

## **Trustee statement on its position in respect of requests to process “buddy” transfers**

The Trustee board confirmed at its September 2017 meeting that it would continue with the Scheme practice of not facilitating “buddy” transfers.

In reaching its conclusion the Trustee board took appropriate account of legal advice it had received. Specifically that there is no legal obligation on schemes to facilitate “buddy” transfers. A recent decision of the Pensions Ombudsman with regard to another pension scheme confirms this position.

Effecting a block transfer is not simple and places significant additional requirements on the transferring scheme. In the present circumstances, the Trustee takes the view that making the significant changes to systems and processes that would be required to enable buddy transfers, and taking account of the volume of transfer requests that the Scheme is having to process, cannot be justified and would be to the detriment of members generally.

Where individual scheme members exercise their statutory rights to cash equivalent transfer payments, the duty of the Trustee is to give effect to the statutory transfer rights in accordance with statutory requirements. The Trustee will continue to focus on ensuring it efficiently carries out this statutory obligation for those members who decide that a transfer of Scheme benefits best suits their individual circumstances.

18 September 2017