

Taylor, Adrian

From: Thistlewood, Jo
Sent: 24 October 2022 10:22
To: Graham Pengelly; Dan kitcher; Sarah Thompson
Cc: Zoe Janvrin; Pensions - General
Subject: Isle of Wight Pension Fund - St Catherine's compliance

Good morning

I am emailing to inform the trustees that there have been a number of issues with obtaining data and contribution payments from St Catherine's since the re-joining of the fund in May 2022.

I am very conscious of the fact that I have not yet finalised the new admission agreement, and am actively seeking legal advice to support the completion of the agreement for your signature.

However, the requirements for the accurate and timely submission of data and payment of contributions are unchanged from the school's previous engagement with the fund, other than the introduction of the i-connect solution which should make things much easier.

It is therefore disappointing that I need to report that there is continued failure by the school to comply with the data submission deadlines, and the statutory deadline for payment of contributions (being the 19th of the month after the payroll month).

Despite being set up on the i-connect system, the school is not submitting its data through that portal, and in every month since re-joining, membership and payroll data has been submitted late, despite continued contact from our administering team, offering support.

Similarly, every payment has been received after the deadline, usually following a reminder call from our admin team.

In one instance, a payment was sent to us which did not relate to the pension fund (or even the council), and it took significant time from our administration team to resolve and confirm with the school the repayment of the moneys.

This email is being sent because the administration team are not seeing any improvement in the compliance despite numerous engagements, hence the escalation to myself and you as trustees.

I should be grateful if you could follow this up and encourage improve performance from the school. As before, if you would like a member of our administration team to come to the school to offer support and training on the i-connect system, please do let me know.

I will keep in touch with the administration team and hope to see improvement as quickly as possible. If we do not receive data and payment on time, following engagement from the administration team and this escalation, the fund has the ability to issue penalty fines to the employer, as set out in the administration strategy.

I do not want to resort to this, but may need to should compliance not improve within the next three months.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards, Jo

Jo Thistlewood | Pension Fund Manager

Pronouns: she, her

Isle of Wight Council | Floor 5, County Hall | Newport | Isle of Wight PO30 1UD

Internal: Ext 6371 External: (01983) 821000 option 1 ext 6371

Email: jo.thistlewood@iow.gov.uk | Web: www.iwight.com

Please note from 1 April 2022 I will no longer have responsibility for Treasury Management or VAT/Tax.

Please contact treasury@iow.gov.uk or VAT.Team@iow.gov.uk respectively for those areas.

Visit the website for Isle of Wight Pension Fund at <http://www.isleofwightpensionfund.org/>

