



An Chomhairle Pinsean The Pensions Council

Minutes

Pensions Council Meeting

19 February 2025 @ 15:00

Venue: MS Teams

Council members in attendance:

Miriam Bourke
Deirdre Cummins (Chair)
Olive Gaughan
Rickard Mills
Patrick Moran
Joanne Roche
Colum Walsh

Council members apologies:

Brendan Kennedy
Ciara McLoughlin
Grace von Offenbergs Sweeney

Also present:

Jack Fitzmaurice, Department of Social Protection
Andrew Fagan (Secretariat, note taker)

Quorum: Quorum present – 7 members present (6 required for Quorum)

1. Welcome & Declaration of new interests

The Chair referred to the Pensions Council's Register of Interests and asked the Council members to consider any new potential conflicts of interest or other interests that have not yet been declared, and none were declared. All members confirmed there were no relevant changes in circumstances to be reported.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted by the members.

3. Operational matters

The Chair welcomed two new ordinary members to the Pensions Council; Miriam Bourke and Rickard Mills. Miriam and Rickard introduced themselves to the Council. The Chair noted that she and the two new members attended training for the Pensions Council meeting platform, BoardEffect.

The Chair noted a query that the Pensions Council received regarding the Retirement Living Standards report. The Chair asked the members if they had any views regarding the query. Council members gave their views on the query. The Chair will circulate a draft response to all Council members via email, for their review.

The Chair noted the draft schedule of meetings of the Pensions Council for 2025, which was circulated to the Council members in advance of the meeting for their review. Council members will review and revert.

4. Minutes and matters arising

The Chair had shared the draft minutes from the Pensions Council meeting held on 31 January 2025 prior to this meeting, which were approved by all members.

5. Developments in the pensions environment

The Chair noted the monthly briefing prepared by Jack Fitzmaurice from the Department of Social Protection. Colum Walsh provided an update regarding automatic enrolment mentioning that the Department of Social Protection is working on establishing the National Automatic Enrolment Retirement Savings Authority which will be the body overseeing automatic enrolment. Colum also noted that the Department of Social Protection communications strategy will be rolled out over the coming months.

6. Strategic work in progress

6.1 Topics to be discussed

The Council members held a discussion on potential topics of interests for the Pensions Council to consider going forward. Council members shared suggestions and observations on these topics. The Chair suggested that she would compile a list of potential topics for the Pensions Council to consider, and they will discuss further at the next meeting.

7. Next meeting

The next Council meeting is scheduled to be held (virtually) on 26 March 2025.

8. AOB

The Chair noted that the Retirement Living Standards report will be a topic of discussion at the IAPF Spring Conference. The Chair noted that she will speak at the conference on behalf of the Pensions Council. The Chair asked the Council for another

member to volunteer to present at the conference alongside her. Joanne Roche offered, the Chair accepted, and this was agreed by all Council members.

The Chair noted that the Pensions Council have been asked to provide their views on any strategic and cross-departmental issues that it considers should be addressed in the Department of Social Protection's Strategy Statement for 2025 to 2028. In the first instance the Chair will circulate a draft response, at which point the Council members can revert to her with their responses.

Action Items:

No.	Action Details	Person responsible	Date to be completed:
1	The Chair will create a draft response to the query received regarding the RLS report and will share with Council members via email.	Chair	As soon as possible.
2	The Chair will compile a list of suggested topics for the Pensions Council to consider and it will be discussed at the next meeting.	Chair	As soon as possible.
3	Responses to DSP strategy statement to be compiled.	All	As soon as possible.
4	2025 meeting schedule to be confirmed to Chair.	All	As soon as possible.
5	Secretariat to schedule MS Teams meeting for 26 March 2025.	Secretariat	As soon as possible.