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[Hogan Lovells pension group is delighted to send you our November e-newsletter.](#)

VAT: existing arrangements may continue

HMRC has issued long-awaited guidance confirming that:

- employers may continue to recover VAT on administration costs of running their scheme, even where the administration services are contracted and paid for by the trustee, for an indefinite period;
- employers may still recover 30% of the VAT in relation to trustees' combined administration / investment contracts; and
- other structures are available, which can enable some recovery of VAT on investment services – tripartite contracts; paymaster arrangements; VAT grouping; or a combination of these.

The key message is that the 31 December 2017 deadline for putting alternative structures in place, or losing all VAT recovery on trustees' expenses, has fallen away. Employers and trustees may continue with previous arrangements for VAT recovery, including reliance on the "70/30 split".

For some schemes, especially those paying significant amounts of VAT on investment costs, it may be worth considering an alternative structure. We will issue a more detailed note on the various options in the near future.

PPF deadlines

A reminder that contingent asset documents must be submitted to the PPF and the Pensions Regulator by midnight on 29 March 2018. For more details please [click here](#).

In this newsletter you will also find:

- Three pension [news articles](#), with comment and action points;
- Links to our pension news [updates](#);
- [Dates](#) for your diary; and
- Client [briefings](#) – including a new practical guide on the [GDPR for pension schemes](#); a new briefing on [Reducing your PPF levy](#); and an updated briefing on complying with [New anti-money laundering regulations](#).

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PENSION NEWS STORIES

War on scams – government announces how it will tackle pension liberation

The government has reported the results of its consultation on pension scams, outlining its intention to restrict members' statutory rights to pension transfers; ban cold calling in relation to pensions; and require all new pension scheme registrations to be made through an active company.

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Decision time – member's complaint about increases to deferred pensions fails despite inaccuracies

The Pensions Ombudsman found that there had been maladministration in the case of *Mr T*, because information sheets about revaluation of deferred pensions given to him when he left service were inaccurate. But his claims for estoppel by representation and negligent misstatement were dismissed – he had relied on his own figures, not those supplied by the scheme, when deciding to remain a deferred member.

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What's in a name? Inadequate due diligence left provider to pick up tax bill for unauthorised transfer

In *Mrs N*, the Ombudsman decided that, in agreeing to the transfer of the complainant's pension pot to a Swedish pension scheme, the provider had not carried out sufficient checks and had missed the fact that the transferee scheme was no longer on HMRC's list of qualifying recognised overseas pension schemes. The provider had to compensate the complainant for the resulting tax charges.

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NEWS UPDATE

Please click [Latest News](#) for summaries of the most recent legislative and regulatory developments in pensions and new pension case law.

For information on developments over the past 12 months, please visit our online [Pension Planner](#), where you will find summaries arranged by topic and by time period in force (or expected in force).

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

15 November 2017 - recent developments in pensions

Our informal breakfast seminar at trustees and sponsors of occupational pension schemes and their advisers. To book a place, [click here](#).

24 January 2017 - trustee training half-day update

A half-day seminar aimed at trustees with some experience. Focusing on the trustee's perspective, we will consider developments in the past 12 months and will look ahead at what we can expect in the coming year. To pre-book a place, [click here](#).

For details of our future events, please see our [client training programme 2018](#).

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