Trustees**

**Other information**

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Report and Financial Statements, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

**Responsibilities of trustees**

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities set out on page 10, the Scheme's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the Scheme's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to wind up the Scheme or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

**Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Scheme's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.

**Pennines RBS**  
**Independent Auditor's report to the Trustees**

- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Scheme's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Scheme to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

**Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the Scheme's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Regulation 3 of the Occupational Pension Schemes (Requirement to obtain Audited Accounts and a Statement from the Auditor) Regulations 1996, made under the Pensions Act 1995. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Scheme's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Scheme's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

*Johnston Carmichael LLP*

Johnston Carmichael LLP  
**Statutory Auditor**  
227 West George Street  
Glasgow G2 2ND

Date: 13 August 2020

**Pennines RBS  
Financial Statements**

**For the year ended 31 March 2020**

**Fund Account**

	Note	<b>2020</b> £	<b>2019</b> £
<b>Contributions and benefits</b>			
Administrative expenses	3	<u>(45,340)</u>	<u>(82,244)</u>
		<u>(45,340)</u>	<u>(82,244)</u>
<b>Net withdrawals from dealings with members</b>			
		<u>(45,340)</u>	<u>(82,244)</u>
<b>Returns on investments</b>			
Investment income	4	<u>9,318</u>	<u>9,387</u>
<b>Net returns on investments</b>		<u>9,318</u>	<u>9,387</u>
<b>Net decrease in the fund for the year</b>		(36,022)	(72,857)
<b>Net assets at 1 April 2019</b>		432,074	504,931
<b>Net assets at 31 March 2020</b>		<u><u><b>396,052</b></u></u>	<u><u><b>432,074</b></u></u>

The notes on pages 16 to 18 form an integral part of these financial statements.

**Pennines RBS  
Financial Statements**

**Statement of Net Assets  
(available for benefits) as at 31 March 2020**

	Note	2020 £	2019 £
<b>Current assets</b>	5	2,876,494	3,508,555
<b>Current liabilities</b>	6	(2,480,442)	(3,076,481)
<b>Net assets at 31 March 2020</b>		<u><u>396,052</u></u>	<u><u>432,074</u></u>

The financial statements summarise the transactions of the Scheme and deal with the net assets at the disposal of the Trustees. They do not take account of obligations to pay pensions and benefits which fall due after the end of the Scheme year.

The notes on pages 16 to 18 form an integral part of these financial statements.

These financial statements were approved by the Trustees and authorised for issue on..... Aug 13, 2020

Signed for and on behalf of the Trustees

For Dalriada Trustees Limited..... *NW Lloyd*

**Pennines RBS**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**

**1. Basis of preparation**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Occupational Pension Schemes (Requirement to obtain Audited Accounts and a Statement from the Auditor) Regulations 1996, Financial Reporting Standard 102 - The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued by the Financial Reporting Council and the guidance set out in the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP), Financial Reports of Pension Schemes (revised 2018), published by the Pensions Research Accountants Group.

**1.1. Identification of the financial statements**

The Scheme is established as a trust and is governed by, the laws of England and Wales. The Scheme Provider's registered address is disclosed on page 3 and the address for enquiries to the Scheme is included in the Trustees' Report on page 7.

**2. Accounting policies**

**Functional currency**

The functional currency used in the financial statements is Sterling and all figures have been rounded to the nearest pound.

**Investment Income**

Interest on bank deposits is accounted for as it accrues.

**Transfers**

Individual transfers to and from the Scheme during the year are included in the financial statements on the basis of when the member liability is accepted or discharged.

There were no transfers out during the year.

**Benefits**

Benefits payable are included in the financial statements on an accruals basis when the member notifies the Trustees as to the type or amount of benefit to be taken, or where there is no choice, on the date of retirement or leaving. Currently Dalriada is not able to identify benefits payable.

**Administrative expenses**

Administrative expenses are accounted for on an accruals basis.

**Investment Assets**

Other than funds held in cash in the Scheme's bank account, all monies transferred into the Scheme were invested in preference shares in Hedge Capital Investment Group plc/Limited (HCIG).



**Pennines RBS**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**

Dalriada was unclear as to the value of the underpinning investments and, so, to the actual value of the Scheme's investment in HCIG and, as such, had difficulty in showing a correct asset value in previous accounts. Dalriada had previously valued the investment consistent with the net asset value of HCIG, as shown in that company's most recently filed audited accounts for the year ended 31 December 2015. However, Dalriada had caveated that asset figure to the extent that, once more information was known about the underpinning investments, the net value may be considerably lower.

Following the conclusion of the settlement between Dalriada and the various Hedge entities, all funds held in cash by HCIG were returned to the Scheme.

There remain other investments within HCIG, as set out in the Investment Report on pages 8 & 9. As liquidators, KPMG are tasked with recovering what money it can from those investments but, currently, we don't anticipate any material recovery. Given this, we have exercised prudence, and assumed nil recovery. The net assets now more properly reflect the value in HCIG.

**3. Administrative expenses**

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Administration fees	-	500
Consultancy fees	-	1,994
Audit fees	2,880	2,820
Legal fees	5,027	22,882
Pensions Regulator Levy	706	706
Trustee fees	36,637	53,242
Other professional fees	90	100
	<u>45,340</u>	<u>82,244</u>

**4. Investment income**

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Interest on cash deposits	<u>9,318</u>	<u>9,387</u>
	<u>9,318</u>	<u>9,387</u>

**5. Current assets**

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Funds due from Mendip RBS	-	3,501,657
Sundry debtors	-	6,794
Cash balances	<u>2,876,494</u>	<u>104</u>
	<u>2,876,494</u>	<u>3,508,555</u>

The Scheme has paid fees which were due from the Mendip RBS. On completion of the settlement and when funds become available, these were repaid to the Pennines RBS in full during the year. Mendip RBS held funds belonging to Pennines RBS with regards to the Hedge Capital Limited settlement which were transferred across during the year.

Included in the bank balance for the year ended 31 March 2020 is £2,876,494 (2019: £104) which is not allocated to members.

**Pennines RBS**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**

**6. Current liabilities**

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Scheme sanction charge	(2,472,362)	(2,472,362)
Accrued expenses	(8,080)	(13,938)
Funds due to Mendip RBS	-	(590,181)
	<u>(2,480,442)</u>	<u>(3,076,481)</u>

HMRC has levied Scheme Sanction Charges calculated at 40% of the corresponding unauthorised payment charges levied on the members of the Scheme. These unauthorised payment charges have been calculated based on the higher of the loan received by the member or 50% of the amount transferred into the Scheme in respect of the member. It is HMRC's view that unauthorised payment tax charges have arisen. Dalriada is appealing the Scheme Sanction Charges.

**7. Related Party Transactions**

During the year ended 31 March 2020 the fees due to Dalriada were £36,637 (2019: £53,242). As at 31 March 2020 £4,180 (2019: £3,150) was still due to Dalriada.

During the year Mendip RBS paid fees for Pennines RBS which totalled £30,635 (2019: £105,681) all funds were transferred to Mendip RBS before the year end.

During the year Mendip RBS received income on behalf of Pennines RBS totaling £8,149 (2019: £9,387) and the funds were transferred to Pennines RBS.

During the year funds held by Mendip RBS which totalled £2,888,990 were transferred to Pennines RBS.

**8. Contingent Liabilities**

There were no contingent liabilities at the year end.

**9. Subsequent Events**

On 11 March 2020, COVID-19 was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organisation. This has resulted in worldwide restrictions on travel, government fiscal stimulus and extreme financial market volatility.

**10. Taxation**

The Scheme is a registered Pension Scheme under Chapter 2 of Part 4 of the Finance Act 2004 and is therefore exempt from income tax and capital gains taxes.

**11. Self investment**

There were no known instances of self investment during the year.

**Pennines RBS  
Summary of Contributions**

During the year ended 31 March 2020 no contributions were paid or were due to the Scheme.

Signed for and on behalf of the Trustees

For Dalriada Trustees Limited.....*Neil Copland*

Date..... Aug 13, 2020

**Independent Auditor's Statement about Contributions, under Regulation 4 of the Occupational Pension Schemes (Requirement to Obtain Audited Accounts and a Statement from the Auditor) Regulations 1996, to the Trustees of the Pennines RBS**

We have examined the summary of contributions to the Pennines RBS for the Scheme year ended 31 March 2020 to which this statement is attached.

**Statement about contributions payable under the payment schedule**

In our opinion contributions for the Scheme year ended 31 March 2020 as reported in the summary of contributions and payable under the payment schedule have in all material respects been paid at least in accordance with the payment schedule and scheme rules.

**Scope of work on Statement about Contributions**

Our examination involves obtaining evidence sufficient to give reasonable assurance that contributions reported in the attached summary of contributions have in all material respects been paid at least in accordance with the payment schedule. This includes an examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts of contributions payable to the scheme and the timing of those payments under the payment schedule.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and the auditor**

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, the scheme's trustees are responsible for securing that a payment schedule is prepared, maintained and from time to time revised and for monitoring whether contributions are made to the scheme by the employer in accordance with the payment schedule.

It is our responsibility to provide a Statement about Contributions paid under the payment schedule and to report our opinion to you.

**Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the trustees, as a body in accordance with Regulation 4 of The Occupational Pension Schemes (Requirement to obtain Audited Accounts and a Statement from the Auditor) Regulations 1996. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to the trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditor's Statement about Contributions and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the scheme's trustees as a body, for our work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

*Johnston Carmichael LLP*

Johnston Carmichael LLP  
**Statutory Auditor**

227 West George Street  
Glasgow G2 2ND

Date: 13 August 2020

**Pennines RBS  
Compliance Statement**

**Changes in and other matters relating to the Scheme advisers**

Any changes to the Scheme advisers are shown on pages 3 and 4.

**Pension Tracing Service**

The Pension Tracing Service provides a tracing service for members (and their dependants) of previous employers' schemes, who have lost touch with earlier employers and trustees. To trace a benefit entitlement under a former employer's scheme, enquiries should be addressed to:

Pension Tracing Service  
The Pension Service 9  
Mail Handling Site A  
Wolverhampton WV98 1LU  
Telephone: 0800 731 0193  
Website: <https://www.gov.uk/find-pension-contact-details>

**The Money and Pensions Service**

The Money and Pensions Service creates one organisation from the three existing providers of government-sponsored financial guidance:

- The Money Advice Service
- The Pensions Advisory Service
- Pension Wise

The Money and Pensions Service brings together for the first time the provision of debt advice, money guidance and pensions guidance. For pensions guidance the Money and Pensions Service will provide information to the public on matters relating to workplace and personal pensions.

Holborn Centre  
120 Holborn  
London  
EC1N 2TD  
Telephone: 0115 965 9570

Email: [contact@maps.org.uk](mailto:contact@maps.org.uk)

Website: [www.moneyandpensionsservice.org.uk](http://www.moneyandpensionsservice.org.uk)

**The Pensions Ombudsman**

In cases where a complaint or dispute cannot be resolved under the IDRPs, an application can be made to the Pensions Ombudsman to investigate and determine any complaint or dispute of fact or law involving occupational pension scheme. The Pensions Ombudsman can be contacted at:

10 South Colonnade  
Canary Wharf  
E14 4PU  
Telephone: 0800 917 4487

Website: [www.pensions-ombudsman.org.uk](http://www.pensions-ombudsman.org.uk)  
E-mail: [enquiries@pensions-ombudsman.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@pensions-ombudsman.org.uk)

**Pennines RBS  
Compliance Statement**

**The Pensions Regulator**

The statutory body that regulates occupational pension schemes is the Pensions Regulator (TPR). TPR can be contacted at:

The Pensions Regulator  
Napier House  
Trafalgar Place  
Brighton BN1 4DW  
Telephone: 0345 600 1011

Website: [www.thepensionsregulator.gov.uk](http://www.thepensionsregulator.gov.uk)

E-mail: [customersupport@tpr.gov.uk](mailto:customersupport@tpr.gov.uk)

**Pennines RBS**  
**Appendix 1**

**Pennines RBS ("the Scheme")**

**Annual Governance Statement by the Chair of the Trustee for the Scheme Year Ending on  
31 March 2020**

**Introduction and background**

This statement has been prepared in accordance with regulation 23 the Occupational Pension Scheme (Scheme Administration) Regulations 1996, as amended (the "Administration Regulations"), and related Pensions Regulator guidance.

It relates to the Pennines RBS (the "Scheme").

Consideration has also been given to the Pensions Regulator's 'A quick guide to the chair's statement' and to the Department for Work and Pensions guide on 'Reporting of costs, charges and other information', both published in September 2018.

This statement covers the period from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020.

The statement will be published on a website made available to members.

Matters in relation to the Scheme are considered by a dedicated subcommittee of the Dalriada Board which meets quarterly. However, issues are also considered on an ad hoc basis between committee meetings and the Scheme has a dedicated client manager, alongside a project manager, who ensures anything requiring attention by the subcommittee is communicated, and acted upon, in a timely manner.

As you are aware from the Announcements issued to members since its appointment, Dalriada Trustees Limited ("Dalriada") was appointed as trustee to the Scheme by the Pensions Regulator amid concerns that the Scheme was being used as a vehicle for pension liberation. This has presented Dalriada with a number of challenges around governance. Nevertheless, this statement is a legal requirement and, as such, can serve as a useful reminder of the issues faced by Dalriada and, where it cannot meet certain governance obligations, I have explained why that it is the case.

Whilst the previous trustees were not removed by the Pensions Regulator, Dalriada Trustees Limited (Dalriada) was appointed with exclusive powers so Dalriada is, effectively, the sole trustee of the Scheme.

The Scheme was used, principally, as a vehicle to allow members under the minimum retirement age of 55 access to their pension funds by way of a loan.

The Scheme had a single investment being the investment in preference shares issued by Hedge Capital Investment Group plc (later Limited) (HCIG). Loans to members were made by another Group company, Hedge Capital Limited, which, in turn, was funded by way of a loan from a further Group company, Hedge Capital Investments Limited (HCIL), a company wholly owned by HCIG.

These loans were seen as unauthorised payments by HMRC who, as a result, have issued provisional assessments for significant tax charges against both the Scheme and its members.

As well as providing the funds to loan back to members, HCIL invested further funds in a number of unusual and high risk investments.

Upon appointment, Dalriada took legal action against the various Hedge Companies. In the autumn of 2016, a settlement agreement was reached, with the various parties involved with the Hedge Companies, which meant that Dalriada took ownership of the various Hedge Companies, with the exception of Hedge Capital Limited (the company that made the loans). Hedge Capital Limited was placed into Administration and KPMG were appointed as Administrators. A number of the other Hege companies are also now in Administration.

## **Pennines RBS Appendix 1**

Due to the complexities of the Administration this process is still ongoing and has been extended to April 2021 by the court. Upon completion of the Administration it is Dalriada's intention that the Scheme will be wound up and members will be offered the option to transfer any remaining benefits to alternative pension arrangements.

### **Default arrangement**

A number of requirements of the Administration Regulations, which are referred to in this statement, relate only to a "default arrangement" as defined in the Occupational Pension Schemes (Charges and Governance) Regulations 2015.

The Scheme does not have a default fund for ongoing accrual. It is not a qualifying scheme within the meaning given by section 99 of the Pensions Act 2008.

It is not, nor ever has been, used to meet any auto-enrolment obligations and no regular contributions are being, or ever have been, paid into the Scheme. The Scheme's assets are made up solely by way of member transfer payments into the Scheme.

The Scheme does not offer a Default Lifestyle Strategy.

The Scheme did not offer members any choice as to how their funds were invested, funds being used to secure preference shares in HCIG.

Alongside the loans to members, funds were invested by HCIL (a subsidiary of HCIG) in a number of unusual, high risk and largely illiquid investments. The ultimate value of the investments made by HCIL will be determined by the Administrators (KPMG).

As such, in Dalriada's view, there has never been an appropriate default investment arrangement. There is no life-styling option available.

### **Statement of Investment Principles**

Ordinarily, trustees should prepare a statement of investment principles ("SIP") governing decisions about investments.

No serviceable Statement of Investment Principles exists for the Scheme.

As reported in the Scheme's Report and Accounts, Dalriada is continuing to work with KPMG to determine what further assets may be recovered alongside those funds already transferred to the Scheme as a result of the settlement agreement.

Where assets have been recovered Dalriada has taken appropriate and professional investment advice and will put in place a suitable Statement of Investment Principles (SIP) in due course. However, ultimately, it is Dalriada's intention to wind up the Scheme as soon as it is able, giving members the opportunity to transfer any remaining funds to a more suitable arrangement of their choice.

Copies of the Scheme's Report and Accounts are published on the members' website. The Scheme's Report and Accounts include the latest Chairman's Statement.

### **Review of default strategy and default arrangements**

As noted above, as there is no default arrangement or default strategy in place for the Scheme at the current time then there has been no review of the default arrangement or default strategy in the year in question and no previous review for which a date can be given.



## Pennines RBS

### Appendix 1

#### Core Financial Transactions

Trustees have a specific duty to ensure that core financial transactions relating to DC schemes are processed promptly and accurately. These include the following:

- investing contributions in the Scheme
- transferring assets related to members into or out of the Scheme
- transferring the assets between different investments within the Scheme
- making payments from the Scheme to or on behalf of the members.

The Scheme does not currently accept contributions or transfers in and, for the Scheme year ending 31 March 2020, is unable to pay any level of benefit, including transfers values, to members..

This is due to a number of factors, not least uncertainty, to date, as to the value of the Scheme's investments and the position with regard to the potential tax charges mentioned above and the apportioning of costs to members. More information on this has been provided in Dalriada's Announcements to members.

The Financial Transactions the Scheme does make are, in the main, in relation to costs. These are reported in the Scheme's annual accounts.

Given its inability to carry out routine administrative actions, unsurprisingly, over the reporting period, there have been no material administration service issues which need to be reported here by Dalriada.

Notwithstanding this, Dalriada, as a professional Independent Trustee, has processes and controls in place that are suitably designed to ensure any service objectives can be achieved once the Scheme is in a position to operate in the manner of a normal scheme. Dalriada's administration processes are independently audited and accredited under AAF 01/06 and AAF 02/07.

Once Dalriada is in a position to process member benefit requests these will be managed and monitored in line with Dalriada's standard SLA levels and targets and formally reported on, on a quarterly basis.

In addition, acknowledging that we need accurate member data for the processing of member benefits, Dalriada will carry out an analysis of 'common data' and 'scheme specific data' (as defined by The Pensions Regulator). This helps us to ensure the integrity of member data that is processed.

We perform daily bank reconciliations for all Scheme bank accounts. The purposes of these reconciliations is to ensure that all transactions processed through the bank accounts (money in and out) can be accounted for. Any transactions which cannot be accounted for are investigated and corrected if required.

#### Charges and Transaction Costs

The new governance rules require the Trustee to make an assessment of investment management charges and transactions costs borne by the Scheme members and the extent to which those charges and costs represent good value for money for members.

The Trustee has calculated the charges and, so far as they were able to do so, the transaction costs, borne by Scheme members for the Scheme Year.

In this context, "charges" means (subject to some specific exceptions, such as charges relating to pension sharing orders) all administration charges other than transaction costs.

"Transaction costs" are costs incurred as a result of the buying, selling, lending or borrowing of investments.

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Dalriada has deviated from the approach set out in the statutory guidance for the reasons set out below.

Since its appointment, there have been no transactions as Dalriada has not accepted any payments into the Scheme, either by way of contribution or transfers in so there have been no transaction costs.

However, under the terms of its appointment, the fees of Dalriada and its advisers are met from Scheme funds. Whilst these costs (or "charges") fall as debt due from the employer (or sponsor), in this case the sponsor was a dormant company with no assets.

Due to the mismanagement of the Scheme by its previous trustees and the subsequent actions taken by Dalriada since appointment, it is inevitable that the Scheme has incurred, and will continue to incur, significantly higher ongoing costs than would be the case for a similarly sized but conventional scheme.

These costs for the year ending 31 March 2020 (including trustee fees and legal and other professional fees) are set in the Accounts and total: £45,340.

Dalriada will continue to confirm to members the amount of costs incurred in subsequent Chairman's Statements. In addition, a full set of Report and Accounts has been prepared which have been audited by an independent auditor, which includes an audit of any core financial transactions that have taken place.

#### **"Good value" assessment of charges and transactions**

Generally, trustees should assess the extent to which the charges described above represent "good value" for members during the scheme year, by considering the level of member borne charges against the benefits attributable to such charges.

Whether something represents "good value" is not capable of being precisely defined, but for these purposes, trustees should consider that charges may be viewed as representing "good value" for members where an optimum combination of cost and quality is achieved for the membership as a whole, relative to other options available in the market.

The characteristics of the Scheme are unusual and there are no readily available comparators to determine whether the costs incurred represent good value.

However, the actions undertaken by Dalriada, beyond those considered necessary for the appropriate management of the Scheme, are centred on legal action around recovery of funds. Such actions are considered on a cost benefit analysis and, where necessary, Court approval is sought for the use of Scheme funds to pay for such legal action.

Dalriada was appointed following a tender exercise by the Pensions Regulator (TPR) and Dalriada is subject to ongoing oversight by TPR.

Dalriada's costs (both for ongoing management and with regard to action around recovery of funds) are calculated using a blended charging rate that sits well below its standard market rates. Its legal advisers operate similarly.

As commented above, Dalriada, as a professional Independent Trustee, has processes and controls in place that are suitably designed to ensure any service objectives can be achieved once the Scheme is in a position to operate in the manner of a normal scheme. Dalriada's administration processes are independently audited and accredited under AAF 01/06 and AAF 02/07.

Once Dalriada is in a position to process member benefit requests these will be managed and monitored in line with Dalriada's standard SLA levels and targets and formally reported on, on a quarterly basis.

Dalriada is required to advise members of the cumulative effect over time of the application of charges and costs on the value of a members' accrued rights to money purchase benefits. However,

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due to the nature of Dalriada's appointment, the uncertainty as to the value of the Scheme's assets and the uncertainty as to both Dalriada's and its adviser's fees this is not possible to do at this time. When Dalriada is in a position to do so, it will advise members.

#### **Trustee knowledge and understanding**

The Trustee has considered the latest guidance in relation to Chairman's Statements from The Pensions Regulator and has ensured that its practices reflect the requirements set out. I have set out below how the Trustee ensures it currently meets the knowledge and understanding requirements of trustees.

Dalriada is an independent professional trustee, established in 2003, which has been appointed by The Pensions Regulator under section 7 of the Pensions Act 1995 to a number of schemes as a result of The Pensions Regulator having concerns about the nature and operation of those schemes and the extent to which the then current trustees understood their statutory and fiduciary duties and responsibilities. Dalriada refers to such schemes as "Regulatory Appointments". The Scheme is a Regulatory Appointment.

Dalriada has established a specialist team drawn from various relevant disciplines within Dalriada to manage the governance of these Regulatory Appointments which we have called the Irregular Schemes Team.

A dedicated committee (the Irregular Schemes Committee – "the Committee") has been established by the Board of Directors of Dalriada to oversee the activities of the Irregular Schemes Team in its governance of this Scheme and other Regulatory Appointments. Care has been taken to ensure that the membership of the Committee is such that there is sufficient knowledge and understanding within the Committee to meet the requirements set out in sections 247 and 248 of the Pensions Act 2004 and The Pensions Regulator's Code of Practice 7 on Trustee Knowledge and Understanding.

I have set out below the membership of the Committee, along with a short note on their skill set and experience. In addition, it is worth noting that three members of the Committee are directors of Dalriada Trustees Limited. Dalriada operates a team based approach which gives the Regulatory Appointments Team access to over 120 pensions and support personnel with a broad skill set suited to identifying and implementing the variety of tasks required to successfully manage the Scheme, including pension administration experts, an in house legal team, fund accountants and investment experts. Whilst the core Irregular Schemes Team deals with the majority of matters arising on the Scheme on a day to day basis, in conjunction with its appointed advisers, it can access the specialist expertise of the wider Dalriada team as and when required.

As far as we are aware, no other professional independent trustee firm has established and developed a specialist team in this difficult and challenging area of trusteeship. The relevant experience developed by the Irregular Schemes Team on such cases is unmatched and unrivalled.

#### ***The Committee***

##### ***Sean Browes***

Sean has been working in the pensions industry since he graduated in 1988. He worked for two major benefit consultancies in both administration management and consultancy roles, before joining Dalriada in 2003. Sean has a broad range of skills and experience suited to all areas of pension scheme management.

Sean leads the Irregular Schemes Team, dealing with Dalriada's appointments by The Pensions Regulator to schemes suspected of being involved in pension liberation or thought to be scams. He now has a wealth of experience and knowledge with regard to the unique characteristics associated with the administration and management of these types of scheme and the challenges they present.

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Sean is a member of the Association of Professional Pension Trustees, has completed The Pensions Regulator's Trustee Toolkit and holds the Pensions Management Institute's Certificate in DC Governance and Award in Pension Trusteeship (DC and DB). Sean has met all required CPD requirements.

#### **Neil Copeland**

Neil is a co-founder and director of Dalriada Trustees Limited. He acts as a Professional Trustee on some of our most complex and challenging cases, including our regulatory appointments. Neil specialises in schemes with technically challenging governance and covenant issues, as well as having over 25 years of experience in relation to defined benefit, hybrid, defined contribution, multi-employer and sectionalised arrangements.

Neil is the Dalriada Board representative for the Irregular Schemes Team and spends a significant proportion of his time working on Regulatory Appointments. Like Sean, Neil has developed considerable experience of the complex and non-standard issues faced by the Dalriada team in managing the Regulatory Appointments. This has included acting as a witness in high profile litigation in relation to Regulatory Appointments in support of The Pensions Regulator and representing Dalriada in oral hearings before the Determinations Panel where Dalriada's appointment by The Pensions Regulator has been challenged by the incumbent trustees or other directly affected parties.

Neil is a member of the Association of Professional Pension Trustees, has completed The Pensions Regulator's Trustee Toolkit and holds the Pensions Management Institute's Award in Pension Trusteeship (DC and DB). Neil has met all required CPD requirements.

#### **Tom Lukic**

Tom is also a director of Dalriada Trustees Limited and leads the Dalriada business across the Midlands. He has broad pensions experience with particular expertise in employer covenant and corporate transactions. He has worked with a range of trustee boards managing scheme assets from c£5 million to more than £1 billion. Similarly, he is experienced in working with a broad spectrum of sponsoring employers from small, owner managed businesses through to much larger and complex groups being either privately owned or fully listed.

Tom's experience, both as an adviser and as a Professional Trustee, provides particular insight into corporate structures and insolvencies. Where scheme's investments include shares and/or bonds in, or issued by, corporate entities an understanding of the accounting and financial structures of these entities is essential and Tom provides a wealth of experience in this area.

Tom is a member of the Association of Professional Pension Trustees, has completed The Pensions Regulator's Trustee Toolkit and holds the Pensions Management Institute's Award in Pension Trusteeship (DC and DB). Tom has met all required CPD requirements.

#### **Brian Spence**

Brian is a co-founder and director of Dalriada Trustees Limited. He is now involved in the provision of a wide range of advice to pension scheme sponsors and trustees. Brian is well-known in the pensions industry for taking a strategic view in dealing with pension scheme matters and uses his experience to deliver practical solutions which satisfy the needs of the Trustees, the employers and other stakeholders. Brian is recognised by The Pensions Regulator and the pensions industry as an expert in dealing with contentious and/or complex issues. He is a lead contact and "key person" for a number of high profile trustee appointments.

In addition, Brian has practical experience of working as a Professional Trustee in all three major legal jurisdictions of the UK and as a Professional Trustee and advisor in Ireland. Brian has held a UK Scheme Actuary Practising Certificate since inception of the role in 1997.

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Brian has an in depth knowledge of legal processes, particularly around testing points of legal principle related to the operation of pension schemes, often as a result of deficiencies in scheme documentation (a common issue with Regulatory Appointments) and, also, litigation – where it is cost effective to do so, Dalriada will look to take legal action against the perpetrators of a scam with the aim to recover misappropriated assets.

Brian is a member of the Association of Professional Pension Trustees, has completed The Pensions Regulator’s Trustee Toolkit and holds the Pensions Management Institute’s Award in Pension Trusteeship (DC and DB). Brian has met all required CPD requirements.

#### ***Gino Rocco***

Gino performs the role of Professional Trustee in relation to all aspects of pension law focusing in particular on defined benefit and defined contribution pension schemes that range in size from the small to the very large.

A solicitor admitted to practice in England and Wales and a Member of the Association of Pension Lawyers, Gino has over 15 years’ experience gained at City and National Firms as well as a leading pension consultancy practice.

Gino’s experience includes complex benefit interpretation issues, scheme equalisation and benefit rectifications. He has detailed experience of pensions issues arising under TUPE transfers and the Fair Deal protections where employees are transferred from the public (in particular LGPS and NHSPS) to the private sector.

Gino is a member of the Association of Professional Pension Trustees, has completed The Pensions Regulator’s Trustee Toolkit and holds the Pensions Management Institute’s Award in Pension Trusteeship (DC and DB). Gino has met all required CPD requirements.

#### ***Knowledge of the trust deed and rules and all documents setting out the trustee’s current policies***

The Scheme has a dedicated client manager who has an in depth knowledge of the Scheme and its governing documentation. At the point of becoming an Independent Trustee to the Scheme, a prescribed take on process was followed. This included an assimilation and review of all the relevant Scheme documentation, including the trust deed and rules. The Committee is made aware of any issues or risks in relation to the Scheme’s trust deed and rules as and when they arise and appropriate action agreed in relation to the issue or risk identified. In addition to the knowledge held by the client manager and lead Professional Trustee, the trustees obtain legal advice in relation to the Scheme’s documentation, where necessary.

There have been no new trustees introduced in this reporting period. However, there is an appropriate induction process in place to support the addition of new trustees.

#### ***A working knowledge of the current Statement of Investment Principles (SIP)***

As is set out earlier, the Scheme does not have a SIP at this time due to particular circumstances of the Scheme.

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#### ***Sufficient knowledge and understanding of the law relating to pensions and trusts and understanding of the principles relating to the funding and investment of occupational schemes***

Those Dalriada staff working on the Scheme, including the lead Professional Trustee, are obliged to self evaluate their learning and development requirements on an annual basis as part of Dalriada's internal appraisal process. The process identifies how staff can develop their knowledge and understanding, as well as where they can share their expertise in order to best support the Scheme. Dalriada staff are also required to comply with their respective training requirements in order to maintain a required level of continuing professional education (CPE) and to provide evidence of courses, seminars and other types of professional development to satisfy their respective professional bodies' CPE requirements.

Every Professional Trustee is required to undertake a minimum number of hours training in a year. This is recorded centrally by Dalriada's HR Team and, where appropriate, forms part of staff personal development plans. This training can include internal and external courses and attendance at industry events, as well as a degree of self learning by way of subscriptions to professional publications and electronic information channels.

Further, every trustee representative is required to complete The Pensions Regulator's Trustee Toolkit and subscribes to the updates issued by The Pensions Regulator.

Trustee representatives belong to Dalriada's knowledge management network which keeps them up to date with industry thinking. They also have access to a team of in house pensions experts who inform the team about changes to pensions legislation and practices.

The trustees have access to Pendragon Perspective and Aries - both industry leading tools, giving access to pension legislation.

Dalriada has its own in house legal specialists to provide support and guidance to trustees around legislation and interpretation of scheme documentation. This is further aided by advice from external legal advisers, which is obtained when the trustees feel the reinforcement is necessary to support their own understanding.

#### ***Combined knowledge and understanding, together with available advice enables the trustees to properly exercise their function***

Dalriada has informally assessed the skill set and experience of each member of the Committee and the client team. It has taken into account the development activities already mentioned, along with the internal resources made available to staff, supplemented, where required, by professional external advice.

The Committee understands the need to more formally assess the skills of its members. This is done using a skills matrix developed for this purpose. Any areas for development flagged during this process will be addressed as part of the individual's personal development plan and reviewed throughout the year.

An evaluation of the effectiveness of the Committee as a whole is also carried out.

I consider that the combined knowledge and understanding of the Committee and the client team enables them to exercise properly their function as trustee of the Scheme. In particular:

- Members of the Committee have the relevant financial knowledge and experience to enable the trustee to comply with its duties in relation to investment of the Scheme's assets. Tom Lukic's experience (see above) in particular is advantageous in this area.
- There is a vast range of pensions experience and knowledge within the Committee and the client team. This is appropriate to deal with the governance of the Scheme in line with the trust deed and rules, along with other Scheme documentation. There is also a great deal of

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experience relevant to dealing with issues which might be thrown up by the Scheme which require the amendment of Scheme documentation.

- Sean Browes, Neil Copeland and Brian Spence have a great deal of knowledge and experience in relation to schemes of complex nature, such as this Scheme, where investments made by previous trustees are deemed to be highly inappropriate, their administration has been poor and / or the trustees have not had the sufficient knowledge and understanding to be trustees of an occupational pension scheme.
- Sean Browes and Neil Copeland have many years of experience in the administration of pension schemes, allowing a keen oversight of the administration of the Scheme.

**Member Representation**

Dalriada is aware that members of the Scheme are potential victims of a scam. As such, we look to keep members informed and to facilitate direct access for members to Dalriada by means of a:

- Dedicated member website
- Dedicated contact e-mail address
- Dedicated phone line.

Where required for legal action, members have been represented by a representative beneficiary with their own legal advice provided for.

Signed for and on behalf of Dalriada Trustees Limited (the trustee)



Chairman .....

Date 19 June 2020