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### Don't underestimate the importance of involving lawyers in communications, says Sackers

Sacker & Partners LLP (Sackers), the UK's leading specialist law firm for pensions and retirement savings, today urged trustees and employers to involve their lawyer when a communications strategy is being devised.

**Helen Ball, Head of DC at Sackers, commented:** "When it comes to member communication strategies, giving your lawyer a seat at the table can save both time and money in the long run. Lawyers will often spot potential pitfalls and they have lots of valuable experience that trustees and employees can use to their advantage.

"There are five key points to bear in mind:

**One** - Trustees are ultimately responsible for member communications, so it's essential that they know, and keep under review, what is being published in their name.

**Two** - Electronic communications are subject to legal requirements. When communicating via email or a website, trustees must liaise with their legal advisors to ensure special rules are met.

**Three** - Care must be taken when simplifying detailed, technical information to aid member understanding. Before documents are finalised, trustees should check with lawyers to ensure legal requirements are still being adhered to.

**Four** - Make clear that the trust deed and rules take priority. While this is the general rule, including a statement to that effect in each member communication is good practice and should avoid any misunderstanding later.

**Five** - A complete communications strategy is good practice. Avoiding a piecemeal approach will ensure that communications are constructive and sent at all the right junctures in a member's saving journey."

Helen Ball continued: "Involving your lawyer in your scheme communications planning might not be the most obvious choice, but when it comes to protecting the interests of the scheme and members, it is certainly something all schemes should consider."

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**Notes to Editors:**

Sacker & Partners LLP (Sackers) is a top tier commercial law firm specialising in advising DB and DC pension scheme trustees, employers, providers and corporate investors on all aspects of their pension arrangements.

Widely viewed as leaders in the field, Sackers advises more of the UK's top 200 pension funds than any other law firm. Sackers is consistently ranked in the top tier for pensions by both leading UK legal directories (Chambers UK and the Legal 500) and has been for the last twenty years.

Based in London, Sackers provides support to trustee boards, sponsoring employers, providers and Government bodies across a range of areas, including day to day scheme management, funding and investment, risk and litigation.

Sackers is an active member of the Pensions and Lifetime Savings Association and The Association of Pensions Lawyers and is technical legal expert partner to the Pensions Management Institute and PensionChair. Sackers also works closely with TPAS, the SPP, APPT and the Pensions Investment Academy.

Sackers was recently named Pension Lawyers of the Year at the 2018 UK Pension Awards.

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