



VIEW FROM THE AMNT

As a pension trustee, the greatest responsibility – which overrides all others – is to ensure funds exist to meet liabilities when due.

The Pensions Regulator states: “To be able to meet those liabilities when they fall due, trustees need to monitor the funding level of the scheme, manage the scheme’s existing investments, and invest any new contributions they receive.”

Most schemes are reliant on investment returns to grow the contributions to meet this requirement and there is no transparent, credible or reliable investment service for trustees to use.

The investment industry seems to say: “We propose to deliver index+n per cent returns over many years but you will pay even if we fail to deliver these returns.”

In our own lives we expect service providers to offer some form of contractual compensation. One commonly used consumer device is a guarantee to provide a formal assurance that certain conditions will be fulfilled.

Sponsors struggle to meet the increasing contribution demands to adequately fund their schemes, but the financial services sector appears not to be prepared to share this responsibility in volatile investment climates, leaving all the burden of risk with the trustees.

Until trustees can rely on investment service providers, they will be unable to satisfy their primary obligation to scheme members that the funds exist, and will continue to exist, to meet their liabilities when they are due.

Written by Peter Lewis and Steve Seymour, former member-nominated trustees of the Oracle UK Pension Plan, writing in a personal capacity



Association of Member Nominated Trustees

ABI clarifies position on multiple pensions dashboard

Following industry shock that there will be multiple pensions dashboards, the ABI has explained how the technology will work



The Association of British Insurers has responded to industry reaction on multiple pensions dashboards by confirming that this was the plan all along.

Following considerable surprise towards the mention of multiple dashboards, the ABI has clarified what the dashboard will involve. Rather than one singular platform, the initiative will provide a single technology system that could eventually be adopted by multiple branches of the pensions and financial sector.

Audience members at a Pensions and Lifetime Savings Association Dashboards and Disclosure seminar were shocked by the revelation by ABI head of retirement Rob Yuille that there will be more than one pensions dashboard when it is launched in 2019.

Audience debate that followed brought light to common concerns involving the possibility of different dashboards creating greater confusion for members and a potential short-term commercial aim that comes with multiple dashboards. In addition, it was highlighted that over 50 per cent of PLSA scheme members said that they would prefer a single dashboard.

Also responding, Cheviot Trust CEO Ellie McKinnon said: “With multiple dashboards, problems may simply multiply.”

Therefore, in response, ABI director of long-term savings and protection policy Yvonne Braun told *Pensions Age*: “The pension dashboard prototype project is about demonstrating conclusively that it is possible to gather all of a person’s pension entitlements in one place of that person’s choosing. It was never the purpose of the project to create a single dashboard.”

As stated by Economic Secretary Simon Kirby in September 2016: “No single dashboard can meet the needs of millions of people who all have very different individual circumstances. There is definitely no government website that could do that either.”

Instead, it is important for people to understand that the aim of the dashboard project is to construct the architecture or “the plumbing required to verify a consumer’s identity and then find and retrieve all their pension information” from various schemes and the state pensions, Braun explained.

The dashboard will operate like a “common language”, a system for collating and sharing pension information.

Where the multiple dashboards concept comes into play refers to future developments whereby some banks or IFAs, for example, may want to take on the dashboard system as part of their offering.

“This dashboard technology, working behind the scenes, can power a wide range of dashboards to suit people’s circumstances and preferences and to allow innovation... this will allow people to access their information via a trusted source of their choosing,” Braun added.

Written by Talya Misiri