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LGPS NEGOTIATIONS HELD UP AS GOVERNMENT DELAYS PROCESS

At the end of last year government agreed with the argument made by GMB and others that its draconian proposals for the LGPS were wrong. Government agreed to set aside those proposals and allow new negotiations to take place between unions and the Local Government Association. Those negotiations were very carefully constructed and the documents for the process are published on www.lgps.org.uk. Government, employers and unions agreed to a tight timetable for these negotiations that allows for the necessary consideration by government and consultation with members.

The negotiations were concluded on time and new proposals were submitted to government for approval on 13th February 2012. Both Eric Pickles and his DCLG team together with Danny Alexander and his Treasury team have been considering those proposals and have requested further information and clarification. The Government Actuary's Department has also been involved in calculating the cost of the proposals for members and employers. All in all, government is taking longer to make up its mind than we had expected and at a meeting yesterday Treasury and DCLG officials raised some additional concerns that we will need to work through.

What this means is that our timetable for finalising LGPS proposals so that we can consult members has been delayed. We should have been consulting during March but the government's procrastination suggests that it will be some time before we get their response.

This is very frustrating for everyone and is entirely government's fault.

Thank you for your patience and I will update you as soon as I have something to report.

Brian Strutton

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National Secretary - Public Services Section

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