Your World First



TPR Powers – Observations on the current and future position

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If The Pensions Regulator is frightened of landing the whale, I suppose going after the sprat is the next best thing



TPR's main statutory objectives – an impossible balancing act?

- 1. To protect scheme benefits
- 2. To "reduce the risk of situations arising which may lead to compensation being payable from the Pension Protection Fund"
- 3. To promote, and to improve understanding of, the good administration of schemes
- 4. For statutory funding only, "to minimise any adverse impact on the sustainable growth of an employer"

"I know that the power that excites more than any other is the Section 231 Power"



Scheme funding

- S.231 PA04 where a failure to agree valuation matters (where no trustee unilateral funding power)
- The power of uncertainty?
- Potential fines for trustees who "fail to take all reasonable steps to secure compliance" with valuation matters
- Improvement notices
- The gap between Technical Provisions and Buy-out solvency
- The trapped surplus problem



Section 72 PA04

TPR may (subject to privilege/'protected information') demand any document or any other information relevant to the exercise of its functions from:

- trustees
- professional advisers
- scheme employer
- any other person appearing to TPR to be a person who holds, or is likely to hold, information relevant to the exercise of its functions



New TPR Powers – "We're coming for you"

New Criminal offences

Wilful and reckless behaviour in relation to a pension scheme – custodial sentence of 7 years Failure to comply with a Contribution notice (CN) issued by TPR – unlimited fine.

'Early warning' system – notifiable events regime extended

- New notifiable events = business/asset sales, granting security
- Declaration of Intent

Tougher civil penalties TPR power to issue civil penalties of up to a maximum of £1m for 'serious breaches' (e.g. failure to comply with notifiable events framework).

Moral hazard powers Most significant changes in a decade Streamlining FSD/FSN process

'Insufficiently resourced' test → new 'schemefocused' test. Increased emphasis on information gathering Extension of interview and premises inspection powers.

Wider application of fixed and escalating penalties.





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