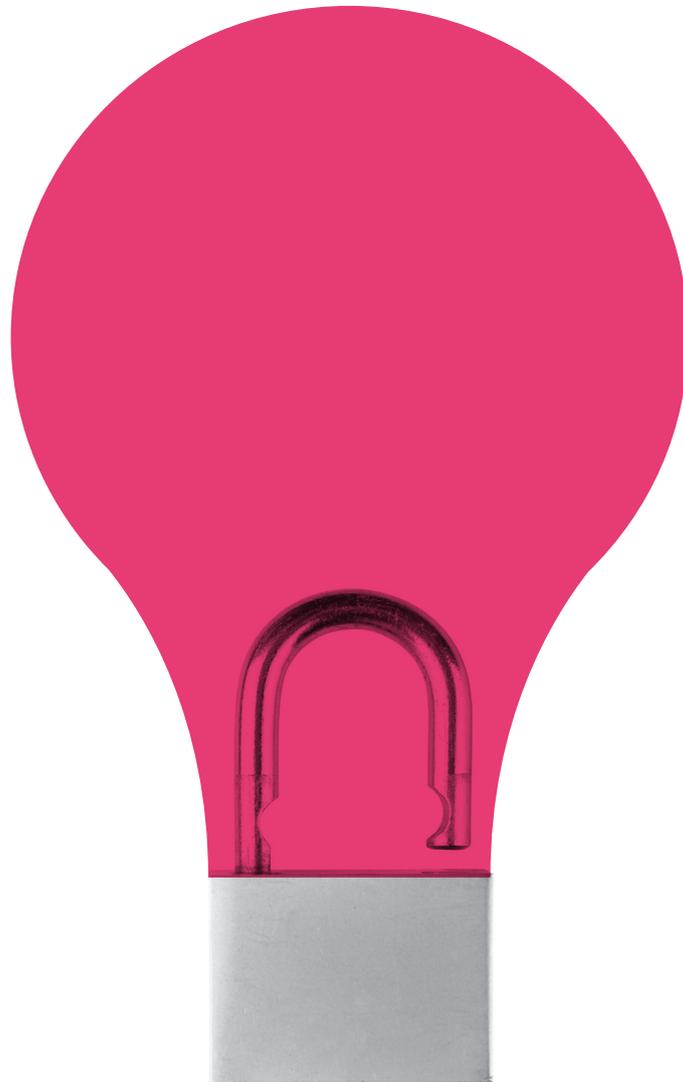


Unlocking legal services

The National LGPS Framework
for legal services



Introduction

The new National LGPS Framework for legal advice now makes the provision of legal advice on pre-agreed terms possible, with no need for a formal procurement process. The framework is available to both LGPS administering authorities and scheme employers.

Eversheds Sutherland is one of a select group of law firms appointed to the framework, effective from January 2015. Our appointment is for Lot 1– Full Service England and Wales which covers all legal services including banking, capital projects, commercial contracts, corporate, employment, EU and competition, insurance, insolvency, property and public law. We are also appointed to Lot 3 (Investment – UK Wide) and Lot 4 (Benefit administration, employer bodies and governance – England and Wales). This means you can get access to our award-winning advisors and extensive experience through the frameworks.

Eversheds Sutherland LGPS service

Our specialist pensions and investment advice across the following main areas:

Administration and benefits issues – We advise on all aspects of LGPS administration and benefits, including automatic enrolment, calculation of contributions and benefits, contracting-out, contractual employment rights and benefits, discretionary benefits and policies, early retirement and ill health issues, eligibility for membership, errors in benefit calculations, EU requirements, internal controls, interpretation of the LGPS regulations, member communications, regulatory and compliance and tax and national insurance issues.

Commercial – We can advise on all general commercial issues an LGPS fund may require, including data protection and freedom of information issues, EU competition and procurement rules, intellectual property, outsourcing, shared service arrangements and third party administration contracts.

Disputes – We can advise LGPS funds on the full range of contentious issues including class actions, debt recovery, formal court and employment tribunal cases, fraud cases, Information Commissioner issues, informal member complaints, inter-fund disputes, internal dispute resolution procedures, judicial review, maladministration, Pensions Ombudsman complaints, Pensions Regulator involvement, professional negligence claims, recovery of overpayments and TPAS involvement.

Funding – We can advise on all legal issues relating to funding and valuation, including aggregation of benefits, bulk transfers, employer covenant and assessment, exit payments, funding strategy statements, intra and inter fund transfers, insolvency and bankruptcy issues, IORP requirements, Public Sector Transfer Club, security and valuations.

Governance – We can advise on all aspects of LGPS fund governance, including advice on compliance with regulatory guidance, delegation of powers, establishing and operating local pension boards, fiduciary duties (including ethical investment issues), Myners principles, Nolan principles, pension committee structures and vires issues.

Investment – We offer LGPS funds a full investment service advising on areas including bond issues, common investment vehicles, custody arrangements, derivatives, direct property investments, de-risking strategies, FCA compliance and regulatory issues, insurance products, investment management mandates, pooled funds (including regulated funds, hedge funds, private equity and infrastructure funds, property funds and bespoke fund arrangements) and stock lending.

Outsourcing and admission agreements – We can advise LGPS funds on all aspects of outsourcing including admission agreements, bonds and guarantees, broadly comparable schemes, bulk transfers, compliance with requirements such as the Best Value Direction and New Fair Deal; drafting provisions to include in outsourcing contracts (including risk share mechanisms). We also offer a full admission agreement drafting service for LGPS funds based on our precedent documentation.

Training – We provide a full range of training for LGPS funds, including areas such as duties and responsibilities of running LGPS funds, knowledge and understanding for local pension board members, outsourcing and admission agreements as well as bespoke commissioned training courses.

Client satisfaction

Setting the standard

In FY 2013/14, 100% of pensions clients were very or extremely satisfied with the overall service, **giving us a score of 6 or 7 out of 7.**



Choosing Eversheds Sutherland

With a large, award winning team of dedicated pensions and investment lawyers, Eversheds Sutherland has exceptional resource and breadth of experience.

Unlike many other firms, Eversheds Sutherland has a dedicated Public Sector Pensions team, which has extensive experience in advising on issues affecting all public sector pension schemes, including the LGPS.

In our experience, pension schemes such as the LGPS need full service legal support from specialists in many areas. Lot 1 of the frameworks means that LGPS funds can now access advice across areas such as banking, commercial, corporate, data protection, employment, EU competition and procurement, financial services, freedom of information, infrastructure, insurance, intellectual property, property, public law and tax. Our specialists in these areas regularly work with LGPS administering authorities and employers and understand your needs.



Public sector pension experts – Mainstream pensions and investment advice is likely to be the area where LGPS funds will need advice on a day-to-day basis. Eversheds Sutherland are one of the few law firms in the UK that has a dedicated Public Sector team within its Pensions and Investment practice. We specialise in advising on issues relating to the LGPS (and other public sector pension schemes). This means we bring a wealth of public sector pensions and investment experience that few other law firms can match.

Strength and depth – The size of our team means we have the scale to support you proactively and at the right level for the relevant piece of work. Good pensions and investment advice requires excellent judgement and getting the balance right on many factors. We are also able to call upon the wider full service team to support us when necessary.

Cutting edge – We are closely involved in all major pensions industry committees. We are at the forefront of new developments in pensions and investment law and policy, and we are able to shape the future of legislation rather than merely react to it.

Award-winning – Our real passion for pensions can be seen from our various awards set out below. Appointing Eversheds Sutherland means appointing a team which is externally verified as the best in its class. We believe our straightforward and pragmatic approach to delivering legal advice will make a refreshing change for LGPS funds using the Framework. We look forward to working with you under the Framework.

Contact us:

Tel: 0121 232 1780
(Dedicated framework number)

E-mail: LGPSframework@eversheds-sutherland.com
(Dedicated framework e-mail)



Gary Delderfield
Partner

Tel: +44 121 232 1786
garydelderfield@eversheds-sutherland.com



Pamela Thompson
Partner

Tel: +44 207 919 0577
pamelathompson@eversheds-sutherland.com



Aida Mebrahtu
Legal Director

Tel: +44 292 047 7814
aidamebrahtu@eversheds-sutherland.com

Awards and recognition



eversheds-sutherland.com

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