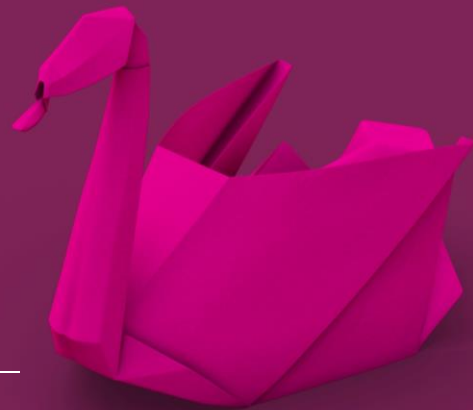

**The Aunger Pension Trust
The Bothbridge Pension Trust
The Crondale Pension Trust
The QG Apollo Pension Scheme
("the Schemes")**



Dalriada. A better way

Important Announcement to members of the Schemes

We are writing to you as we believe that you may have joined one of the Schemes and transferred in pension benefits from a previous pension arrangement.

Dalriada Trustees Limited ("Dalriada") was appointed as independent trustee (with exclusive powers) to the Schemes by Order of The Pensions Regulator ("TPR") on 25 March 2022. Dalriada was appointed amid concerns that the Schemes were not being properly run and that members' benefits were at risk. All trustee powers and rights are now held by Dalriada, to the exclusion of all other trustees of the Schemes.

TPR 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 Scheme?

TPR has the power to appoint a trustee under section 7 of the Pensions Act 1995 where it is reasonable to do so, in order to:

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

Dalriada is a company that operates solely to provide trusteeship services to UK occupational pension schemes. It has considerable knowledge and experience in all aspects of pension scheme management.

Member Announcement

Dalriada currently acts as independent trustee to a number of schemes where we have been appointed by TPR.

Our role as independent trustee is as follows:

- To administer the Schemes.
- To identify and reconcile the membership of the Schemes.
- To identify and reconcile the assets of the Schemes and understand the nature of all assets held.
- To act in the best interests of all members and beneficiaries.
- To assist TPR with any queries in relation to the management of the Schemes.

What action has been taken so far?

Dalriada's focus has been, and will continue to be, on achieving the best possible financial outcome for members by attempting to recover what funds it can back to the Schemes. The documentation available to date has been minimal and limited in content. However, we have set about gathering information in order to investigate how the Schemes were operated historically, what actions the previous trustees took, and importantly whether any of the purported investments made by the previous trustees on behalf of the Schemes now hold any value.

On completion of our investigations, if we conclude that there has been a financial loss to the Schemes, attributable to an act (or acts) of dishonesty, we intend to make applications for compensation on the Fraud Compensation Fund ("FCF") on behalf of the Schemes (see later for more information on the FCF). As commented later, we believe that the Schemes have suffered significant investment losses, however we will need to determine if those losses can be attributable to dishonesty.

We will also continue to deal with the Scheme's legal and governance obligations wherever possible, including submitting scheme returns to TPR and preparing the annual Chair Statements. Where there are any governance breaches due to the specific circumstances of the Scheme, we will explain why these breaches have taken place and will report them to TPR. Copies of Chair Statements and other key documents are published on the members' website (<https://www.dalriadatrustees.co.uk/scheme/gg-pension-schemes/>).

Police Scotland

Members may already be aware that the individuals responsible for the previous management of the Schemes are subject to criminal investigations by Police Scotland. This investigation pre-dates Dalriada's appointment as trustee and is being supported by TPR. Police Scotland have provided Dalriada with an investigative summary of their findings to date. However, much of the information held by Police Scotland is subject to strict confidentiality and is therefore unable to be shared with Dalriada at this stage.

As part of their investigations Police Scotland have gathered information related to the affected membership. However absent explicit consent from individual members directly, Police Scotland have been unable to share, with Dalriada, any personal information in respect of individual members. This includes any transfer-in documentation that may have been obtained by Police Scotland as part of their investigations, as well as general contact information for the membership they may hold.

On appointment Dalriada inherited a list of member names and postcodes. However, the records of the previous trustees did not include information such as email address, telephone numbers, or full postal addresses. As such it has not been possible, to date, for Dalriada to contact all members directly.

Instead, Police Scotland were able to provide members with contact details for Dalriada and to encourage those members to get in touch with us. However, whilst a number of members have subsequently been in contact, we are still missing details for a large number of members. If you are aware of any person who may have transferred to one of the Schemes and who hasn't received this Announcement, could you ask them to contact Dalriada via the contact details shown below.

Member Announcement

For some of those members that have been in contact (either directly or via Police Scotland) we have managed to obtain information and/or copies of paperwork relating to their transfers-in, and subsequent membership of, one of the Schemes. This information and/or documentation is important to us in our understanding of the membership of the Schemes and how they were managed by the previous trustees.

To help further with this, we would ask members who have not already contacted us (or, for those that have, if they think they can provide more information) to complete an online Questionnaire. The Questionnaire can be access at the following link:



<https://forms.office.com/e/YYQnTK7fif>

We appreciate that some of the information being sought goes back to events that happened a number of years ago. However, we would urge members to complete the Questionnaire as best they can.

As well as completing the Questionnaire, if you still have copies of any documentation related to the transfer of your pension to, or your subsequent membership of, one of the Schemes, can this be provided also (if you haven't already done so).

This documentation may include any marketing material and/or correspondence you might have received from the time you were advised, or decided to, transfer your benefits to one of the Schemes, including e-mails and/or telephone notes. In particular we are interested in what members were told about the Schemes' investments, what level of return might be expected, whether the investments were high or low risk and whether members were offered any form of incentive (e.g. a cash payment) to join.

Documentation can be e-mailed or sent by post. If you don't have copies but think Police Scotland might have the information, can you authorise them to release it to us.

Contact details (e-mail and postal address) for Dalriada are shown at the end of this Announcement. Police Scotland can be contacted as follows:

OperationDivulge@scotland.pnn.police.uk

If posting your documents, please state your name and the name of your Scheme in a covering response.

Bank accounts

The Schemes operated several different bank accounts, with a number of the Schemes operating up to three separate accounts. Dalriada has written to all of the banks and has received some of the relevant bank statements. However, Dalriada has still not had a response from some banks.

Ultimately Dalriada will attempt to conduct a full reconciliation of the bank statements to account for monies entering and leaving the accounts. Principally this will focus on members' transfers-in to the Schemes from previous pension arrangements, the outward investment payments and any payments made to members.

Member Announcement

As above, when providing any information or documentation, it would be really helpful if members could provide any financial information relating to their transfer(s)-in to, and any subsequent payment(s) from, the Schemes (for example amount(s) transferred-in, details of the scheme or arrangement the transfer was from, date(s) the transfer(s) took place and same in respect of any payment(s) members may have received). Indeed, if members received any payments as a result of joining the Schemes, but not necessarily directly from the Schemes themselves, that information is also useful.

Investments

Dalriada understands that the main company responsible for investing members' funds was a company called Quantum Global Investments Ltd ("QGI Ltd"). QGI Ltd went into liquidation in August 2016, declaring losses of approximately £12.5 million.

QGI Ltd invested members' funds in primarily high-risk, unregulated foreign exchange (or 'forex') trading as well as non-forex investments. As far as we can establish, there were no returns from any of these investments and funds were lost.

Dalriada also understands that over half of the non-forex investments might have been 'member-led' investments, so where members might have appeared to have 'chosen' or, at least, had more say in where their funds should be invested. It would be very useful to understand if this was, indeed, the case and, if so, what members were told as to what investments were available and the nature of those investments, in particular whether they were high or low risk, what returns might have been expected and whether there were any specific terms and conditions. Again we would appreciate it if you could supply this information alongside any other material referred to earlier.

Whilst Dalriada is continuing to investigate and understand the investments made, obtaining cooperation from some of the entities involved (including the banks) is proving difficult. As commented earlier, it is our understanding that none of the investments have any value, however should we be successful in recovering any funds in the future, we will update members accordingly.

The Fraud Compensation Fund (FCF)

As commented above, ultimately the best chance of any significant recovery may be through claims on the FCF. The FCF is a fund, managed by the Board of the Pension Protection Fund, that provides compensation where schemes have suffered a financial loss as a result of fraud or dishonesty.

Dalriada is working closely with the FCF to ensure all requirements for an application are met, however it must be noted that the FCF is a compensation fund of last resort. This means the FCF will need to be satisfied that no further recoveries can be made, or else, that the costs and/or time likely to be incurred pursuing any recovery would outweigh any potential return.

Also, there are certain technical steps that need to be taken, and conditions that need to be met, before a scheme will be considered eligible to make a claim. The Schemes do not yet meet all of the FCF's pre-conditions for eligibility and, given that, we remain some way off submitting applications at this stage, but we will update members in due course, as matters progress.

We have added a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document on the Schemes' website which provides further information on the FCF which can be accessed via the following link –

<https://www.dalriadatrustees.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/FCF-FAQ.pdf>

You can also access this directly by visiting the FCF's website at www.fraudcompensationfund.co.uk.

What does this mean for members?

Given the issues set out above it is not yet possible to provide members with an indication as to what their benefits are worth. A number of factors directly affect the value of members' benefits, in particular the

Member Announcement

likelihood, or otherwise, of successful claims on the FCF and, if successful, the amount of any compensation that might be payable.

We would reiterate that the FCF is a compensation fund of last resort. We will therefore continue to work with the FCF on the extent to which other recovery actions should continue or what other options for recovery might be considered. If and when we are in a position to submit formal claim applications on the FCF we will do so, on behalf of all members collectively.

We will update members further as the situation progresses.

Data Privacy Notice

In its capacity as trustee, Dalriada handles personal information in compliance with data protection legislation. A copy of the Schemes' Data Privacy Notices can be found on the company's website - [Privacy policy - Dalriada Trustees](#)



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.

You can contact us as follows:

By Telephone: 028 9592 6105

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

By Email: QGAdmin@dalriadatrustees.co.uk

Member Website: <https://www.dalriadatrustees.co.uk/scheme/qg-pension-schemes/>

Other Useful contact details

If you have a complaint or dispute concerning your workplace or personal pension arrangements you should contact:

The Pensions Ombudsman Telephone: 0800 917 4487

Website: www.pensions-ombudsman.org.uk

If you have general requests for information or guidance concerning your pension arrangements contact the Money and Pension Service (MaPS).

Previously pensions guidance has been provided across the three consumer facing brands of MaPS: Pension Wise (PW), The Pensions Advisory Service (TPAS) and the Money Advice Service (MAS).

MaPS has now launched **MoneyHelper** where all retirement and pensions guidance has been brought together under one brand and one website: moneyhelper.org.uk.

Consumers can request an appointment by following the links, emailing virtual.appointments@maps.org.uk or by calling our the pensions helpline on 0800 011 3797.

These appointments are free and impartial.

The email address to the pensions guidance team for general pensions queries is pensions.enquiries@moneyhelper.org.uk

Issued by Dalriada Trustees Limited

October 2023