

Our holistic solution for your self-invested personal pension (SIPP) needs



With growing regulatory and political interest in SIPPs and pension capital, the landscape for personal pension schemes is changing significantly.

As one of the only city firms with a dedicated Pensions & Wealth Management Regulatory practice, DWF is uniquely placed to support SIPP operators throughout their lifecycle and daily operations.

We pride ourselves on becoming an integral part of our clients' teams, fostering strong working relationships, and effectively handling all matters that arise as part of our clients' businesses.

Key recent matter highlights include:

- Assisting with a FCA application and business plan for a large custodian (but new SIPP entrant) and the associated trust rules and documents;
- Drafting, advising on and helping implement a firm's transfer out policy in line with pension and FCA regulatory requirements;
- Advising on, defending and dealing with systemic SIPP complaints relating to investment DD;
- Advising on the transfer of assets and liabilities from a corporate and pension perspective, diligence and harmonisation requirements;
- Working with regulators and our client to devise an approach to toxic/illiquid assets and a valuation policy; and
- Advising on issues arising out of holding real property in a portfolio, including in respect of co-ownership, leases, liabilities and unauthorised payments.

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Our SIPP Expertise and Offering

SIPP operators have a myriad of needs ranging from large, technical and complex projects through to volume and business as usual tasks that arise from administering SIPPs. To assist you with this, we have created a multi-disciplinary one-stop solution for all your SIPP needs:



Civil and Criminal Disputes, Complaints and Litigation	Proposition Advice, Design and Support	Ongoing Regulatory and Pension Support	Pension Assets and Platforms	M&A, Consolidation, Distressed Acquisitions and Restructuring	Regulatory Engagement, Intervention and Investigations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member complaints • Financial Ombudsman Service and Pensions Ombudsman complaints • Litigation, complaints and claims including in relation to property, provider contracts and wider commercial disputes • Criminal investigations and defence • Engagement with the Serious Fraud Office, National Crime Agency and other police agencies • Supporting on issues relating to financial crime and sanctions including fraud, money laundering and bribery • Debt recovery assistance (both volume and complex) • Pensions aspects of wider disputes including in relation to employment, discrimination, divorce and damages claims • Court applications for directions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drafting and amending scheme governing documents and policies • Accumulation and decumulation products and solutions • Terms of business and other client facing documents • Advice on structuring safeguarding and custody arrangements including bare trustee arrangements • Advising on advisor and other provider agreements and terms of business • Member communications, support in providing required information at key milestones (approach to retirement, transfers etc.) • Advising on and creating due diligence procedures for transfer outs, investments and third party introducers • Transfers in • Auto-enrolment and direct payment relationships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal, regulatory and business structuring advice • Advice on standard and non-standard assets • Ongoing corporate governance advice • Monitoring and compliance policies • Systemic loss advice • Pensions tax • Regulatory capital requirements • Client facing policies including support with vulnerable clients and orphan clients • Regulatory reporting requirements • Transactions and unauthorised payments • Data protection (establishing policies, ongoing advice and emergency "cyber breach" support) • Ongoing employment law support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Platform agreements and third party agreements including advisers and DFMs • Dealing with distressed / toxic assets (see also Engagement with HMRC) • Structuring ownership of real property • Management, maintenance and insurance of real property • Legal considerations around valuation of assets • Loans and mortgages • Forfeiture • FSCS assignments and related issues • Property disputes • Rent reviews • Repossession 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal and regulatory due diligence • Acquisition of SIPP Books • Distressed acquisition advice (buy and sell side) • Transfer of scheme assets and associated member and third-party comms • Transfer of staff • Support on legal issues arising out of reconciling historic systems and legacy matters • Harmonising SIPP arrangements and systems and procedures post transactions • Insolvency and restructuring advice: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director duties • Entering administration • Wind down planning • Advising throughout an insolvency process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FCA or HMRC investigation and/or supervisory action and intervention • FCA authorisation, approvals, registration including business plans and application documents • Advice on remediation and change projects • Day to day engagement with FCA and FSCS • Engagement with HMRC including in respect of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • registration and deregistration • unauthorised payments • toxic assets • scheme sanction charges • surcharges • Engagement with HMLR over scheme property issues including engaging its Active Management Service