



Edition 3 – July 2020

Welcome to the Summer edition of the National LGPS Frameworks News Bulletin 'by the LGPS, for the LGPS'

We hope you are all keeping safe and well during what is a very different set of circumstances for everyone. The Frameworks team are following government advice and are working from home, but we are maintaining business as usual for all our current Frameworks work, including accessing Frameworks and documentation, enquiries and Management Information requests.

With regards to the re-lets that were planned for this year, we have taken procurement and legal advice on a Framework-by-Framework basis and are extending for twelve months the following Frameworks: Actuarial, Benefits and Governance Consultancy Services; Stewardship Advisory Services; and Third Party Administration Services. If you have any questions, please get in touch with us.

● Pensions Administration Software Framework Launches!

We are very pleased to announce that the Pensions Administration Software Framework launched successfully on Monday 27 April. This Framework is already proving very popular with several funds having joined and a number of call-offs taking place.



We would like to thank the 11 Founding Authorities who worked with us on this Framework: Cheshire Pension Fund, Clwyd Pension Fund, Essex Pension Fund, Greater Manchester Pension Fund, Merseyside Pension Fund, Norfolk Pension Fund, Northern Ireland Local Government Officers Superannuation Committee (NILGOSC), South Yorkshire Pensions Authority, Tyne and Wear Pension Fund, West Midlands Pension Fund, and West Yorkshire Pension Fund, together with specialist support from Aon and Squire Patton Boggs.

This Framework enables easy and efficient access to specialist providers who are best placed to deliver Pensions Administration Software and related services to support the LGPS (and wider public services schemes). Three service providers were appointed to the Framework: Aquila Heywood Ltd.; Civica UK Ltd.; and Equiniti.

Users can join for £8,000, which gives access to the benefits of using a National LGPS Frameworks including pre-agreed Terms and Conditions, a full set of supporting documentation, and the removal of the need to run a full OJEU procurement process.

If you would like more information on this Framework, please click [here](#) or get in touch using the contact details at the bottom of this bulletin.

● Actuarial, Benefits & Governance Consultancy Services Framework – Extended to 30 June 2021

Due to the unprecedented situation regarding Covid-19, it was decided by the Founders that it would be difficult to progress the re-let of the Actuarial, Benefits & Governance Consultancy Services Framework to the current timescales. We have, therefore, agreed with providers to extend this Framework by 12 months. The new expiry date for this Framework is 30th June 2021. Any contract entered into before this date will be permitted to extend to 30th June 2027 at the latest.



In addition to this extension, Authorities using the Framework should note minor changes to the Pricing Schedules and Supplier Catalogues found at Appendix 7 and Appendix 8 respectively of the Framework documentation, accessible through the Document Portal. These are effective as of 1st July 2020.

Please be assured that our intention remains to re-let the Actuarial, Benefits and Governance Consultancy Services Framework and we will be working with Founders to design, develop and launch this new Framework in July 2021.

● Global Custody Services Framework – re-let planned for Feb/Mar 2021

The Global Custody Services Framework expired in April 2019 and we are working with the nine Founding Authorities (Cambridgeshire Pension Fund, Essex Pension Fund, Hampshire Pension Fund, Hertfordshire Pension Fund, Lothian Pension Fund, Norfolk Pension Fund, Northamptonshire Pension Fund, Suffolk Pension Fund, and West Midlands Pension Fund) to re-let an updated Global Custody Services Framework in Feb/Mar 2021.



We have engaged Mercer Sentinel Group to be our technical advisor and Squire Patton Boggs (UK) LLP to be our specialist legal advisor for this project.

Market Engagement Events took place in July. These events were a key part of the Framework development as we were able to share our ideas on the structure and requirements of a Framework with interested Providers, whilst gaining an understanding of their development plans. Interested Providers have submitted constructive feedback on the statement of requirements and the proposed T&Cs which will help us to develop the tender documentation and will also help us make the Framework as easy to use as possible.

We are currently working towards launching this Framework in Feb/Mar 2021 for LGPS Funds and Pools to use together with other interested public services such as the Pension Protection Fund.

Thanks to all the Founders who are giving up so much of their time to help us set up this Framework.

● Looking Forward – Framework Extensions & Re-Lets (2020/21)

Because of the exceptional circumstances presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, we have been reviewing those National LGPS Frameworks which are due to expire in 2020 and 2021. After reviewing the Procurement Policy Note issued by the Cabinet Office in March 2020 and having taken procurement and legal advice, we are progressing with the following twelve month extensions:

Stewardship Advisory Services Frameworks (extend to 31 October 2021)
Third Party Administration Services (extend to 31 December 2021)

We are also reviewing the following which are due to expire in 2021:

Investment Management Performance and Cost Monitoring and Reporting Services Framework (currently due to expire 31 March 2021)
Passive Investment Management Services Framework (currently due to expire 31 March 2021)



We will keep you updated once we have confirmation of the extension decisions.

What's new... Documentation redesign

Covid-19 Working Arrangements

We have recently undertaken a redesign on the Guidance Notes document we provide to support the use of a Framework. The new style significantly cuts down on the length of the document, providing all of the important information on the Frameworks in a more easily accessible format.



The National LGPS Frameworks team have been working from home since March, and are maintaining business as usual for all current Frameworks work including administration to access and use the Frameworks and enquiries from both users and providers.

Norfolk County Council as the host of the National LGPS Frameworks have rolled out soft telephony through Microsoft Teams, meaning that we are able to access our telephone numbers through our laptops. If you would like to speak to a member of the team about any issue please do not hesitate to give us a call.

If you have any questions about this please feel free to ask. We will also publish updates from time to time in the news section on our website which can be found [here](#).

This redesign is currently available for Guidance Notes on the Pensions Administration Software Framework and will be used for all future Frameworks. If you would like to see this document along with the full set of supporting documentation for this Framework [click here](#).

We'd welcome your feedback on this new design to help us improve our documentation.

Management Information

2020 UK National GO Procurement Awards

The National LGPS Frameworks are a not-for-profit, self-funding programme. Our running costs are funded through joiner's fees and management fee rebates which are based on the overall contracts let through each Framework.

We are delighted to have been nominated yet again as finalists for Team of the Year at the 2020 UK National GO Awards.



The awards are the UK's leading public procurement excellence awards, showing the importance and benefits of procurement for Government, the NHS, business and the UK public.

This is the second year running that the National LGPS Frameworks have been nominated as finalist. Sadly, we didn't win but it is great to get the recognition for fantastic collaboration and achievements across the LGPS. Thank you to everyone.

On 1 April the team sent hundreds of emails to all of the providers across every National LGPS Framework to collect Management Information for the 1 January-30 March 2020 period. We have also been writing out to Framework users to confirm that the Management Information is correct. Thank you to those of you have been assisting with this.

We will use this to finalise our end of year figures including any cumulative rebate due back to Framework users.

Hints and tips...

New recruits...

Many of you will have already signed confidentiality statements to access the documents for the National LGPS Frameworks via the Document Portal on our website.



Since the previous issue of the National LGPS Framework News Bulletin in December we are delighted to say that we have had a baby and recruited two new members of the team!



Katie Willson had a lovely baby boy called Harry in February.

Louise Reeves joined in January as the National LGPS Frameworks Support Officer to cover while Katie is away on maternity leave.

Matt Jefford joined in December 2019 as a National LGPS Frameworks Assistant Officer having previously worked at the University of East Anglia.

Please join us in giving them a warm welcome to the team!

However, did you know that these confidentiality statements cover your whole organisation, not just the individual signing the document?

This means that if you have multiple team members working on a call-off from one of the Frameworks they can all have individual accounts on the Document Portal without having to sign their own confidentiality statements. You'll always be able to access the full set of documents, templates and guides for the relevant Framework.

If you would like access to the Document Portal for yourself or a team member please email nationallgpsframeworks@norfolk.gov.uk or call 01603 638165.

The Team

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Want to find out more?

If you would like to find out more about the Frameworks mentioned above, or any other National LGPS Frameworks please visit <https://www.nationallgpsframeworks.org/> or contact us on the details below.

We also have a news section on our website where you can easily keep up to date with news articles we publish, along with the entire back catalogue of National LGPS Frameworks news bulletins!

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