

Mr T Crossley
Deputy Director
Workforce, Pay and Pensions
Local Government Finance Directorate
Zone 5 / F5 Eland House
Bressenden Place
London
SW1E 5DU

Corporate Finance
Sessions House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ
Fax: (01622) 696129
Tel: 08458 247 247

Direct Dial: (01622) 694603
Ask for: Nick Vickers
e-mail address: Nick.vickers@kent.gov.uk
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Dear Terry

Local Government Pension Scheme

Thank you for your letter of 13 May. This is the response of Kent County Council as administering authority for the Kent Pension Fund.

We believe that there is already a well established statutory framework for the way the administering authority operates and you set this out in paragraph 7. As a principle we would ask that you do not look to be overly prescriptive.

The 89 funds are very different ranging from the way very large stand alone pension authorities, through the County Council funds including Kent with over 200 employers in the scheme to London boroughs with only a handful of employers. What good governance is will vary from fund to fund.

The main concern which we have relates to Section 13 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 which allows for representatives of district councils to have voting rights. We support this and have 3 district council representatives. Unfortunately we are not able to give the unitary Medway Council representative voting rights. Medway Council has around 10% of the total membership of the scheme and it seems ridiculous that the Medway Council representative cannot have voting rights. We would like to see this changed at the earliest opportunity.

We fully support the principle of equal access to training for all members of the committee – including for us the pensioner, trade union and staff representatives. We find it difficult to see how you can legislate for something which should be a matter of basic common sense.

Consultations such as this are helpful as they raise the profile of the governance issues and makes committees or panels look at their practices. We suggest an approach based on regular surveys and sharing best practice.

Yours sincerely

James Scholes
Chairman
Superannuation Fund Committee

Lynda McMullan
Director of Finance