

The Morris Review
Room G/37
1 Horse Guards Road
London
SW1A 2HQ

31 January 2005

Dear Sir

I am writing on behalf of the Pensions Commission in relation to a data issue raised in your review. In Chapter 9 of your report you include a section on the GAD Occupational Pension Scheme Survey suggesting that in the future this survey could become the responsibility of either ONS or OPRA.

We believe that there is a continuing demand for the statistics drawn from this survey, for example in monitoring trends in scheme closures and membership of different types of schemes.

Following GAD's recent review of the survey a new three year programme was put in place to improve the timeliness and regularity of the data. We saw this as a positive development, and are looking forward to the publication of 2004 data in the middle of the year.

We appreciate that there are pros and cons in relocating the production of the OPSS to either ONS or OPRA, or keeping the survey in GAD. The Pensions Commission does not have a preference for who has responsibility for the survey in the future as long as the overall provision and availability of data in this important area does not deteriorate from the current position.

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We would want to make sure that whoever does have responsibility has sufficient funding to conduct the survey properly. In addition we would want consultation with users to continue so that key government pensions analysts, and other important users, would be able to contribute to the development of the contents of the survey so that it remains focused on key pensions issues. We would also want to make sure that access to additional data, not included in a published report, would continue for key analysts, given the necessary quality controls and respect for confidentiality issues.

Whoever undertakes the survey would also need to have access to the new register of pension schemes being developed by the regulator as a sampling frame.

I am happy to discuss these issues in more detail if that would be useful. A copy of this letter goes to the Pension Statistics Task Force Advisory Group.

Yours faithfully

Joanna Littlechild

Joanna Littlechild
(Sent via Email)