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Myners Principles – version 2

The recent Government "update" on the Myners Principles is undoubtedly well-intentioned, but regrettably it continues the focus on large schemes - a scheme of 5,000 actives/deferreds can easily have assets in excess of £200m. Clearer guidance on the acceptable level of action for smaller schemes would help them avoid unnecessary costs.

A bigger issue is the Treasury's aim of separating strategic asset allocation and fund manager selection. Were it just a case of taking the former role away from the Scheme Actuary, that would be understandable - many Scheme Actuaries prefer to keep their investment-related comments to a high level and already refer clients to an investment specialist, although if from the investment department of the same firm this can then raise more questions on conflicts of interest.

However, someone who is independent and who practises in both investment areas should be suitable for handling both of them. Why should the Treasury think otherwise?

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