

**HILLIER HOPKINS LLP  
RETIREMENT BENEFITS PLAN (1987)**

**ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR THE PERIOD FROM 1 JANUARY 2022 TO 30 JUNE 2023**

**HILLIER HOPKINS LLP  
RETIREMENT BENEFITS PLAN (1987)**

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**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES**

**INTRODUCTION**

The scheme is an ear marked money purchase scheme and is a defined contribution arrangement.

This report is prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Disclosure Regulations issued under the Pensions Schemes Act 1995. If you require any information about the scheme, you should address your enquiries to the scheme administrator at Hillier Hopkins LLP, Radius House, 51 Clarendon Road, Watford, Herts WD17 1HP.

**TRUSTEES**

The power to appoint trustees and to remove them from office is vested in the employer. The present trustees of the scheme are Ben Sherwood (Chair), Ian Abrey and Paul Brunt. Paul Brunt is a member nominated trustee.

The trustees held two meetings during the period.

**SCHEME EMPLOYER**

The scheme employer is Hillier Hopkins LLP.

**SCHEME BENEFITS**

The scheme benefits are explained fully in the scheme booklet. There were no changes to the scheme rules during the year.

**MEMBERSHIP**

At the end of the scheme period, there were no active scheme members (2021 : 0) and the total number of those who have left service or are not active members of the scheme and are entitled to receive a deferred pension was 6 (2021 : 6). During the period no members transferred out (2021 : 0). The scheme is closed to new members. Pensions are being paid to 3 pensioners or their dependants (2021 : 3) under annuity contracts set up under the name of the trustees.

**CHANGES TO THE SCHEME**

During the period the trustees extended the annual reporting date from 31 December 2022 to 30 June 2023. This was due to their intention to wind up the scheme before 31 January 2024. On 30 November 2023 the scheme employer formally gave notice to the trustees that the scheme should commence winding up of the scheme with effect from 1 December 2023.

The trustees appointed Barnett Waddingham LLP to provide advice in respect of the winding up. Further to the advice provided the 3 annuities held with Canada Life are to be transferred into the members' names. The remaining funds held by Utmost Life in respect of the 6 deferred members are to be bulk transferred to The Peoples Pension Scheme on 30 January 2024.

As there will be no remaining members in the scheme at 31 January 2024 the trustees have not prepared a chair's statement and governance report for the period.

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**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES**

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**SCHEME ADVISERS**

The following persons and companies act for the trustees:

Auditor	Myers Clark
Insurance manager	Utmost Life and Pensions Limited ("Utmost Life")
Annuity provider	Canada Life
Winding up adviser	Barnett Waddingham LLP
Bankers	Nat West, Watford

**PENSION INCREASES**

Deferred benefits which were invested on a with-profits basis, held in respect of individuals who are no longer in service, ceased to participate in Equitable Life's bonuses after those funds were transferred into unit linked funds managed by Utmost Life on 1 January 2020. However the with profits funds held with Equitable Life received an uplift in value immediately prior to the transfer to Utmost Life.

**SUMMARY OF CONTRIBUTIONS PAYABLE IN THE PERIOD**

During the period no contributions were payable to the scheme either by the employer or members under the payment schedule.

**INVESTMENTS**

The scheme's assets consisted entirely of an insurance policy or policies originally purchased from Equitable Life and the benefits were provided by these policies.

On 1 January 2020 the with profits funds held with Equitable Life received an uplift in value and all investments held on behalf of the scheme by Equitable Life were transferred to Utmost Life. The investments are now fully held in unit linked funds and are managed by Utmost Life. All investment decisions are delegated to Utmost Life.

**TAXATION**

Since 6 April 2006, the scheme has been classed as a Registered Scheme as defined in Section 283, Part 1 of the Finance Act 2004.

**RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

During the period there were no related party transactions.

**HILLIER HOPKINS LLP  
RETIREMENT BENEFITS PLAN (1987)**

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES**

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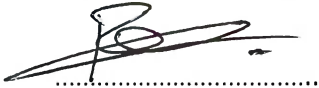
**STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES**

The trustees are responsible for making available certain other information about the scheme in the form of an annual report.

The trustees also have a general responsibility for ensuring that adequate accounting records are kept and for taking such steps as are reasonably open to them to safeguard the assets of the scheme and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities, including the maintenance of an appropriate system of internal control.

The trustees are responsible under pensions legislation for securing that a payment schedule is prepared, maintained and, from time to time revised showing the rates of contributions payable towards the scheme by or on behalf of the employer and the active members of the scheme and the dates on or before which such contributions are to be paid. The trustees are also responsible for keeping records in respect of contributions received in respect of any active member of the scheme and for monitoring whether contributions are made to the scheme by the employer in accordance with the payment schedule. Where breaches of the schedule occur, the Trustees are required by the Pensions Act 1995 to consider making reports to the Pensions Regulator and the members.

Signed on behalf of the trustees by:



Ben Sherwood (Chair)



Paul Brunt

Date 29/1/24

**HILLIER HOPKINS LLP  
RETIREMENT BENEFITS PLAN (1987)**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S STATEMENT ABOUT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE  
TRUSTEES OF THE HILLIER HOPKINS LLP RETIREMENT BENEFITS PLAN (1987)**

**Statement about contributions payable under the payment schedule**

We have examined the summary of contributions to the Hillier Hopkins LLP Retirement Benefits Plan (1987) for the period from 1 January 2022 to 30 June 2023 which is set out in the trustees' report on page 2.

In our opinion contributions for the period from 1 January 2022 to 30 June 2023 as reported in the summary of contributions and payable under the payment schedule have in all material respects been paid at least in accordance with the payment schedule dated 1 March 2013.

**Scope of work on statement about contributions**

Our examination involves obtaining evidence sufficient to give reasonable assurance that contributions reported in the summary of contributions have in all material respects been paid at least in accordance with the payment schedule. This includes an examination on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts of contributions payable to the scheme and the timing of those payments under the payment schedule.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and auditor**

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities set out on page 2, the scheme's trustees are responsible for securing that a payment schedule is prepared, maintained and from time to time revised and for monitoring whether contributions are made to the scheme by the employer in accordance with the payment schedule.

It is our responsibility to provide a statement about contributions payable under the payment schedule and to report our opinion to you.



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Date 29/01/24