



pensions
umbrella
TRUST

DEAN
WETTON
ADVISORY

Media Release: Dean Wetton Advisory

Embargo: 00:01am, Tuesday 11 December 2012

Diversified Sharia Approach from Emirates NBD adopted by BlueSky Pension Scheme and Pensions Umbrella Trust

Companies employing Muslim workers seeking a pension arrangement that meet the requirements of sharia law will from today have access to a more diversified option thanks to Dean Wetton Advisory working in collaboration with Emirates NBD.

A diversified sharia compliant fund has been developed which can be used as an alternative to the main default fund. We are pleased to announce that the BlueSky Pension Scheme and Pensions Umbrella Trust, both advised by Dean Wetton Advisory, will be implementing this approach, more in line with guidance from the Department of Work and Pensions.

Commenting, Dean Wetton said:

“Most defined contribution schemes that offer sharia compliant funds for Muslim members only offer equity funds. We believe this is not good enough as equity funds are higher risk than diversified funds due to the narrower and more volatile nature of these investments.

We were therefore pleased to be able to work with Emirates NBD to develop this new innovative approach to pension provision.”

Commenting on their adoption in the scheme, Paul Bannister, CEO of BlueSky Pension Scheme, said:

“BlueSky works with over four hundred employers and we understand that many of their members have not had access to the scheme because they felt the options available to them were not compliant with their religious views.

The compulsion aspect of auto enrolment means we feel the need to offer the best options to members to provide investment solution.”

The Investment Committee of Pensions Umbrella Trust have also announced that they too will be including the scheme in the investment options available to its members.

Dean Wetton Advisory stated that the initial costs will be higher than hoped, a result of the uncertainty around numbers that might take-up the scheme. This will, assuming a reasonable take-up over the coming years, be reviewed with the intention to improve the offering in terms of cost and risk reduction as members approach retirement.

ENDS

Note to Editors

1. For all media enquiries please contact: Dean Wetton +44 (0)845 5040500 and Dean.Wetton@DeanWettonAdvisory.Com
2. Emirates NBD Asset Management www.emiratesnbd.com
 - Is the 100% owned DIFC subsidiary of Emirates NBD, a leading banking group in the region
 - The company is regulated by the Dubai Financial Services Authority and provides a full range of investment products, from in house managed public funds to tailor made discretionary solutions, offering exposure to the regional MENA markets as well as global markets, covering all of the main asset classes, structured on either a Shari'a compliant or conventional basis.
3. Blue Sky Pension Scheme is a Union backed not for profit master trust that has origins in the electrical contracting industry but now offers pensions to any employer www.blueskypensions.co.uk/
4. Pensions Umbrella Trust is a not for profit master trust set up by Dean Wetton Advisory to be governed on Employee Ownership principals www.pensionsumbrella.com/
5. Dean Wetton Advisory is a boutique investment and governance advisory firm with a focus on defined contribution pension funds www.deanwettonadvisory.com
6. From 1 October 2012 all employers have been required to automatically enrol their employees onto a default pension scheme. The Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) guidance <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/def-opt-guid.pdf> states:
 - *As with any defined contribution (DC) pension scheme, individuals in the default option will be exposed to investment and other risks. Thought should be given to managing risk to achieve the best outcome for members.*
 - *The default option's investment strategy should manage these risks through the appropriate and diversified allocation of assets. Risk should not be considered in isolation.*
 - *The investment strategy should reflect the overall objective of the default option and the balance between risk and the potential for growth.*
7. Sharia compliance: in order for an investment fund to become sharia compliant it needs to avoid interest payments, include halal investments and be accepted by a sharia board of scholars.