

Isle of Man Public Sector Pensions Administration (Fees Order) 2021.

Response of the Association of School and College Leaders

1. The Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL) represents more than 21,000 education system leaders, heads, principals, deputies, vice-principals, assistant heads, business managers and other senior staff of state-funded and independent schools and colleges throughout the UK. ASCL members are responsible for the education of more than four million young people in more than 90 per cent of the secondary and tertiary phases, and in an increasing proportion of the primary phase. This places the association in a strong position to consider this issue from the viewpoint of the leaders of schools and colleges of all types.
2. ASCL welcomes the opportunity to make a written response to the proposals on raising administrative fees for defined requested aspects of pension administration.
3. This response relates to the Isle of Man Public Sector Pension Authority (PSPA), specifically relating to the schemes to which ASCL members on the Isle of Man belong.
4. **ASCL is concerned about the increase in cost to provide key financial information to members with regards to their own pension. These proposed increases to the administration costs for providing ad-hoc, multiple estimates for pension and transfer values, and, for the administration of pension sharing and earmarking court orders represent a further financial burden in often unavoidable situations.**
5. ASCL appreciates that the costs for these services, as set out in the Schedule of the Public Sector Pensions Administration (Fees) Order 2014 have not been increased since 2014.
6. Whilst overall increases of 10% and over for the provision matters relating to CETVs, statements of entitlement and benefits estimates are reasonable over time, these are being introduced as one cliff edge.
7. ASCL is particularly concerned with the 86% increase in the cost of the administration of pension sharing and earmarking orders (in cases of Divorce or Civil Partnership Dissolution). This increase of well over £1k, will impact our members at a particularly vulnerable time both in terms of financial and emotional wellbeing. We would ask that the PSPA reconsider this excessive levy.
8. We hope that this is of value to your consultation, ASCL is willing to be further consulted and to assist in any way that it can.

Jacques Szemalikowski
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Association of School and College Leaders
14 July 2021