

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

23 May 2022

**The Pension SuperFund announces the appointment of eight senior board members**

The Pension SuperFund (“PSF”) today announce the appointment of eight Non-Executive Directors (“NED”) / Board members, covering both the corporate and sponsor operational sides of the business.

- **David Barral:** ex CEO of Aviva UK Life and also former Chair of the retirement and savings committee at the ABI;
- **Sheila Gunn:** employment and pensions lawyer in practice for 23 years; currently a NED with the Scottish Building Society, the Chartered Banker Institute and a member of the Accounts Commission;
- **Jocelyn Blackwell:** pensions industry veteran for more than 40 years, strategic pensions consultant for blue chip companies and current Trustee Director of Lloyds Banking Group Pensions Trustees Limited;
- **Samantha Durrant:** current NED roles in the Home Office, Insolvency Service and NHS and has served as a Director at NEST and worked for 11 years with tPR;
- **Clive Hopkins:** serves on the Development Board at St John’s College, Cambridge University and was Director and Chair of the Investment Committee for Shell Pensions Trust from 2010-19;
- **Kathryn Graham:** ex Head of Strategy Coordination at Universities Superannuation Scheme Ltd (“USS”), one of the largest pension schemes in the UK, with total fund assets of over £70 billion;
- **Helen Copinger-Symes:** over three decades with global blue-chip asset managers, investment firms and banks and currently serves on the Investment Committee for the DHL (UK) Foundation;
- **Frank Johnson:** highly experienced NED with investment companies and previously Managing Director, Investments with RAILPEN;

**Chris Hitchen, Chairman of the Pension Superfund, said:**

*“The new appointments come at a pivotal moment in the development of the Pension SuperFund as it applies for assessment from The Pensions Regulator in line with its June 2020 guidance. The new directors reflect PSF’s sustained commitment to good governance for the benefit of the pensioner, drawing on the wealth of experience of this exceptional group of pensions market professionals.”*

These additions follow the appointment of Michael Clark as Chief Executive Officer in January of this year. See more via: <https://www.thepensionsuperfund.com/the-pension-superfund-announces-the-appointment-of-michael-clark-as-chief-executive-officer/>.

**Michael Clark, Chief Executive Officer at the Pension SuperFund, commented:**

*“We are absolutely delighted to welcome these highly regarded individuals to their respective Board positions at Pension SuperFund. Their track records both within pensions and across the broader financial landscape further strengthens PSF’s already high-class roster of pension professionals and talent to ensure first-class leadership and governance for what is a very exciting time for superfunds.”*

**-ENDS-**

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### **Notes to the Editor:**

**David Barral** was the CEO of Aviva UK Life (2011-15) where he was responsible for this business unit ("BU") as an independent, legal and regulated entity within the Aviva Group with its own independent Board. Simultaneously, he was part of the Group Exco. As the largest BU within the Group, David was an integral part of the PLC governance process particularly Group Risk and Customer / Product governance committees. Pensions have been a large part of David's career and during his time at Aviva, 70% of its business was either individual or group pensions led activity. He was also chair of the ABI retirement and savings committee for 2 years and helped develop policy on pension and annuities with regular cooperation with the regulator and Department of Work and Pensions. His non-executive career has included chair of Virgin Wines, Senior Independent Director at LV Financial Services and chair of Embark Group. He is currently chair of Rowanmoor Group, a bespoke Sipp operator.

**Sheila Gunn's** professional background is as an employment and pensions lawyer who was in practice for 23 years before a change to NED activity. She is currently a NED with the Scottish Building Society, where she is Chair of both the Remuneration and Nominations Committees. Sheila is also a member of the Accounts Commission, the body in Scotland that scrutinises the public sector spending of Councils and Integrated Joint Health and Social Care Boards. Until recently, she was a member of the Independent Governance Committees for each of Phoenix Life, Standard Life and Reassure. In this role, Sheila reported directly to the FCA on value for money for customers of workplace pension schemes. Sheila was also a NED of Airdrie Savings Bank, working with the PRA through its orderly wind-down. She has also acted for several high-profile asset management companies during her years in legal practice and spent the first two years after leaving legal practice as a consultant with Ignis Asset Management.

**Jocelyn Blackwell** has been in the pensions industry for over 40 years as a consultant, executive director, a non-executive director and a Trustee Director. As an executive, she was founder and MD of Dunnett Shaw 1987-2005, and CEO of Higham Dunnett Shaw PLC until the sale of the business to Capita in 2007. Jocelyn's non-executive experience started at Inside Pensions (now Zedra Inside Pensions) where she sat on the board for ten years, and as a current Trustee Director with Lloyds Banking Group Pensions Trustees Limited, overseeing five of the Group's largest pension schemes, four DB and one very large DC. Jocelyn was also a Trustee Director for six years of one of the UK's largest master trusts.

**Samantha Durrant** is a Non-Executive Director for the Disclosure and Barring Service where she chairs the Change Management Committee, NHS Sussex Commissioners and the Insolvency Service. Samantha has worked as a senior leader in a broad range of organisations across the public and private sectors. During her Executive career her responsibilities included, business change, IT, casework, customer management, legal, governance and operations. Samantha joined TPR's predecessor, the Occupational Pensions Regulatory Authority (OPRA), in 1996 and following the launch of TPR remained with the Regulator as a Director until 2007. She then joined the Personal Accounts Delivery Authority (PADA), the predecessor to the National Employment Savings Trust (NEST). At NEST she held a number of roles including Client On-Boarding, Business Management and Sales and Marketing. She then spent four years at Mercer in their Health and Benefits consulting business before transitioning to a Non-Executive Portfolio.

**Clive Hopkins** serves on the Development Board at St John's College, Cambridge University responsible for strategic advice, including fundraising and student financing schemes. He worked as a Director of Shell Pensions Trust from 2010-19, where he was Chair of its Investment Committee overseeing the £20 billion UK Pension Fund focusing on asset allocation and investment performance. Prior to this, he was Head of Mergers and Acquisitions (London) for Shell International. Previous roles in Shell included Head of Project Finance; Chief Financial Officer of Shell UK Downstream; Head of Group Investor Relations; Head of Salaries and Pensions Administration; and Head of Pensions Policy for Shell UK. Clive is a Fellow of the Institute of Actuaries.



**The Pension  
SuperFund**

Taking care of pension promises

**Kathryn Graham** has over twenty-five years' experience as a direct investor across multiple asset classes and managing complex multi-billion-pound portfolios. She has extensive expertise ranging from alternatives, private markets and derivatives through to ESG and board governance. She currently holds Non-Executive Board and Advisory positions for several private companies spanning pensions, fintech and investment management. Previously she was Head of Strategy Coordination at USS, which operates the largest pension scheme in the UK. Her team oversaw asset allocation, portfolio construction and manager selection as well as management of both the DB and DC sections. She is a former Director of BT Pension Scheme Management where her responsibilities included manager selection across the scheme and as head of liabilities. She was also in charge of long-term scheme strategy, including significant investments in private markets and into a large multi-credit portfolio during the global financial crisis. She has also worked at Progressive Alternative Investments, SG Warburg and UBS. Kathryn is currently an Ambassador and Lead on Partnerships for the Diversity Project. She was a founding Trustee of the Standards Board for Alternative Investments and Chair of the London Board of 100 Women in Finance. She is also a recipient of Hedge Funds Review's outstanding contribution to the industry by an institutional investor award and has been included on both the FN100 Women in European Finance list and the Institutional Investor list of "Most Wanted Allocators". She holds a Masters in Economics and Mathematics from Edinburgh University.

**Helen Copinger-Symes'** career has spanned over three decades with global blue-chip asset managers, investment firms and banks, including State Street Global Advisors, Alliance Bernstein, Invesco Perpetual, Deutsche Asset Management, Credit Lyonnais Euro Securities, IBJ International and Hambros Bank. Helen currently serves on the Investment Committee for the DHL (UK) Foundation. She is responsible for the oversight of the investment fund, helping to ensure strong investment returns are delivered to meet the endowment's ambitious activities programme, while also protecting the capital for future generations.

**Frank Johnson** is an experienced NED, two of his roles being with investment companies, one with a pension fund, another with a charity and a previous NED role at the PLSA. His executive career included being Managing Director, Investments with RAILPEN where he led comprehensive transformational change programmes, including governance arrangements, pooled fund structuring and investment approaches. Frank launched an in-house diversified growth fund in 2009 (~£14 billion at launch) and restructured client services teams. He also brought in-house a 65,000 member AVC (DC) scheme and established an employer covenant assessment process. Frank was also RAILPEN's Finance Director 2004-09.