

To: Chief Executives
Human Resources
Pension Contacts

Circular 01/2024

05/01/2024

At: All Employing Authorities

Dear Colleagues,

NILGOSC Review

NILGOSC is formally constituted as a Non-Department Public Body/Arm's-Length Body. Our parent Department, the Department for Communities, is currently assessing a number of its arm's-length bodies and has commenced a review of NILGOSC to consider how well we are delivering our functions and if there is any scope for improvement.

The Department has appointed Hazel Hobbs, former civil servant in the UK Department for Work and Pensions to lead the independent review of NILGOSC between now and March 2024.

The key areas for the review are:

- Governance – having people, systems and processes in place to ensure the organisation is managed responsibly;
- Accountability – being open and transparent in decision-making and service delivery on behalf of scheme members, employers, and the taxpayer;
- Efficiency and effectiveness – delivering cost efficient services and managing investment funds in the best way to deliver its objectives;
- Relationships - between NILGOSC and its key stakeholders, including the Department for Communities;
- Any good practice or alternative ways of delivering the services provided by NILGOSC, for example by looking at other public sector pension schemes.

The review is not considering pensions entitlement rules, or the legislative framework.

The Reviewer believes that it is really important to get a wide range of evidence and perspectives on what is going well, any areas for improvement and any significant risks or challenges. The focus is forward looking, not an audit of the past.

To that end the Reviewer will be meeting with a range of stakeholders and is also keen to be able to provide an opportunity for all scheme employers to make their views known. The Department has launched an on-line survey to allow scheme employers and members to share their thoughts and suggestions.

The survey runs from 6 January to 16 February 2024, and I would like to encourage you to complete it - it's short and should take no more than 10 minutes.

It can be completed by clicking on the link below:-

<https://consultations.nidirect.gov.uk/dfc/22321233>

No individual opinions or names will be attributed. The aim is to gather as much evidence as possible in order to generate a balanced report with useful recommendations.

Yours sincerely

David Murphy

Chief Executive and Secretary