

Press Release

10 March 2017

Aquila Heywood solves data challenges for 35,500 employees across three funds

Falkirk Pension Fund, Buckinghamshire Pension Fund and Plumbing Pensions have partnered with Aquila Heywood to implement i-Connect™, an automated data exchange portal, to solve their data challenges.

i-Connect allows data to be exchanged and reconciled monthly, providing more accurate and up-to-date member records, while reducing the time and resources required to provide data for employers and pension funds. i-Connect helps employers by improving the quality, completeness and timeliness of data, in accordance with the standards deserved by members and required by The Pensions Regulator.

Falkirk Pension Fund

Falkirk has 14,500 active members in the scheme, spread across 39 employing organisations, ranging in size from 6,000 employees down to one employee. It was looking for a secure Web-based tool suitable for all employers, to assist them with their duties to provide us with clean data.

'Everything we do for active members of the fund is driven by the data provided by the employers. We were impressed with i-Connect as it was developed by people who understood the LGPS and the considerable data challenges it faces. We are looking to roll out i-Connect for the smaller employers in time for the 2016-2017 year-end process and hope to have all employers on board by the end of 2017-2018.'

- Alastair McGirr, Pensions Manager at Falkirk

Buckinghamshire Pension Fund

Buckinghamshire has 200 employers with a total of 25,500 employees. After an internal review Buckinghamshire identified that they needed a system that could:

- Improve the process and operational efficiency for the Fund and the Employers.
- Automate the data exchange process for the employer by bringing in straight-through processing of data.



Aquila Heywood

- Reduce the risk surrounding the data transfer process and improve data quality.
- Remove the year-end return process.
- Ensure the fund was compliant with the Pension Regulators Code of Practice.

'There has been a superb level of support throughout the entire process to date from the i-Connect team'

- Stephen Lugg, Pensions Manager at Buckinghamshire Pension Fund

Plumbing Pensions

Plumbing Pensions, one of the largest industry-wide schemes in the UK, has around 400 employers who contribute into the scheme. These employers provide around 70,000 pieces of data, mainly by paper, over the course of a year to Plumbing Pensions, for the 3,500 employees who are scheme members.

'i-Connect was chosen to help improve the data exchange process for employers by automating the mainly manual process and providing straight-through processing from the employer to the scheme. We are looking to improve process and operational efficiency for both the scheme and the employers by reducing the time and effort spent on year-end and monthly reconciliation of data. Improving the overall data quality will allow the scheme to respond to member queries more quickly and manage the risk surrounding record keeping.'

- Kate Yates, CEO at Plumbing Pensions

-ENDS-

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

Aquila Heywood

Emma Fisher, Marketing Executive

emma.fisher@aquilaheywood.co.uk

Switchboard: 01737 859859, Direct dial: 01737 857078

Aquila Heywood, Aquila House, 35 London Road, Redhill, Surrey RH1 1NJ

www.aquilaheywood.co.uk