

Ariane Burgess
Convener
Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee
Scottish Parliament

7 November 2025

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the legislative consent memorandum LCM-S6-65 on the Pension Schemes Bill.

On behalf of the North East Scotland Pension Fund, I can confirm that we have no objection to the consent order.

However, we would have some concerns if Scotland were to exercise the new regulatory powers by following the approach proposed in England and Wales. Specifically, we would object to 'pooling' on the English model. We do not believe that pooling is required in Scotland. While pooling has been in place for around ten years, there is still no conclusive evidence that it has delivered what was expected, particularly around cost savings, as pool expenditure continues to rise.

I hope this is helpful to the Committee.

Yours sincerely

Councillor John Cooke
Convener, Pension Committee, Aberdeen City Council
For The North East Scotland Pension Fund