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SO7

Abbreviations commonly used in 7 Days

Alert/News: Sackers Extra publications (available from the client area of our website or from your usual contact)

DB: Defined benefit

DC: Defined contribution

DWP: Department for Work and Pensions

HMRC: HM Revenue & Customs

PPF: Pension Protection Fund

TPR: The Pensions Regulator

DEPARTMENT FOR WORK AND PENSIONS

The Coalition Programme for Government - Pensions and Older People

The DWP has published a [response](#) to the public comments received on the Coalition Government's [Programme for Government on Pensions and Older People](#)

Over 170 comments were received. Popular subjects included: the Government's proposals to bring forward the increase in the state pension age to 66; the adverse effects and disincentives caused by means testing certain pensioner benefits; the sustainability of public service pensions; and the payment of universal benefits to pensioners (such as the Winter Fuel Payment and free TV licences).

Responding to these comments, the Government highlighted the various reviews that are underway, including the current consultation on the Default Retirement Age.¹

EQUALITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (EHRC)

Equality Act 2010 Guidance

The EHRC has published a series of [guidance documents](#) to help explain the Equality Act 2010² and to provide practical examples on how the law has changed. To date, the guidance covers employers, workers, service providers and service users.

The guidance will come into force on 1 October 2010, the date on which the majority of the Equality Act provisions are due to come into force.

GOVERNMENT ACTUARY'S DEPARTMENT (GAD)

Annual report and accounts published

GAD has published its [annual report and accounts](#) for the year 2009/10.

GAD undertakes a variety of pensions-related work, both in connection with general pensions policy as well as actuarial advisory work for the main public service pension schemes. During 2009/10, GAD:

- gave support to the DWP on the development of regulations and guidance relating to the Financial Assistance Scheme;
- carried out modelling work to allow the DWP to investigate the viability of collective DC schemes (as a result of which the DWP under the former Labour Government decided to take no further action in relation to collective DC schemes);

¹ For more information, see our News: "[The end of the default retirement age is nigh!](#)" dated July 2010

² For more information on the Equality Act, please see our News: "[A new age of equality](#)" dated June 2010

- advised HM Treasury on a number of policy issues relating to funded and unfunded pension schemes; and
- gave input into the National Audit Office Review of public sector pensions.

GOVERNMENT EQUALITIES OFFICE (GEO)

Equality Act 2010 Guidance

Like the EHRC (see above), the GEO, in partnership with the British Chambers of Commerce, Citizens Advice, ACAS and the Equality and Diversity Forum, has also produced [guidance](#) to support implementation of the Equality Act.

The GEO guidance has been designed as series of summary and "Quick Start" guides to the key changes in the law. The guides set out what the new laws will mean for business, the public sector, the voluntary sector and the public, helping people understand their new responsibilities and rights when providing goods, facilities or services.

THE PENSIONS REGULATOR

Norgrove to step down as chair of TPR

The DWP has [announced](#) that TPR chair, David Norgrove, will step down at the end of his second term in the post on 31 December 2010.

The Secretary of State will begin recruitment for a successor in September, with the aim of having a new chair in place for the start of January 2011.

TPR will coordinate recruitment for its new chief executive with this timetable, to allow the new chair to be involved in selection of the chief executive.

Mr Norgrove was appointed as the first chair of the Pensions Regulator in January 2005 and was reappointed in 2008.