

Ariane Burgess, MSP
Convenor
Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee
The Scottish Parliament

By email: localgov.committee@parliament.scot

10 November 2025

Dear Ariane Burgess MSP,

Legislative consent memorandum - Pension Schemes Bill

Thank you for your letter dated 10 October 2025 on the legislative consent memorandum on the Pension Scheme Bill, lodged in the Scottish Parliament on 26 September 2025.

As the Committee will be aware, the Scottish Public Pensions Agency (SPPA) is part of the Scottish Government and administers the four devolved unfunded schemes, for NHS, Teachers, Police and Firefighters in Scotland. It is also responsible for providing the Scottish Ministers with policy advice on public service pensions, including the Scottish Local Government Pension Scheme (SLGPS). Officials work with the SLGPS stakeholders, in particular through the Scheme Advisory Board (SAB), which is a statutory body responsible for providing Scottish Ministers with the advice on the desirability of changes to the scheme regulations.

The SAB consulted on structural options for the SLGPS in 2018, including the option of pooling. There was limited support for it at the time, but the SAB continues to monitor developments in respect of the scheme in England and Wales, which the Bill is designed to enable.

SPPA Officials supported Ministers in considering the Pension Schemes Bill, and in preparation of the LCM. As your letter sets out, the aim is to maintain parity of powers for the respective authorities responsible for the legislation for the schemes. Consent would also safeguard options for Ministers and parliament in future to bring forward any changes deemed desirable – in full consultation with the SLGPS sector- in what is a live policy area. Without this, the Scottish Parliament may be restricted from legislating for changes without having to request the UK Government extend the provisions of the Act to Scotland, or to introduce further enabling primary legislation.

SPPA considers that consent for the Pension Scheme Bill would serve to ensure futureproofing, allowing sufficient powers for the Scottish Government to act in the best interests of the SLGPS stakeholders- scheme members, employers and the administering authorities.

I hope this response has been helpful, but SPPA officials would be happy to provide further information should any be required.

Yours sincerely

Stephen Pathirana
Chief Executive