

**Press Release**

**21 August 2018**

**The Scottish Public Pensions Agency (SPPA) extends partnership with Aquila Heywood to deliver pensions IT software solution.**

The Scottish Public Pensions Agency (SPPA) is extending its partnership with market-leading technology provider, Aquila Heywood, to provide an integrated IT software solution for its Pensions Administration, Payroll and Digital Services.

SPPA administers the pensions across four schemes covering Teachers, NHS, Police and Fire schemes delivering Scottish Government front-line services to over 550,000 active, deferred and pensioner scheme members, as well as 1,250 employers.

Together, Aquila Heywood and the Agency will work on their award-winning platform, Altair™, to build enhanced digital facilities to provide a faster and more efficient service to members, employers and beneficiaries.

Simon Barker, CEO at Aquila Heywood, said:

'Aquila Heywood is delighted that SPPA has extended its contract with us. Customer collaboration is at the forefront of what we do and placing our teams into the customer's environment provides a vital extension of skills, knowledge and support so that, ultimately, they can better serve their members and employers at low cost.

'By implementing smart Member Self-Service tools, SPPA scheme members can take greater control of their pension pots and more easily manage their later-life financial planning with greater transparency.'

300+ SPPA Pension Administration staff will benefit from smart automated workflows, simplified New Business onboarding and integrated communications tools for faster, more efficient member setup, processing and ongoing management. In addition, SPPA will also implement Aquila Heywood's award-winning solution; i-Connect™, a single platform that automates data exchange between employers and pension funds ensuring secure straight-through member processing.



Aquila Heywood

SPPA Chief Executive, Penelope Cooper, said:

'SPPA is committed to putting the customers' needs at the heart of service delivery and this partnership represents our pledge to working on business solutions to enhance the customer experience.

'We look forward to working with Aquila Heywood to deliver operational efficiencies and extend the digital services we can provide our customers.'

-ENDS-

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### **About Aquila Heywood**

Aquila Heywood is the largest provider of life, pension and investment platforms in the UK and Ireland, and the fifth largest in Europe.

We lead the industry by empowering digital engagement, operational efficiency and creating business value for all our markets.

### **About SPPA**

The Scottish Public Pensions Agency (SPPA) is an Agency of the Scottish Government. Its principal role is to administer the pensions for employees of the National Health Service, Teachers', Police and Firefighters' schemes in Scotland.



Aquila Heywood

The Agency also has responsibility for providing policy advice to Ministers on public sector pensions for these schemes and also for Local Government; for developing the regulations for each of these schemes; and for determining appeals made by members of these schemes. It also provides a pension calculation service for the Legal Aid Board for Scotland and the Scottish Parliament.