

The Society of Pension Professionals Newsletter

February 2024

Message from the CEO

Welcome to the February SPP News.

We are pleased to welcome Phil Hall as SPP's new *Head of Policy & PR*. Phil brings much experience working for membership bodies in both public affairs and PR roles, including the London Institute of Banking & Finance and the Association of Accounting Technicians. Our aspiration with Phil's appointment is to bring greater strength and support to the work of the committees and to continue to develop our profile and impact in the sector.

We bid Miguel Pelayo Serna, our outgoing *Policy Officer*, a fond farewell and wish him thanks for all of his work at SPP.

Have a good month ahead and thank you for your continued support.

SPP Event Recordings

[View all Past Event Recordings Here](#)

[How might AI transform the pensions landscape?](#)

[Capital-Backed Funding Solutions Opportunities and Risks](#)

[The new General Code – What you need to know](#)

[Open DB schemes – Exploring the opportunities and challenges](#)

Upcoming SPP Events

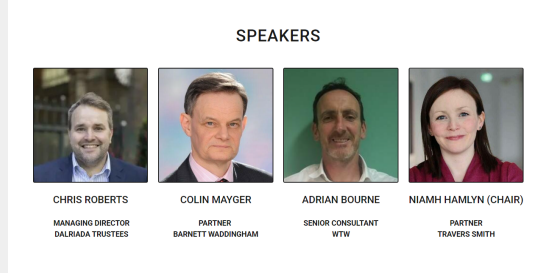
[View all Events Here](#)

Managing Professional Conflicts

Online Event
20 March 2024

Hear about approaches to managing professional conflicts, from the perspective of an actuary, an covenant advisor, a professional trustee and a lawyer

19 : 22 : 15 : 56
days hours minutes seconds



Consultation and Committee News

[View Committee Minutes here](#)

1 / Our response to FCA's [DP23/5](#): Advice Guidance Boundary Review was submitted

2 / Following the finalisation of the Funding and Investment Regs SPP has been engaging with DWP/TPR on what is needed from the Code at this point.

3 / There has been a focus of activity with HMRC regarding the abolition of the LTA. This remains an ongoing concern.

4 / Our DB Committee is taking the lead on responding to the recent *Options for Defined Benefit schemes* consultation.

5 / Our Covenant Committee was fortunate to hear from Bill Powell, *Head of Environmental, Social and Climate Change Risk* at Santander and a climate advisor to BoE. His knowledge and passion as a climate scientist and risk expert deserves a wider audience, which we aim to provide in due course.

SPP in the News

- 1 / Our event on The New General code was featured in [Actuarial Post](#), [Professional Pensions](#) and [Pensions Age](#).
- 2 / The announcement of our new head of policy and PR, Phil Hall, was featured in [Professional Pensions](#) and [Pensions Expert](#).
- 3 / Comments on transferring risks offshore were made by Natalie Winterfrost in [Financial Times](#) (paywall).
- 4 / Our [response](#) to DWP's consultation on Considering Social Factors in Pension Scheme Investments was featured in [Pensions & Investments](#).
- 5 / Dashboards, as an opportunity to improve scheme data, was discussed by Oliver Topping in [Pensions Expert](#).
- 6 / Our [response](#) to FCA's [DP23/5](#): Advice Guidance Boundary Review and comments from Jasmine Smiley were featured in [Professional Pensions](#), [Law360](#) and [FT Adviser](#).
- 7 / Following the finalisation of the regs, the new DB funding regime was discussed by our President, Steve Hitchiner, in [Professional Pensions](#).
- 8 / Our [response](#) to DWP call for evidence on Lifetime Provider Model was featured in the [Pensions Age Magazine](#) (Page 12).
- 9 / The change on tax charges for repayment of surplus were discussed by Faye Jarvis in View from SPP in the [Pensions Age Magazine](#) (Page 28).
- 10 / Comments on LGPS pooling were made by Clifford Sims in the [Pensions Age Magazine](#) (Page 36).
- 11 / The future of the LTA was discussed by Jasmine Smiley, Chair of FS Regulation Committee, in the [Express](#).



Our People

Phil Hall - SPP Head of Policy and PR

Earlier this month, Phil Hall joined The Society of Pension Professionals as its new Head of Policy and PR.

Phil brings a wealth of political experience having worked for an MP, as a Special Adviser to the Secretary of State for Education and then serving as a local councillor. He also brings strong experience of working for a range of membership bodies in both public affairs and PR roles, including the London Institute of Banking & Finance, the Finance & Leasing Association and the Association of Accounting Technicians, as well as running his own successful PR and Public Affairs consultancy for a number of years.

Phil has already hit the ground running, meeting nearly all SPP Committee Chairs, drafting consultation responses, engaging with politicians from all parties and securing media coverage for SPP in a couple of national newspapers.

Outside of the workplace Phil enjoys regularly walking across the South Downs and visiting the beach in his hometown of Eastbourne, playing badminton and watching the currently entertaining, but still frequently disappointing, Tottenham Hotspur F.C.

