

Scottish Conservative Paul Masterton at the forefront of pension change

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On the back of a ten-minute rule bill by Scottish Conservative MP, Paul Masterton, the Government is set to open a consultation and support the introduction of Collective Defined Pension Schemes.

Collective Defined Pension Schemes (CDCs) are seen as an alternative means of workplace saving, following the decline of final salary pension schemes.

CDCs have been used in many countries but came to attention in the U.K. following an agreement between Royal Mail and the Communication Workers Union (CWU). However, it became clear that new legislation would be needed to take the proposal forward, which is why Mr Masterton introduced his Bill.

The Royal Mail employs 140,000 across the U.K., with 143 in East Renfrewshire serving 30,000 households from depots in Barrhead, Newton Mearns and Clarkston.

Supporters of CDC argue that it can deliver higher returns than traditional money purchase schemes for the same level of contributions, partly because CDC pension pots would not need to take as cautious an investment approach as those in more conventional defined contribution schemes.

Before being elected last year, Mr. Masterton spent a decade as a solicitor specialising in pensions law.

Paul Masterton, MP for East Renfrewshire commented:

“I’m pleased that the Government is following up on warm words with action to make CDCs a reality by launching a consultation.

“They are by no means a magic solution to the complex questions of saving in the modern workplace, but there is a clear desire amongst employers and employee representatives to move forward.

“I brought forward a Bill because I was frustrated at progress, I’m delighted if this announcement means I can hand the baton over to the Government.

“I’d like to thank the Royal Mail and the Communication Workers Union for all their hard work.”

Guy Opperman MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Pensions and Financial Inclusion added:

“I was pleased to engage with Paul Masterton and thank him for bringing forward his proposals this week. We will be shortly issuing a consultation on CDCs and it is good to see growing consensus that this is a positive way forward.”

Robert McIlveen, UK Policy Manager at the Royal Mail added:

“As the provider of around one in every 190 jobs in the UK, Royal Mail is committed to delivering the best possible pension arrangements for our people. Royal Mail and the CWU hope the legislation required to enable CDC pensions will be introduced at the earliest opportunity.”

[News story: Defence Secretary welcomes Qatari counterpart to UK](#)

The UK and Qatar’s Defence relationship is closer than ever, the Defence Secretary has reaffirmed, as production starts on Typhoon fighter jets that will be sold to the Gulf nation.

[Woodwork company fined after persistent failure to guard and maintain equipment](#)

Ashwell Recycled Timber Products Limited has been fined following repeated failures to safely guard and maintain woodwork equipment used by their employees.

Barkingside Magistrates’ Court heard how employees had been exposed to the risk of serious injury because their radial arm drill was not fitted with an effective telescopic guard or trip device, and the housing on a re-saw blade and self-return function on their cross-cut saw had not been maintained. These failures were found despite the company having received previous enforcement action from HSE on similar issues.

Ashwell Recycled Timber Products Limited of Wick Place Farm, Bulphan, Upminster, pleaded guilty to two breaches of Regulation 5(1) and one of

Regulation 11(1) of the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 and have been fined £12,000 and ordered to pay costs of £2,831.75.

Speaking after the case HSE inspector Dominic Elliss said “In this case, the company completely failed to grasp the importance of installing and maintaining basic but essential guards to prevent access to the dangerous parts of woodworking machinery.

“Companies should be aware that HSE may bring prosecutions where dutyholders continually fail to address risks in the workplace. Woodworking machinery relies on the provision and ongoing maintenance of suitable guards to prevent significant injuries occurring, and businesses should take this opportunity to review their own arrangements and ensure they are sufficiently robust.”

Notes to Editors:

1. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is Britain’s national regulator for workplace health and safety. We prevent work-related death, injury and ill health through regulatory actions that range from influencing behaviours across whole industry sectors through to targeted interventions on individual businesses. These activities are supported by globally recognised scientific expertise. www.hse.gov.uk
2. More about the legislation referred to in this case can be found at: www.legislation.gov.uk/
3. HSE news releases are available at <http://press.hse.gov.uk>
4. Guidance can be found here:
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/wis36.pdf> –
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/priced/hsg129.pdf>
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/priced/l114.pdf>

Journalists should approach HSE press office with any queries on regional press releases.

[News story: Master and vessel owner ordered to pay £28,610 for fisheries offences](#)

Wilhelmina LT60 is a British registered 35 metre fishing vessel operated by a Dutch company and master, which primarily targets plaice and Dover sole in the North Sea. The court heard that enforcement checks of the vessel’s statutory documentation showed that it had exceeded the permitted 10% margin of tolerance in its fishing logbook on 41 occasions. Six charges were brought before the court and the defendants asked for the other 35 offences to be taken into consideration.

The vessel owner Wilhelmina Beheer B.V. and skipper Jelle Toering both pleaded guilty to all charges and offences.

Wilhelmina Beheer B.V. was fined £3,000 for each offence (£18,000 in total), £2,000 in costs and a victim surcharge of £170. Jelle Toering was fined £1,295 for each offence, (£7,770 in total), £500 in costs and a victim surcharge of £170.

A spokesperson for the MMO said:

The outcome of this enforcement action shows that non-compliance with the requirement to submit an accurate electronic logbook will be detected and dealt with appropriately, with the offending company facing fines in appropriate circumstances.

In cases like this the MMO will always take proportionate and appropriate action, including prosecution, to ensure offenders do not benefit from illegal activity and to protect fish stocks for the wider fishing industry and future generations.

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