

NEWSLETTER NO 38 : MARCH 1997

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1. APPOINTMENT OF GOVERNMENT ACTUARY

With effect from 3 March 1997 I have taken up the position of Government Actuary. This is now constituted as a part-time position, of two-thirds the full-time equivalent. My "core hours" will be 8:30 am to 2:00 pm each day, but I will be available outside those hours by prior appointment. The contract is initially for a period of one year, to be reviewed at the end of that time in the light of the requirements for the position.

By way of background, I began my actuarial career working firstly in life insurance and then, after qualifying as an actuary in 1979, in a consulting practice. I then joined what used to be the Government Actuary's Office in 1982, concluding in 1987 after a period of 15 months as Acting Government Actuary. Since that time I have operated my own consultancy.

I look forward to the challenge of maintaining the very high standard set by Neil Malley. I am pleased to know I will have the benefit of the precedents he put in place under the 1989 Superannuation Schemes Act regime, and of the high level of experience and competency that has accumulated within the Insurance & Superannuation Unit.

2. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

As noted above, the Government Actuary position is now two-thirds of a full-time equivalent. I will therefore be continuing my consultancy practice as Geoff Rashbrooke, Actuary, albeit at a much reduced level.

Matters of conflict of interest were discussed vigorously and in considerable detail prior to my appointment. My role as Government Actuary is necessarily paramount, and I have taken appropriate steps to ensure that nothing will remain in my private consultancy practice that could reasonably be said to compromise the integrity of the Commercial Affairs Division in general and the Unit in particular.

3. STAFFING

To assist you in making enquiries, you may care to note the following as first points of contact on the matters stated:

Geoff Rashbrooke	Decisions and directions of the Government Actuary, matters involving actuarial valuation and related technical issues. Direct line (04) 470 2528.
Gavin Quigan	Management of the Unit, registration of new schemes, reviewing membership transfer documentation, dealing with member complaints, and providing a help desk facility. Direct line (04) 470 2526.
Alan Leahey	Auditing of trust deed amendments, management of superannuation scheme windups and cancellations, and providing a help desk facility. Direct line (04) 470 2527.
Paula Gillespie	Responsible for the accounts receivable system, invoicing, billing schedule maintenance and monitoring and follow up of arrears. Direct line (04) 470 2531.
Lesley Carrig	Auditing of superannuation scheme trustee annual reports to ensure compliance with the Act, processing classification requests in terms of section GD8 of the Income Tax Act 1994. Direct line (04) 470 2532.

If you have any queries about any other matter, please initially refer to Gavin Quigan.

4. ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I would like to formally acknowledge the invaluable and extremely professional assistance given to the Unit by John Melville as Acting Government Actuary from the death of Neil Malley up to the date of my appointment. It has perhaps not been fully appreciated how difficult it has been for John to manage his dual roles as a Principal of an actuarial consultancy and as Acting Government Actuary, particularly for the unforeseen length of time this arrangement has continued. I extend to John very sincere thanks for his efforts in keeping the work of the Unit up to date and up to standard, and for the prompt and efficient service given to Gavin and his team.

G D Rashbrooke
Government Actuary