

**Press Release**

**24 September 2018**

## **Aquila Heywood announces ISP-readiness for the Pensions Dashboard**

At the heart of a successful Pensions Dashboard is the need for broad coverage, across both the Public and Private Sectors. There is still a misconception that it will be very challenging to provide Defined Benefits (DB) pensions, and legacy Defined Contributions (DC) data to the Dashboard. Solving this challenge is easier and faster with a modern Integration Service Provider (ISP) infrastructure and interfaces.

Aquila Heywood is uniquely placed to deliver an ISP solution and assist in establishing governing standards and architectures for broader industry ISPs, across all pension industry sectors, including over 4 million UK Public Sector pension accounts.

As one of the six original technology partners chosen in 2016 by the Association of British Insurers (ABI) to support the Prototype Project, Aquila Heywood delivered a prototype in April last year and has continued to invest in this initiative since then. This proto-type ISP has already been tested to deliver industry-scale and robust ISP capabilities. The ISP service itself is designed to enable the integration of data from any third-party pension system and for any type of pension contract, be that scheme based or individual. Production versions will be included in Aquila Heywood's administration platforms, Altair™ and Administrator™, further endorsing readiness in 2019.

Simon Barker, CEO at Aquila Heywood said, "ISP-ready platforms are part of the solution but alone will not ensure a successful Dashboard. Robust industry programme management is key, utilising 'best in class' industry partners to deliver each component. I do not believe one single organisation can successfully deliver this initiative alone".

In Aquila Heywood's September 2018 survey of its customers across the Public and Private Sector, two-thirds of respondents were concerned about the cost they would incur in supporting the Dashboard, but an overwhelming 80% believed it will improve member engagement overall. The fact that Aquila Heywood has already developed its ISP solution was welcomed by customers as it will significantly alleviate the challenge for those pension schemes in linking to the Pensions Dashboard.



Mr Barker added, "We are committed to ensuring all sectors of the pensions industry can easily access the Pensions Dashboard. The new ISP integration layer will ensure they will receive a straightforward, cost-effective plug-in to a Pension Finder service, alongside an ID and data validation wrapper.

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For more information and media enquiries regarding Aquila Heywood, please contact:

Aquila Heywood  
Emma Fisher, Marketing Manager  
[emma.fisher@aquilaheywood.co.uk](mailto:emma.fisher@aquilaheywood.co.uk)  
Switchboard: 01737 859859, Direct dial: 01737 857078

Aquila Heywood, Aquila House, 35 London Road, Redhill RH1 1NJ  
[www.aquilaheywood.co.uk](http://www.aquilaheywood.co.uk)