

John Sheehan  
Pensions Ombudsman  
36 Upper Mount Street  
DUBLIN

Your ref: PO 140319890

17th June 2014

Dear Mr Sheehan

### **MR BARRY – HUNTER ADVERTISING PENSION SCHEME (the "Scheme")**

Further to our recent communication in relation to the above claim, as requested and in the interests of making progress with this matter, an update is set out below.

#### **1. BACKGROUND**

We note that Mr Barry's complaint is set out in his application to the Pensions Ombudsman dated 10 March 2014. Mercer understands Mr Barry's complaint to be that he has been unable to trace the Hunter Advertising Ltd pension scheme. Irish Pensions Trust ("IPT") (now Mercer) was the trustee and advisor to Hunter Advertising on this Scheme. The Scheme itself was originally administered and insured through Royal Life Limited (now Phoenix Life) before transferring to Friends Provident (now Friends First) in January 1983. We also understand from our investigation to date (see below) that Royal Life held assets for the Scheme until they were transferred to Friends First in 1998.

#### **2. INVESTIGATION**

Mercers' investigation into this matter to date has included a full review of all files held in respect of the Scheme by Mercer and numerous requests for information from both Royal Life (now known as Phoenix Life Limited, who have historically held Scheme assets) and Friends First (Scheme actuary) over a number of weeks. Unfortunately, we have uncovered very few documents which are relevant to Mr Barry.

Due to the length of time that has passed, the fact that the Scheme has been wound up and the unavoidable reality that individuals who were employed by IPT, Royal Life and Friends First at the relevant time have since moved on, Mercer have unfortunately not been able to conclusively determine or track Mr Barry's entitlement in respect of the Scheme.

#### **3. NEXT STEPS**

Whilst our key investigations have been completed, there are a number of points we are continuing to explore. Particularly, we are looking into the circumstances and steps taken around the time that the Scheme was wound up in 2007, particularly, what happened to other Scheme members' benefits at this

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time. Friends First are continuing to assist us with these queries and we hope to be able to provide a further update shortly.

If you have any further queries, we would be happy to assist.

Yours sincerely,



Orlagh O'Loughlin  
Legal Counsel