

## Press Release

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Immediate Release

### **CONCESSIONS WELCOME BUT AUTO-ENROLMENT RULES MUST BE RIGHT NOT RUSHED**

The National Association of Pension Funds (NAPF) has today welcomed the Government's significant concessions on the draft regulations for employers to auto-enrol employees into a pension scheme from 2012.

The NAPF had called<sup>1</sup> for extensive changes to the draft proposals, published in March 2009, with a view to making them more practical and less bureaucratic. Reflecting the concerns of pension funds, the Government has adopted a different approach to the following issues:

- the overall length of the auto-enrolment period;
- the length of time employers are given to provide information to employees and;
- the lack of flexibility on holding opt-out forms.

The NAPF was concerned that if the auto-enrolment rules are too complex, it will encourage employers offering high value schemes to "level down" to the 2012 minimum.

Today, the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) also announced a six-week consultation period on a second set of draft regulations covering further auto-enrolment issues such as certification and record-keeping.

**Nigel People, NAPF Director of Policy, said:**

“We are pleased that the Government has listened to many of our concerns and made the auto-enrolment rules more flexible for employers and employees. Problems still remain, however, on issues such as opt-outs and refunds.

“In responding to the new consultation, we will continue to argue for a common sense approach. Auto-enrolment rules must be kept simple if we are to avoid ‘levelling down’. Overall, it is important that the rules are right, not rushed.”

**ENDS**

**Notes to editors:**

1. The NAPF’s response and press release to the draft auto-enrolment regulations can be found via the following links.

[Press Release](#)

[Response](#)

**About The National Association of Pension Funds**

The NAPF is the leading voice of workplace pensions in the UK. We speak for 1,200 pension schemes with some 15 million members and assets of around £800 billion. NAPF members also include over 400 businesses providing essential services to the pensions sector.

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