

PENSION BOARD– FRIDAY, 11 MARCH 2016

Written question from Paul Wilkinson, Chairman of the Board to the Technical Finance Manager.

We have discussed the status of the Board in relation to the Council. There is a discrepancy between the Council's view and that of national Unison officers which the latter expect to be clarified shortly at national level. Are you aware of this debate, which differentiates between committees of the Council, which are all created under 1972 Act powers, and the pension boards, which are not?

Response

A national dialogue is ongoing between the National Scheme Advisory Board, DCLG, the trade unions and the lawyers and that clarification and amended guidance is likely to be forthcoming but no timescale has been indicated

Treating the Local Pensions Board in similar terms to a s101 Committee is a reasonable action for a Scheme Manager to have undertaken in the absence of explicit guidance to the contrary. This ensures certain standards (we would argue best practice standards) are embedded as normal.

We are aware that a number of other Funds have built in review periods to consider how their board is operating and some of these are due to commence in late 2016 when further guidance from CLG may be available.

CLG themselves are required to formally review arrangements following implementation (suspect this review may have stalled as pooling has taken over), but it has to happen in the next 12 months.