

Why appoint an Independent Trustee?

More and more pension funds are recognising the benefits of introducing an Independent Trustee to the board. Here are some of the reasons why;



Independent

Objective and no conflicts
Reassurance for members
Validates decisions by other Trustees
'Negotiator' with employer and others



Time Commitment

Existing trustees may lack time/resources
Increasing TKU requirements from TPR
Streamlined decision making without the need for external advice



Expertise

In depth and up to date governance and regulatory understanding
Experience of other schemes
Strong relationships with regulator



Cost Control

Introduce efficiencies
Control/reduce costs
Advice sought only when necessary
Ensuring continuity and stability

How do we do it

Our approach is fundamental – to ensure the security of members' benefits whilst working with the company to find the most efficient way of funding the scheme. We believe in

- being constructive not obstructive
- being pragmatic and open minded
- good but proportional governance
- working with the existing Trustees, to share knowledge and answer their questions based on familiarity with them and the scheme specific issues

Who we are



CHRIS ATKIN

Chris qualified as an actuary in 1976 and has since gained a wealth of experience in the pensions field. Initially with Friends Provident, he moved to Hogg Robinson in 1979. Chris then headed the Actuarial services at Bain Dawes before becoming a partner at Watson Wyatt in 1984, and moved to Birmingham to set up the Watson Wyatt Birmingham office. After moving to Hewitt Bacon Woodrow as partner in 1990, Chris decided to set up Atkin & Co in 1992.

Over his 35 years in the pensions industry, Chris has worked with almost every type of scheme, from the multi-national multi-employer schemes to managing smaller schemes as they enter the PPF with Atkin Trustees Limited to advising on withdrawal arrangements from Local Government Pension Schemes. During this time he has also built up a thriving business, which has led him to hone an approach that focuses on applying commercial common sense to resolving problems.



RICHARD BRYANT

Over the last 18 years, Richard has worked for a number of companies including Britannic Assurance, Ernst & Young and Pinsent Masons. Richard holds the Advanced Financial Planning Certificate and is an associate of the Pensions Management Institute.

Richard heads up Atkin Trustees Limited, winner of the FT's Independent Trustee of the Year 2010. His schemes include those in wind up, schemes going through their PPF assessment period, ongoing schemes (including some which are still open to accrual!). He specialises in working with the company to provide practical solutions.