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Sir Mark Hendrick MP
House of Commons

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17 SEP 2018

12 September 2018

Dear Sir Mark

Thank you for your email of 7 September on behalf of a number of your constituents about the pensions dashboard.

As you may know, on 4 September I tabled a Written Ministerial Statement which I enclose for ease of reference. The work that the Department for Work and Pensions has done in assessing feasibility for a pensions dashboard has made it clear that we should not underestimate the size or complexity of the challenge. An industry-led dashboard, facilitated by government, will harness the best of industry innovation.

We will continue to engage with industry on this model and Government will protect pension savers and personal information by legislating where necessary. This will build on the Government's 'Check your State Pension' online service for the State Pension. Our approach has been welcomed by industry and stakeholders. As Huw Evans, Director of the Association of British Insurers, has said 'This is a positive step forward and a clear commitment from Government that it will work with us on delivering this vital tool for millions of savers'.

We will shortly report on the findings from the Feasibility Study. I hope this helps to clarify the position.

GUY OPPERMAN MP
MINISTER FOR PENSIONS AND FINANCIAL INCLUSION

House of Commons: Written Statement (HCWS933)

Department for Work and Pensions

Written Statement made by: **Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Pensions & Financial Inclusion. (Guy Opperman)** on 04 Sep 2018.

Pensions Update

Throughout the last decade, government has worked closely with the pensions, financial services and consumer community to rebuild the UK's pension savings culture.

Through automatic enrolment, 10 million people will be newly saving or saving more into a workplace pension scheme, with an estimated £20 billion extra pension saving by 2019/20.

The pension freedoms have given people much greater choice about when and how they use their pension savings.

The Government has a significant programme of work ahead to increase confidence in workplace pensions, by improving:

- The provision of information to, and financial capability of, individuals, in order that they can make informed and more confident financial decisions.
- The way pensions are run, making them more secure; improving transparency; and responding more quickly when things go wrong.

Improving the provision of information to, and financial capability of, individuals

The pensions dashboard will offer people the opportunity to access their pension information in a clear and simple form – bringing together an individual's savings in a single place online.

The work that the Department for Work and Pensions has done in assessing feasibility for a pensions dashboard has made it clear that we should not underestimate the size or complexity of the challenge. An industry-led dashboard, facilitated by government, will harness the best of industry innovation. We will continue to engage with industry on this model and Government will protect pension savers and personal information by legislating where necessary. This will build on the Government's 'Check your State Pension' online service for the State Pension. We will shortly report on the findings from the Feasibility Study.

To improve financial capability and understanding we have taken through Parliament the Financial Guidance and Claims Act 2018, which gives us the power to introduce the Single Financial Guidance Body. This will bring together the services currently delivered by the Money Advice Service, the Pensions Advisory Service and Pension Wise. The creation of the SFGB is a genuine opportunity to improve provision of free and impartial government sponsored money and pensions guidance and debt advice so that people - especially those who are struggling, can make informed choices about their finances.

The appointments of the Chair and Chief Executive of the new organisation have recently been announced, and we expect to establish the body as a legal entity in October when the Chair and Chief Executive take up their roles. It will then launch in January when it takes on its delivery functions of money and pension guidance, and debt advice.

Improving security and transparency

We have legislated to introduce a new Master Trust accreditation regime from 1 October 2018 for

multi-employer pension providers wishing to continue to operate in the automatic enrolment market.

We will strengthen the powers of the Pensions Regulator to ensure that peoples' pensions are protected. The Department recently consulted on proposals to improve the Regulator's powers so that they can be more proactive, punish wrongdoing and get involved earlier when employers make changes which could affect their pension schemes. We're currently considering the responses, and hope to publish our conclusions towards the end of this year. We're also investigating how to facilitate consolidation of DB schemes, including looking at the establishment of 'superfunds', and intend to publish a consultation on this in the autumn.

Finally, collective forms of pension saving offer interesting new possibilities, and the Department is currently working through proposals for the first Collective Defined Contribution schemes in the UK. We intend to launch a formal consultation in the autumn.

This is an ambitious programme of work, which has the potential to further transform the pensions landscape and benefit consumers.