

Scheme Advisory Board

HYBRID MEETING – 11 MARCH 2024

ITEM 5 – PAPER B

ECONOMIC ACTIVITY OF PUBLIC BODIES (OVERSEAS MATTERS) BILL

Background

1. The [Bill](#) (known as the BDS Bill for ease of reference) was introduced to the House of Commons on June 19th 2023, and had its second reading on July 3rd; ahead of which the LGA issued a [technical briefing](#). There was a [lively debate](#) in the Commons at second reading, and the Bill then proceeded to [committee stage](#) in September, during which Jon Richards and Jo Donnelly gave evidence to the Bill committee.

Update

2. The Bill had its Commons report stage on October 25th before Parliament was prorogued ahead of the King's Speech on November 7th. The LGA issued a [technical briefing](#) ahead of report stage, commenting on some of the proposed amendments. The Bill was not amended at report stage, despite a number of amendments being tabled, debated and voted on.
3. However, there were commitments from the minister to clarify the explanatory notes on a few matters, which has since been completed. The Bill received a carry-over motion and was reintroduced to the House once Parliament was reconvened after the King's Speech.
4. The Bill had its third reading in the Commons on January 10th 2024 and moved to the House of Lords where it had its second reading on February 20th 2024. The LGA [issued a further briefing](#) ahead of second reading, and again there was a [lively debate](#).
5. Informal discussions between the Secretariat and the Bill team have continued, and most recently have included discussions with the team at The Pensions Regulator responsible for implementing the enforcement element of the Bill in relation to the Local Government Pension Scheme.
6. The Secretariat will continue to evaluate amendments put forward ahead of Lords Committee Stage (for which at the time of writing there is no confirmed date) and will suggest amendments that we think would improve the Bill if no similar amendments are tabled, using LGA channels to brief Peers who would be happy to table said amendments.
7. The Bill team have indicated their expectation that Royal Assent will be attained swiftly once the Lords proceedings are complete.

Recommendation – that the Board notes this update