



An Chomhairle Pinsean The Pensions Council

Minutes

Pensions Council Meeting

21 January 2026 @ 15:00

Venue: Hybrid, at offices of the Pensions Authority.

Council members in attendance:

Miriam Bourke
Deirdre Cummins (Chair)
Olive Gaughan
Brendan Kennedy
Máiréad McCarthy
Ciara McLoughlin
Rickard Mills
Grace von Offenbergsweeney
Colum Walsh

Council member apologies:

Joanne Roche

Also present:

Dara Calleary TD, Minister for Social Protection
Carmel Dobson, Department of Social Protection
Andrew Fagan (Secretariat, note taker)

Quorum: Quorum present – **9** members present (6 required for Quorum)

1. Welcome & Declaration of new interests

The Chair welcomed the Minister for Social Protection, Mr. Dara Calleary, to the meeting of the Pensions Council, and thanked him for his attendance.

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 Minister and members of the Council engaged in an insightful conversation regarding the previous and subsequent works of the Pensions Council, the Irish pensions landscape, and the recent implementation of Automatic Enrolment.

The Minister opened the floor to the Pensions Council, with members posing questions to the Minister. The Minister positively engaged with Council members in responding to their questions. The Minister thanked the Council for their continued support and diligence.

4. Minutes and matters arising

The Chair had shared the draft minutes from the Pensions Council meeting held on 19 November 2025 prior to this meeting. The minutes will be deferred to the February meeting for decision.

5. Developments in the pensions environment

The Chair noted the monthly briefings prepared by Carmel Dobson from the Department of Social Protection.

6. Strategic work in progress

The Minister outlined areas of priority that he would like the Pensions Council to focus on in the coming year. Council members will reflect on these areas and will reconvene at the next meeting to discuss them further.

7. Next meeting

The next Council meeting is scheduled to be held (virtually) on **11 February 2026 @ 3PM**.

Action Items:

No.	Action Details	Person responsible	Date to be completed:
1	Council members will reflect on areas of work outlined by the Minister	All	By next meeting.