

Pensions in HE: Key dates and potential 'flashpoints'

Key dates

2009:

- Nov/Dec Sir Andrew Cubie (Chair of the USS JNC and JRG) addresses stakeholders (UCU, UUK and USS institutions) to update on recent progress
- December Letters circulated to all Heads of Institution/ Chairs of Council updating on the progress of the USS Review, providing an overview of the USS Review process and the related challenges.
- December Pre-Budget statement. Chancellor's statement: "The Public pensions need to be broadly in line with those offered in the private sector. So by 2012 contributions by the state to public service pensions for teachers, local government, NHS and the Civil Service will be capped – saving around £1bn a year."

2010:

- Spring General Election

USS (Universities Superannuation Scheme)

- January Statement from JRG expected sent to HEIs
- Spring USS Update on Expansion Policy – these are the terms that USS applies as the entry criteria for any external scheme, such as a SAT, that would look to transfer into USS
- April JRG completes discussions on proposals for USS scheme changes
- May – July Consultation period with USS members – detailed guidance on the consultation exercise will be provided early in 2010
- October Start of implementation of agreed changes

LGPS (Local Government Pension Scheme)

- March Valuation of the English and Welsh Scheme in March 2010, with the results expected to follow in January 2011. The valuation of the Scottish scheme is due in March 2011, with the results expected in January 2012.
- May – June Consultation with key stakeholders (employers and unions) on proposed changes to the scheme in order to deal with some of the funding issues. The full range of the consultation exercise is still being determined
- June Newly elected Government expected to either announce proposals on the 'capping of the employers' contributions to Public Sector pensions' or putting forward more radical reforms

TPS (Teachers' Pensions Scheme)

- June Newly elected Government expected to either announce proposals on the 'capping of the employers contributions to Public Sector pensions' or putting forward more radical reforms
- November Announcement of review/2008 formal valuation assessment
Formal results (two years behind)

SATS (Self Administered Trusts)

- March Valuation results

Potential 2010 'flashpoints' of concern to HEIs and the sector

- January JRG statement
- January Possible launch of joint HE/FE union campaign beginning on 25 January
- February Hols' Pay story in THE and wider media, with anticipated TU comments
- Spring UCU ballot on USS changes
- Spring 2010/11 HE pay negotiations begin