From the Chair

Charles Counsell
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The Pensions Regulator
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Dear Charles,

Huge thanks for giving evidence to the Work and Pensions Committee last week.

During evidence you promised to write to let us know:

- The date the Railways Pension Scheme was first put on TPR's watch list.
- The number of fines issued for DC scheme annual statements not meeting the set requirements.

You also told the Committee that, during the early period of TPR's engagement with Carillion (2011 to 2014), there was “a lot of pressure” on TPR to “take into account the health of the sponsoring employer.” You described pressure coming from both the Treasury and the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) to take this general point of view before it was formally set as a TPR objective in 2014. Please might you outline:

- What were the roles of HM Treasury, the CBI and TPR officials in setting the 2014 objective?
- Did TPR's actions change as a result of the objective and does this, in your view, create a conflict of interest for the regulator?
- Were TPR's actions influenced prior to the objective being set by lobbying from the CBI and/or HM Treasury?
I also gave the Committee evidence on pension scams. I would be grateful if you could give further context to this discussion by providing information on the scale of TPR’s involvement in pension scams and their prosecutions.

With best wishes and I look forward to hearing from you,

Rt Hon Frank Field MP
Chair