Code of practice no.14 compliance statement

Section	Sub-section	Legal requirement	TPR's guidance	How we Comply
Governing your scheme	Knowledge and understanding required by pension board members [34 – 60]	A member of the pension board of a public service pension scheme must be conversant with: • the rules of the scheme, and • any document recording policy about the administration of the scheme which is for the time being adopted in relation to the scheme. A member of a pension board must have knowledge and understanding of: • the law relating to pensions, and • any other matters which are prescribed in regulations.	 (1) Schemes should establish and maintain policies and arrangements for acquiring and retaining knowledge and understanding [38]. (2) Schemes should designate a person to take responsibility for (1) [38]. (3) Schemes should prepare and keep an updated list of documents with which they consider pension board members need to be conversant [46] (4) Clear guidance on the roles and responsibilities and duties of boards and its members should be set out in scheme documentation [47]. (5) Schemes should assist pension board members to determine the degree of knowledge and understanding needed [48]. (6) Schemes should provide board members with the relevant training and support that they require [55]. (7) Schemes should offer preappointment training or arrange for mentoring by existing board members [56]. (8) Pension board members should be flexible [58]. (10) Schemes should keep appropriate records of the learning activities of board members [60]. 	 The Fund's existing training policy has been amended to reflect the requirements for Knowledge and Understanding. The Head of Fund is responsible for all training matters. Terms of Reference for the Pension Board specify roles and responsibilities and these are documented accordingly. Board members have been introduced to the new CIPFA Knowledge and Skills Framework for Local Pension Boards, published in July

Conflicts of	In relation to the pension board,	(1)	The 'Seven principles of public life'	The Local Pension Board has been
interest and	scheme regulations must include		should be applied to all board	established having had regard to the
representation	provision requiring the scheme		members [70].	requirements set out in legislation and
[61 – 91].	manager to be satisfied:	(2)	Schemes should incorporate these	guidance.
	that a person to be appointed as a		principles into any codes of conduct	
	member of the pension board does not		(and across their policies and	
	have a conflict of interest and		processes) and other internal	
	• from time to time, that none of the		standards for boards [70].	
	members of the pension board has a	(3)	Take professional legal advice when	All Board Members have completed a Register
	conflict of interest.		considering issues to do with conflict	of Interests declaration having had regard to
			of interests [74].	
	Scheme regulations must require each	(4)	Schemes should ensure that there is	the Board's Code of Conduct and Conflict of
	member or proposed member of a		an agreed and documented conflicts	Interests Policy, which was approved in
	pension board to provide the scheme		policy and procedure which should be	October 2015.
	manager with such information as the	(5)	kept under regular review [76]. Schemes should cultivate a culture of	
	scheme manager reasonably requires for the purposes of meeting the	(5)	openness and transparency [78].	
	requirements referred to above.	(6)	Board members should have a clear	
	requirements referred to above.	(0)	understanding of their role and the	
	Scheme regulations must include		circumstances in which they may find	The agenda for each Board meeting includes a
	provision requiring the pension board to		themselves in a position of conflict of	declaration of pecuniary and non-pecuniary
	include employer representatives and		interest [78].	interests in relation to matters under
	member representatives in equal	(7)	Board members should know how to	consideration on that agenda. Any such
	numbers.	(,,)	manage potential conflicts [78].	declarations are minuted.
	numbers.	(8)	Pension board members should be	
		(0)	appointed under procedures that	
			require them to disclose any interests	
			or responsibilities which could	
			become conflicts of interest [80].	
		(9)	All terms of engagement should	Registers of Interest will be reviewed on an
		(-)	include a clause requiring disclosure	annual basis and all Board Members received
			of all interests and responsibilities	training at an induction session prior to the first
			which could become conflicts of	meeting of the Board. Advice on potential
			interest as soon as they arise [81].	conflicts can be sought from Democratic
		(10) All disclosed interests should be	Services officers at any time.
			recorded [81].	
		(11) Schemes should consider what	
		Ì	important matters or decisions are	
			likely to be considered during, for	
			example, the year ahead and identify	
			and consider any potential or actual	
			conflicts [82].	

(12) Identify, evaluate and manage dual interests [83]. (13) Use a register of interests to record and monitor dual interests [84]. (14) Capture decisions about how to manage potential conflicts of interest in their risk register or elsewhere [84]. (15) The register of interest and other relevant documents should be circulated to the board for ongoing review [84]. (16) The register of interest and other relevant documents should be published [84]. (17) Conflicts of interest should be included as an opening agenda item at board meetings and revisited during the meeting where necessary [85]. (18) Establish and operate procedures which ensure that boards are not compromised by potentially conflicted members [86]. (19) Be open and transparent about the way they manage potential conflicts of interest [87]. (20) Seek professional legal advice when assessing any option when seeking to manage a potential conflict of interest [88]. The Board comprises representation from (21) Membership of boards should be employers and members. All member designed with regard to representatives have a pensions background, proportionality, fairness and and employer representatives are fully transparency and with the aim of conversant with LGPS issues. ensuring that the board has the right balance of skills, experience and representation [91]. (1) Schemes should also publish useful Publishing The scheme manager for a public The Fund has a dedicated web page that information service scheme must publish related information about the pension includes details such as: about information about the pension board for board such as set out in 96 and 97. the scheme(s) and keep that schemes Board membership ; ٠ [92 – 99] information up-to-date. Board terms of reference:

		The information must include: • who the members of the pension board are • representation on the board of members of the scheme(s), and • the matters falling within the pension board's responsibility.	(2)	Have policies and processes to monitor all published data on an ongoing basis to ensure it is accurate and complete [98].	 A link to the Lancashire County Council website detailing agendas and minutes of the Board's meetings The Fund publishes all statutory documents on the Your Pension Service website Your Pension Service The website is reviewed at least annually and updated accordingly, as are other media such as leaflets/guides etc. Additionally whenever regulatory or other significant changes occur, relevant media/documentation are reviewed and changed at the time.
000	nternal controls 101 – 120]	The scheme manager of a public service pension scheme must establish and operate internal controls. These must be adequate for the purpose of securing that the scheme is administered and managed in accordance with the scheme rules and in accordance with the requirements of the law.	(2) (3) <u>Identifyi</u> (4)	Internal controls should include a clear separation of duties, processes for escalation and decision making and documented procedures for assessing and managing risks, reviewing breaches of law and managing contributions to the scheme [103]. Internal controls should address significant risks which are likely to have a material impact on the scheme [105]. Sufficient time and attention should be spent on identifying, evaluating and managing risks and developing and monitoring appropriate controls [105]. Ing risks Schemes should carry out a risk assessment [106]. Schemes should record risks in a risk register and review it regularly [108].	Internal controls are designed to manage risks facing the fund. As such, the starting point for the fund's approach is the risk register. The risk register is a 'live' document which is reviewed regularly, at least every 6 months and is derived from best practice guidance developed by CIPFA and the DCLG. The risk register categorises risks into several primary areas and ascribes ownership of these risks. Each risk is scored, with 'gross' and 'net' risk scores indicating the scale of a risk before and after mitigation which has been put in place to manage it. Many risks cannot be controlled directly by the Fund, nor can the mitigation measures in place always affect the risk scoring, however as a dynamic document the register serves to track performance in managing risks and ensure a focus on changes in the risk landscape. A documented internal compliance regime reviews progress in managing risk and

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 (6) Schemes should keep appropriate records to demonstrate compliance [108]. Evaluate risks and develop internal controls (7) Prioritise risks where the impact and likelihood of the risk materialising is high [109]. (8) Review any existing internal controls [110]. (9) Design internal controls to mitigate main risks and consider how best to monitor them [111]. 	ensures that risk owners are accountable accordingly. Clearly, some risks are more significant than others and their relative scale drives the resource input devoted to such; for example the Investment panel and associated due diligence processes ensure a clear separation of duties and a documented decision-making mechanism. Similarly rigorous separation of duties apply to the pensions payroll function which controls around £250m of pension payments annually.
 Monitor controls effectively (10) Schemes should periodically review the adequacy of internal controls [115]. (11) Internal or external audits and/or quality assurance processes should ensure that adequate internal controls are in place and being operated effectively [116]. (12) Review internal controls when substantial changes take place or where a control has been found to be inadequate [116]. Suggested internal controls 	Controls are reviewed in a number of ways, such as lessons learned, internal and external audit and continuous improvement drivers. Significant reliance is placed upon both internal and external audits, which review and test existing controls – the fund enjoys very positive feedback from both audit functions and works closely in developing audit programmes, in particular drawing attention to new developments and associated system changes which, being new, can present new and untested risks.
 (13) Internal controls that regularly assess the effectiveness of investment- related decision making. (14) Internal controls that regularly assess the effectiveness of data management and record-keeping. (15) Internal controls that ensure that new employers understand what member data is required and how it should be supplied [112]. 	Detailed monitoring takes place monthly in respect of investment performance and associated governance/control issues. The fund manages enormous volumes of complex and dynamic data and as such commits significant resource to keeping data clean and up to date in a number of ways.

			 (16) Internal controls that require internal or external auditors to audit any automated systems [112]. (17) Internal controls to ensure that systems support the maintenance and retention of good member records [112]. (18) Internal controls that ensure that data are complete (e.g. undertake a datacleansing or member tracing exercise and review this on a regular basis (at least annually or at regular intervals that they consider appropriate) [112]. (19) Ensure that all staff completes information management training before they are given access to sensitive data. (20) Ensure that member communications are reviewed regularly [112] (21) Schemes should put in place systems and processes for making an objective assessment of the strength of an employer's covenant. Internal data cleansing regimes apply, but just as importantly, significant resource is dedicated to supporting employers to ensure they can comply with the fund's data requirements. It is not possible within this document to specify all areas of compliance with the Regulator's suggested internal control framework, however: Information governance training form part of induction and annual review; Member communications are reviewed regularly [112] (21) Schemes should put in place systems and processes for making an objective assessment of the strength of an employer's covenant.
Administration	Scheme record-keeping [122 – 146]	Scheme managers must keep records of information relating to: • member information • transactions, and • pension board meetings and decisions Schemes must ensure that processes that are created to manage scheme member data meet the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998 and the data protection principles.	 Schemes should be able to demonstrate to the regulator, where required, that they keep accurate, up- to-date and enduring records [124]. Schemes should establish and operate adequate internal controls to support record-keeping requirements [125]. Member data should be subject to regular data evaluation [126]. Schemes should require employers to data [128 and 130]. Schemes should seek to ensure that employers understand the main events which require information to be passed to the scheme [129]. Schemes should be able to trace the flow of funds into and out of the

		 scheme and reconcile these against expected contributions and scheme costs [131]. (7) In respect of keeping information about the pension board, schemes should also keep records of key discussions [133]. (8) Records should be retained for as long as they are needed [135]. (9) Schemes should have in place adequate systems and processes to enable the retention of records for the necessary time periods [135]. (10) Schemes should monitor data (based on a proportionate and risk based approach) on an ongoing basis to ensure it is accurate and complete [136,137]. (11) Schemes should carry out a data review exercise at least annually [138]. (12) Schemes should continually review their data [138]. (13) Upon change of admin system, schemes should review and cleanse data records [140] (14) Schemes should put in place a data improvement plan where poor quality or missing data is identified [141]. (15) Schemes should reconcile member records with information held by the 	The Fund has a policy for chasing and tracing missing or inaccurate member records. A significant tracing exercise was carried out during 2016/17 to improve data quality. Comparisons of active member data with employer payroll data occur each pay period. Reconciliations between pay and contributions are carried out on a monthly basis. The Fund's Pensions Administration Strategy Statement (PASS) outlines mechanisms and deadlines for employers' submission of data to the fund. A very small number of employers do not meet these deadlines, and an ongoing training and support programme provides support to employers to enable them to comply Additionally the Employer Guide sets out in some detail the Fund's specific data requirements.
Mainta contrit [147 –	butions the scheme in accordance with any	 employer [142]. (1) Scheme managers should have effective procedures and processes in place to identify payment failures that are – and are not – of material significance to the regulator [150 to 151]. (2) Such procedures are likely to involve: (i) Developing a record to monitor the payment of contributions. 	An effective process is in place to manage employer contributions due, and their payment. Employers are required to submit detailed information on a monthly basis, in respect of both membership data and the associated financials. A detailed reconciliation framework is continuously applied to the two sets of data,

scheme manager must give a written	(ii) Monitoring the payment of	and employers who do not submit on time are
report of the matter to the regulator as	contributions.	chased accordingly.
soon as reasonably practicable.	(iii) Managing overdue	
	contributions.	The vast majority of contributions are collected
Where employee contributions are not	(iv) Reporting payment failures	by direct debit and if an employer doesn't
paid within the prescribed period, if the	which are likely to be of	inform the Fund of the exact amount to collect
scheme manager has reasonable	material significance to the	by the due date, an estimated sum due is
cause to believe that the failure is likely	regulator [152].	collected. This ensures cash flow but does
to be of material significance to the	rogulator [roz].	cause further reconciliation issues which are to
regulator in the exercise of any of its	Developing a record to monitor the payment of	be addressed by a review of this process.
functions, they must give notice of the	contributions	be addressed by a review of this process.
failure to the regulator and the member		
	(3) Schemes should have a contributions	
within a reasonable period after the end		
of the prescribed period. Where there is	monitoring record [155 to 157].	
a failure to pay employee contributions		
on an earlier date in accordance with	Monitoring the payment of contributions	
scheme regulations, schemes should		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
also consider their statutory duty under	(4) Schemes should monitor	Monthly reconciliations highlight any late,
section 70 of the Pensions Act 2004 to	contributions on an on-going basis	overpaid, underpaid or non- payment of
assess and if necessary report	[161].	contributions. Thus late/missing payment or
breaches of the law.	(5) A risk based and proportionate	submission of data is identified and employers
	monitoring approach should be used	chased accordingly.
	to identify employers and situations	
	which present a higher risk of	All employers are monitored in the same way.
	payment failure [162].	
	(6) Schemes should have a process in	All contributions are recorded and maintained
	place to identify where payments are	monthly and kept for the required retention
	late or have been underpaid, overpaid	period.
	or not paid at all [163].	ponodi
	(7) Scheme managers must record and	
	retain information on transactions	
	(including any employer and	Any non-payment issues are taken up with
	employee contributions) [166].	
	employee contributions) [100].	employers in the first instance.
	Managing overdue contributions	
		A simulficant offers base and interfection
	(8) Where a payment failure is identified,	A significant effort has been put into training
	there should be a process to follow to	employers and supporting them to understand
	resolve the issue quickly (including	and deliver on their responsibilities.
	the suggested steps set out in the	
	Code) [169].	
	(9) Schemes should keep a record of	
	their investigation and	
	their investigation and	

		communications between themselves and the employer [170]. (10) Schemes should have a process which is able to detect deliberate underpayment or non-payment or other fraudulent behaviour by an employer [171].	The service has developed the electronic interface which is used to manage data and cash collection from employers; this enhanced system benefits employers (having to submit one set of data per month only) and also enables any employer performance issues and non-payment to be identified/reported upon.
		Reporting payment failures which are likely to be of material significance to the regulator	
		 (11) Where schemes identify a payment failure, they should attempt to recover contributions within 90 days of their due date [174]. (12) Where a payment failure is identified it should at least ask the employer the 3 questions set out in 175. (13) Schemes should investigate the payment failure and use their judgement when deciding whether to report to the regulator taking into account the wording of the Code [177]. (14) Schemes should consider whether it is appropriate to report payment failures of employer contributions to members where it is reported to the 	Non or late payment issues will be dealt with in accordance with the Code.
		regulator [182]. (15) Reports to the regulator should be	
Providing information to members [187 – 211]	The law requires schemes to disclose information about benefits and scheme administration to scheme members and others.	 made in accordance with the code. (1) Schemes should design and deliver communications to scheme members in a way that ensures they are able to engage with their pension [207]. 	YPS uses a wide range of communications media such as:
	The Code summarises the legal requirements around - (1) Benefit statements [188 – 195]	 (2) Information should be clear and simple to understand as well as being accurate and easily accessible [207]. (3) Schemes should attempt to make contact with their scheme members 	 An electronic self -service "my pension online" facility and the YPS website, both of which allow members to access pensions information 24/7
	(2) Other information about scheme administration [196 – 197].	and, where contact is not possible, schemes should carry out a tracing exercise to locate the member and	 Annual benefit statements that are produced annually and made

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			response times form part of the service's SLA and are monitored accordingly. Details of service standards, targets and processes are published on the Funds website in order to manage member's expectations.
Internal dispute resolution [212 – 240]	Scheme managers must make and implement dispute resolution arrangements that comply with the requirements of the law and help resolve pensions disputes between the scheme manager and a person with an interest in the scheme.	 In terms of the LGPS, the requirements relating to IDRP are prescribed in the LGPS regulations. Schemes should publish and make IDRP time limits readily available [225]. Schemes should be satisfied that the time taken to reach a decision is appropriate to the situation and be able to demonstrate this, if necessary. [230 and 240] Schemes should provide the applicant with regular updates on the progress of their investigation. They should notify the applicant where the time period for a decision is expected to be shorter or longer than the reasonable time period and let them know when they are likely to receive an outcome [232]. Schemes should focus on educating and raising awareness of their internal dispute resolution arrangements and ensuring that they are implemented [233]. Schemes should ensure that the effectiveness of the arrangements is assessed regularly and be satisfied that those following the process are complying with the requirements set, which includes effective decision making [234]. Schemes should confirm and communicate their arrangements to 	Details of the Internal Dispute Resolution Procedure (IDRP) are published on the Fund's website and contained within the employee's brief and full guide. In addition the appeals application form, also available on the website, contains further guidance for members including the specific time limits imposed by the IDRP. Those documents are reviewed regularly to ensure that they are in line with amending legislation and procedures. (The latest versions can be viewed at the link below) https://www.yourpensionservice.org.uk/media/ 1090/appeals-internal-dispute-resolution- procedure.pdf Procedures for employers are also contained within the employer guide on the website. In addition a guide for employers is also available, used particularly for employers who have a new adjudicator reviewing a stage 1 case. Training for employers and bulletins highlighting problem areas such as III health determinations are utilised where appropriate. In respect of stage 1 and stage 2 IDRP cases, a task management process exists through the pension administration system to ensure that the appropriate deadlines and notifications are provided to members and representatives involved in the IDRP and that those deadlines are adhered to. Bespoke documentation

		(9)	members, for example, in the joining booklet [235]. Schemes should make their arrangements accessible to potential applicants, for example by publishing them on a scheme website [235]. Schemes should ensure they make the following information available to applicants: (i) The procedure and processes to apply for a dispute to be resolved; (ii) The information that an applicant must include; (iii) The process by which any decisions are reached; and (iv) An acknowledgement once an application has been received [239].	covers acknowledgements and details of extensions to time limits. The right to appeal a decision under IDRP is part of all YPS documentation where a decision is being taken that may affect a member or prospective member's benefits, whether that be an administering or employing authority decision. A log of all appeal cases is kept detailing dates when cases are received, acknowledged and determined.
Reporting breaches of the law [241 – 275]	Certain people are required to report breaches of the law to the regulator where they have reasonable cause to believe that: • a legal duty which is relevant to the administration of the scheme has not been, or is not being, complied with • the failure to comply is likely to be of material significance to the regulator in the exercise of any of its functions.	(2) (3) (4) (5)	Schemes should be satisfied that those who are responsible for reporting breaches are made aware of the legal requirement and the Code [244]. Training should be provided for scheme managers and pension board members [244]. All others under a statutory duty to report should ensure they have sufficient level of knowledge and understanding to fulfil that duty [244]. Those with a statutory duty to report should establish and operate appropriate and effective procedures in regards to reporting breaches [245]. Those procedures should be in accordance with and take into account paragraphs 245 to 262 of the Code. Reports made to the Regulator should be submitted in accordance with paragraphs 263 to 271.	The Local Pension Board follows its 'Reporting Breaches' procedure.

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Version 2.0 (3 January 2018)