Written evidence from Roger Fokerd (PPF0033)

My interest in this subject flows from my membership of more than one defined benefit pension scheme, including the British Steel Staff Scheme.

Proposals

1. To improve the independence of Pension Trustees, at least two members of each Board of Trustees should be appointed by the Pensions Regulator.

2. By law, any Company responsible for funding a defined benefit pension should, when the scheme is in deficit, be required to contribute 40% of its year on year improvement in profitability; until such time as the deficit is eroded.

3. Boards of Trustees and/or the Pensions Regulator should be empowered to take to Court any company failing to honour its responsibility under 2 above, and obtain an enforcement order.

4. Boards of Trustees and/or the Pensions Regulator should be empowered to challenge in the Courts any company introducing changes in corporate structure or accounting practise designed to circumvent or materially diminish its obligation under item 2 above.

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