

**The Dorset County Pension Fund (DCPF)  
Policy for the Internal Dispute Resolution Procedure (IDRP)**

**Stage 1 - Regulation 74(1) of the LGPS Regulations 2013**

As Administering Authority for the DCPF Dorset Council will appoint the person holding the role of Corporate Director for Finance and Commercial as adjudicator for Stage 1 appeals against the Administering Authority.

The adjudicator will be supported by a senior member of the pensions administration team, who will provide appropriate technical information and expertise, and can access specialist pensions law advice as necessary from the Fund's legal advisors.

In reaching their decision, the adjudicator will follow the usual trustee and public law type principles as follows:

- They must take into account all relevant factors and no irrelevant factors.
- They must ask the correct questions.
- They must direct themselves correctly in law (e.g. follow the Regulations and the correct process), and
- They must not arrive at a perverse decision (that is, a decision which no reasonable decision-maker, properly advising itself of the all the relevant circumstances, could reach).

The investigation will involve raising all necessary enquiries of the first instance decision maker and, where required, the appellant, to investigate all issues raised in the IDRP, and will assess whether any maladministration has occurred. An award for non-financial injustice may be considered at this time.

**IDRP Stage 2 – Regulation 76(4)**

As Administering Authority for the DCPF Dorset Council has delegated the determination of stage 2 appeals to a panel, which will be led by the Section 151 officer. The panel will comprise of;

- The Fund Administrator (the Section 151 Officer)
- The Service Manager for Pensions or their nominee
- The Monitoring Officer or their nominee

Where the Service Manager for Pensions has been involved in the IDRP at Stage 1, a senior manager from the pensions team with the requisite knowledge and expertise will substitute.

All relevant information should be considered by the IDRP panel, and a prepared summary pack of all emails and correspondence etc relating to the matter should be passed to the panel. Further enquiries may be required.

The panel can access specialist pensions law advice as necessary from the Fund's legal advisors.

Karen Gibson  
Service Manager for Pensions  
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