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Synopsis of Responses and Departmental Response to the  
consultation on draft The Local Government Pension  
Scheme (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2024

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## **SYNOPSIS OF RESPONSES AND DEPARTMENTAL RESPONSE TO THE CONSULTATION ON DRAFT LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2024**

### **Background**

1. The Department for Communities (DfC) is the responsible authority for the Local Government Pension Scheme (Northern Ireland) (LGPS (NI)) under the Public Service Pensions Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 (2014 c.2).
2. The LGPS (NI) is a funded pension scheme administered by the Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Superannuation Committee (NILGOSC), a non-departmental public body established in April 1950 to operate a pension scheme for district councils and other admitted bodies in Northern Ireland. The LGPS (NI) is funded by contributions from employers (who have been designated as employing authorities or admitted to the scheme) and their employees. The LGPS (NI) is provided for in a number of statutory rules (as amended), referred to as the LGPS (NI) Regulations.
3. It is DfC's responsibility to update the legislative framework for the LGPS (NI), taking account of developments in broader public sector pension policy.
4. DfC conducted a short, limited consultation on technical matters related to the implementation of the McCloud Remedy from 18 July to 2 August 2024.
5. The consultation sought stakeholders' views on the proposal to disapply the relevant legislative provisions which require details of the McCloud Remedy to be included in Annual Benefit Statements (ABSs) for 2023/24 and potentially 2024/25.



6. The Scheme Advisory Board is responsible for providing advice to the Minister for Communities on making changes to Scheme Regulations. The Scheme Advisory Board is Chaired by a Senior official of the Department and includes 4 members representative of LGPS (NI) employers, 4 members representative of employees, nominated by the Northern Ireland Committee of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions and 2 advisors from NILGOSC. NILGOSC is the scheme manager and is responsible for the day-to-day administration of the scheme. DfC consulted with the Scheme Advisory Board and NILGOSC on the proposed changes.
7. DfC received a total of 2 responses. The breakdown was as follows.

<b>NUMBER</b>	<b>CATEGORY</b>
1	Scheme Manager
1	Employer

8. Based on the comments received, all respondents support the proposed changes to the Regulations. A breakdown of the responses is given below.

### **Summary of the proposed amendments**

9. The proposed amendments will disapply the legislative requirements for the Scheme manager to provide details of the McCloud Remedy to be included in Annual Benefit Statements for 2023/24 and potentially 2024/25.
10. The proposed amendments also included one minor technical amendment to correct an earlier drafting error.

### **Comments received in support of the proposed amendments.**

11. Both responses were supportive of the proposed amendments. The Scheme manager was supportive of the proposed amendments in the draft Regulations.



They suggested some minor amendments to the drafting of the regulations but these did not affect the policy intent.

12. Feedback was also requested on the need for guidance to set out the circumstances under which the scheme manager may exercise the discretion to determine that the requirement to include the McCloud Remedy in 2024/25 ABSs should not apply for a member or group of members.
13. No feedback was received; therefore, it has been determined that guidance is not required.

#### **Departmental Response**

14. **The Department welcomes the comments from respondents to the proposed amendments to the LGPS (NI) Regulations. Both respondents were supportive of the proposed changes and no objections were raised to the policy intent in the draft Regulations.**
15. **No comments were received on the need for guidance setting out the circumstances under which the scheme manager may exercise the discretion under Regulation 2(4) to determine that the requirement to include the McCloud Remedy in 2024/25 ABSs would not apply to a member or group of members. It is therefore considered that no guidance is required.**
16. **The Department will make these Regulations as soon as possible.**