
Important Announcement to members and potential members of the United Members Pension Trust and Equitas Group Occupational Pension Scheme ("the Scheme")



Dalriada. A better way

Background

We are writing to you as we believe that you may have joined one or both of the above-named pension schemes and transferred in pension benefits from a previous arrangement.

Dalriada Trustees Limited ("Dalriada") has been appointed as Independent Trustee with exclusive powers to the Scheme, by Order of The Pensions Regulator, effective from 27 February 2023.

The Pensions Regulator (TPR) is a statutory body which is responsible for the regulation of work-based pension schemes (occupational 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.

TPR made a request provided for by section 97 of the Pensions Act 2004 to the Determinations Panel to consider a Special Procedure Request for the appointment of an independent trustee, Dalriada Trustees Ltd, under sections 7 and 8 of the Pensions Act 1995 and for a vesting Order under section 9 of the Pensions Act 1995.

The Determinations Panel (DP) is a committee of TPR. It operates separately from other parts of the organisation, including TPR's case teams. The DP has a separately appointed membership and legal support. This enables it to make independent and impartial decisions.

More information can be found on TPR's website www.thepensionsregulator.gov.uk

All trustee powers and rights are now held by Dalriada.

Member Announcement

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:

- To secure that the trustees as a whole have, or exercise, the necessary knowledge and skill for the proper administration of schemes
- To secure that the number of trustees is sufficient for the proper administration of schemes
- To secure the proper use or application of the assets of schemes
- To 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. We currently act as independent trustee to a number of schemes where we have been appointed by TPR. Dalriada has considerable knowledge and experience in all aspects of pension scheme management.

Our role as independent trustee is as follows:

- To administer the Scheme
- To manage the assets of the Scheme 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 Scheme

It is not appropriate for Dalriada to comment in any detail at this stage in relation to TPR's decision to look to appoint an independent trustee.

What does this mean for you?

Until further notice:

- No further contributions or transfers in will be accepted into the Scheme
- No payments will be made to, or in respect of, any members of the Scheme

These steps are necessary whilst Dalriada looks to obtain all relevant information on the assets and liabilities of the Scheme and to clarify the basis on which the Scheme should be administered and managed.

If you are in the process of transferring to the Scheme we recommend that you contact your existing pension administrator or provider and inform them that transfers into the Scheme should not be made, and instruct them to take no further action in relation to your proposed transfer. You should note that it is possible that some transfers in course of payment may proceed and we will be unable to reverse the transaction if the money is credited to Scheme bank accounts.

If you are expecting to receive a payment, this will **not** come from the Scheme and Dalriada will not be making any payments.

Member Announcement

What can I do to help?

We have received limited member information in respect of the Scheme and are now in a position to contact members by way of this Announcement.

Dalriada is undertaking a detailed analysis of all the information it has obtained and will update members further once we are in a position to do so. However, it would help Dalriada if members complete and return the enclosed questionnaire, giving some more information about their membership.

Finally, we would be grateful if you could supply copies of all correspondence or other communications which you may have received in relation to your membership of the Scheme.

Data Privacy Notice

Dalriada has prepared a statement which sets out how, in its capacity as Trustee, it handles personal information in compliance with Data Protection Legislation.

A copy of the Data Privacy Notice can be found via the link below:

https://www.dalriadatrustees.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Data-Privacy-Notice_.pdf

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 Scheme, please contact us.

You can contact us as follows:

By Telephone: 028 9085 0934

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

By Email: umptandequitas@dalriadatrustees.co.uk

Issued by Dalriada Trustees Limited July 2023

Member Questionnaire

Scheme:	United Members Pension Trust and Equitas Group Occupational Pension Scheme
How did you first hear about the Scheme?	
Please provide details of the company or individual you spoke with originally.	
How was contact regarding the transfer initiated e.g., did you receive a phone call, answer an advert, or go online and find contact details?	
How did the company/individual describe the Scheme to you?	
Did they offer alternatives to joining the Scheme?	
What service did the company offer you e.g., a pension review?	

What was it about the Scheme which influenced your decision to transfer?

Were you ever offered any cash payment to join the Scheme e.g., a pension commencement lump sum or some other cash payment?

If so, by whom?

Did you ever receive a cash payment for joining the Scheme?

If so, please provide details of the payment including the amount paid and details of who made the payment.

Were you informed of how your funds would be invested?

If so, what investments were you made aware of and by whom?

Did you select how your funds would be invested i.e.; did you make a specific choice from a variety of investment options?

Did anyone ask you what your attitude to investment risk was?

If so, please provide details of who asked you and your response.

Did you receive a loan from the Scheme or from any Company connected with the Scheme?	
If yes, how much and what were the terms of the loan?	
If you received a loan, were you told where this was coming from or that it was explicitly linked to the pension scheme?	
Do you have any documentation telling you this information or any payment reference?	
Have you received an unauthorised payment charge from HMRC?	

Signed:

Name (BLOCK CAPITALS):

Date:

National Insurance No:

Scheme: