

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Sackers survey reveals ongoing confusion over IHT proposals and 2025 pension priorities**

Sacker & Partners LLP (Sackers), the UK's leading specialist law firm for pensions and retirement savings, today announced the results of their most recent webinar survey\*. Its results show ongoing confusion in the industry around Inheritance Tax (IHT) proposals and 2025 priorities alongside some mixed views with the Government's plans for DC.

**Partner, Helen Ball commented:** "Our survey asked attendees about the most important changes they'd like to see happen in 2025, and there were two clear frontrunners: 32% of respondents are hoping for improved retirement support and 32% want to see an increase in auto-enrolment contributions. We may see retirement support duties arrive via the Pension Schemes Bill later this year, but there remains considerable uncertainty about the timetable for auto-enrolment changes.

"There were mixed views about the Government's approach to setting DC priorities - although 62% of respondents said the priorities "are clear, although there is a lot happening all at once", another 31% found the direction unclear and remain uncertain about what might be coming next. With so much still to be decided and so many developments on the DC horizon, trustees and employers should monitor legal developments closely over the next few months, and check they have the resources to manage what may be coming down the track."

**Ball continued:** "The survey also revealed that a mere 4% of respondents currently feel clear about the scope of the Government's proposals to apply IHT to certain wealth passed on through pension schemes. Of the remaining 96%, most respondents have concerns "to some extent" as to what the 'life products' exclusion will capture, as well as which benefits fall within scope. The two biggest concerns relate to increased administrative complexity, with the changes affecting day-to-day operations and increasing the risk of errors (cited by 36% of respondents) and potential delays in paying out death benefits (mentioned by around 20%). There will therefore be lots of interest in the output of the Government's recent consultation process.

"Lack of clarity around the precise extent of the IHT proposals is clearly causing ongoing concern. Realistically, it may be some time before a clearer picture emerges, as the government takes time to digest the consultation responses. With potential administrative complexity adding to the unease, all eyes will be on the process which the Government ultimately lands on for accounting for and paying any IHT due on pensions benefits."

\* Based on 111 respondents representing trustees and employers of both DC and DB schemes.

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## Notes to Editors:

Sacker & Partners LLP (Sackers) is a top tier commercial law firm specialising in advising 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 over 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, projects, risk and litigation.

Sackers is an active member of the Pensions and Lifetime Savings Association, The Association of Pensions Lawyers and the Society of Pension Professionals and is technical legal expert partner to the Pensions Management Institute.

In 2024 Sackers won Best Pensions Law Firm at the Corporate Adviser Awards and was shortlisted as Pensions Law Firm of the year at both the UK Professional Pensions Awards and the Pensions Age Awards.

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