
Director General for Regulation

The Department of Statistics
The University of Warwick
Coventry
(By Email)

23 December 2020

Dear Professors Hutton and Jacka,

Thank you for the query you recently raised with us regarding a graphic in a consultation document about its next strategy from The Pensions Regulator (TPR).

We have now looked into the issue and spoken with TPR about the concerns raised. The estimations in the graphic are not official statistics. However, the analysis presented has the potential to attract high public interest. Our role is to protect the role of statistics and evidence in public debate. When we receive queries which question whether there has been coherent evidence-based messaging or a perceived risk to the clarity of message from the use of statistics, we do look into them. We will bring any advice or concerns to the attention of the relevant organisation informally

TPR has told us that the graphic was intended to be a largely stylized basis to a consultation on its 15-year corporate strategy. This consultation has now finished and once the responses to the consultation have been taken into account, its new strategy is to be published early next year.

TPR has informed us that another iteration of the graphic will be produced in this new corporate strategy document. We have advised TPR informally on ways that it could improve the clarity and transparency for users of not only the graphic, but also the metadata that supports it. We have encouraged them to consider that categories are clearly defined, and to make underlying methodology and source information clear for users as well.

We are satisfied that our recommendations have been taken on board by TPR. We will be following up with them on publication of the new strategy document, should there be a need for any further intervention in the future.

Thank you again for bringing the issue to our attention.

Yours sincerely



Ed Humpherson
Director General for Regulation