

Our ref: H146/2677197

12 January 2023

UHY Hacker Young LLP Quadrant House 4 Thomas More Square London E1W 1YW

Phone +44 20 7216 4600 Fax +44 20 7767 2601 Email tandr@uhy-uk.com Web www.uhy-uk.com

#### **TO ALL CLIENTS**

# Important update regarding Hartley Pensions Limited – In Administration and your self-invested personal pension scheme ("SIPP")

We write to provide you with an update on the administration of Hartley Pensions Limited- in administration ("Hartley") and in particular to inform you of the progress of the Court application that we referred to in our last update of 14 December 2022.

#### Update on the Court Application and 'exit and administration charge'

In our previous communication we advised that we will replace the annual management fees you are currently charged with an 'exit and administration charge'. This charge is designed to cover the administrators' costs of administering your SIPP, as well as the costs of transferring your SIPPs to a new operator.

We further advised that before administering the 'exit and administration charge', an application will be made to Court to confirm that we can validly apply the charge, whether under your existing terms and conditions, or under amended terms and conditions.

As part of this process, we are now going to form an informal committee of interested parties to assist the Joint Administrators in considering a variety of client interests with regards to the 'exit and administration charge'. We will invite regulatory bodies, independent financial advisors ("IFAs") and a selection of clients to join the committee. The clients who we invite will be clients who we believe represent a broad spread of interests in the various models which could potentially be used to calculate and administer the 'exit and administration charge'. The principal purpose of the committee will be to consult with the Joint Administrators so as to ensure that all potential considerations have been taken into account when deciding on the fairest possible manner in which to calculate and administer the 'exit and administration charge'.

We will approach the proposed committee members directly in the coming days with a view to sharing further information on the 'exit and administration charge' and the Court application with them. Subject to committee member consent, we will publish a full list on our website of the members of the committee once formed.

A further purpose of the committee is to assist the Joint Administrators in identifying one or more representative respondent(s) who can represent clients in the Court application. When the Joint Administrators make the Court application, it is intended that they will also ask the Court to make an order appointing one or more clients as "representative respondents", who will be parties to the Court application on behalf of all of the SIPP clients of Hartley. The representative respondent(s) will ensure that clients' interests are fairly represented and all reasonable arguments clients may wish to make to the Court are put before the Judge. The Joint Administrators are proposing to source

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A list of members' names and their professional qualifications is available for inspection at the Registered Office at the above address.

Peter Kubik and Brian Johnson are licensed in the UK by the Insolvency Practitioners Association.
Insolvency Practitioners are bound by the Insolvency Code of Ethics when carrying out all professional work relating to an insolvency appointment.





independent legal advisors to support the representative respondent(s) in carrying out their function and making representations to Court. The cost of these independent advisors will be borne by Hartley with the intention that the costs will be covered by the Court application which will be explained further in due course. Any Court declaration will be binding upon the representative respondent(s) and will also be binding on all clients as the represented persons. The only alternative would be to join every single client as a respondent to the Court application which would be hugely costly, inefficient and unfair for those who do not have the means to be legally represented.

In the first instance, the representative(s) will be selected from the committee. However, if any non-committee members wish to act as a representative respondent, they should contact the Joint Administrators as soon as possible to express their interest.

It is anticipated that there will be an initial Court hearing at which the Joint Administrators will ask the Court to make orders appointing one or more representative respondent(s). We will advise all clients of the time and venue of that hearing when it has been listed, by publishing the details on our website.

We will continue to update you on the formation of the committee along with the progress of the Court application in the coming weeks.

If you have further questions regarding the informal committee and representative respondents please see the FAQs on our website at https://www.uhy-uk.com/hartley-pensions-limited-administration.

### **Avoiding scams**

All consumers should remain alert to the possibility of fraud. If you are called by someone claiming to be from Hartley, please end the call and call back using the following numbers:

Freephone for UK caller: 0800 063 9113 International callers: +44 20 3282 8151

For more on how to protect yourself from the most common types of scams, ScamSmart pages on the FCA website provide advice on how to avoid investment and pension scams.

If you have any queries our team is on hand to answer your questions.

Yours faithfully For and on behalf of Hartley Pensions Limited

Peter Kubik

Joint administrator

Encl.

#### **FAQs**

## What will being a member of the committee involve?

If you are invited to be a member of the committee, you will be asked to confirm your acceptance by no later than 4pm on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2023 by responding to the email invitation. Being a member of the committee will likely involve a small number of meetings (these may be remote or in-person) to consider the various aspects of the Court application and provide a chance for you to raise any comments you wish to make regarding the 'exit and administration charge' cost models, and the appointment of one or more representative respondent(s).

### Why have I not been selected to be part of the committee?

If you have not been selected to be part of the committee this will likely be because we feel your particular interest in the implementation of the 'exit and administration charge' is already represented by an alternative client or an alternative client represents a broader range of client interests. Please be assured, we aim to ensure as many client interests are represented in the committee as possible.

#### What will the representative respondent(s) do?

If the Court makes an order appointing one or more representative respondent(s), then the representative respondent(s) will be a party to the Court application, will be served with all papers relating to the Court application, will be able to present arguments to the Judge at the hearing of the Court application, and will ultimately be the subject of a binding Court Order which will bind all clients represented by the representative respondents. It is proposed that they will have the assistance of independent legal advisors.