



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
29 January 2009

## **SPC SETS 2009 AGENDA WITH ROSIE WINTERTON MP AND LORD MACKENZIE**

- *SPC continues its political outreach programme*
- *Meeting set agenda of priorities for 2009*

As part of the Society of Pension Consultants' (SPC) ongoing political engagement programme, SPC representatives, led by its President, Duncan Howorth, have met with The Rt Hon Rosie Winterton, MP, Minister of State for Pensions and the Ageing Society, and Lord Mackenzie, Work and Pensions Minister.

The SPC actively seeks to further the dialogue between the pensions industry and political audiences. In this instance, the discussion focused around priorities for 2009, including SPC's ideas for more flexibility in funding plans for Sponsors of Defined Benefit schemes, if needed, and a temporary amnesty on PPF levies. The parties also touched on the need for the government to issue more long-dated indexed gilts to assist schemes' risk management.

Rosie Winterton commented: "The Department of Working Pensions welcomes the constructive approach of the SPC. Fundamentally we share the same view that pensions promises need to be protected, and we will keep working together to deliver this, focused on supporting the UK pensions sector in these challenging economic times."

Over the last 12 months, SPC has previously met with Liberal Democrat Shadow Secretary of State for Work & Pensions, Danny Alexander, MP; Mike O'Brien, MP, Minister for Pensions Reform; the former Shadow Secretary of State for Work & Pensions, Chris Grayling MP; and the Shadow Pensions Minister, Nigel Waterson MP. The SPC firmly believes that the pensions industry should be actively preparing for largescale change and that all employers, big and small, will benefit from building personal accounts into their longer-term planning now.

Roger Mattingly, Chairman of the SPC's Public Relations Committee, said, "We all welcomed the opportunity to share our ideas and opinions for the year ahead. With economic challenges undoubtedly in front of us, maintaining dialogue between the industry and parliamentary decision-making audiences has never been so critical. We at the SPC are determined to enhance communication and strengthen other links between the industry and politicians and political audiences."

ENDS

For further details  
Andrew Wilde, Smithfield 020 7903 0661  
John Mortimer, SPC 020 7353 1688

**NOTES FOR EDITORS**



SPC is the representative body for a wide range of providers of advice and services to work-based pension schemes and to their sponsors. SPC's Members' profile is a key strength and includes accounting firms, solicitors, insurance companies, investment houses, investment performance measurers, consultants and actuaries, independent trustees and external pension administrators. SPC is the only body to focus on the whole range of pension related services across the private pensions sector and, through such a wide spread of providers of advice and services. We do not represent any particular type of provision or any one interested body or group. Many thousands of individuals and pension funds use the services of one or more of SPC's Members, including the overwhelming majority of the 500 largest UK pension funds. SPC's growing membership collectively employs some 15,000 people providing pension-related advice and services.