

PRSAs - Open for business

The Pensions Board receives applications from PRSA providers

Monday 11 November 2002: The Pensions Board will today begin accepting applications from potential providers of PRSA (Personal Retirement Savings Account) products. The new PRSA products will be approved by The Pensions Board and Revenue Commissioners. It is envisaged that the first approved PRSA products will be available from providers to the public early in 2003. The Board will thereafter supervise the PRSA providers in respect of their PRSA approved products.

Speaking at the announcement, Anne Maher Chief Executive of The Pensions Board said, "Today is a significant milestone in relation to the implementation of the National Pensions Policy Initiative. PRSAs are a key element of the new pensions landscape in Ireland and they will help achieve our stated objective of extending pensions coverage to all citizens and providing everyone with the opportunity to plan for their future retirement provision with confidence."

The Board expects extensive industry interest from potential PRSA providers including investment firms, banking and credit institutions. Speaking at the announcement the Board's Head of PRSAs, Philip Dalton, said "The Board will be conducting a thorough approval process for PRSA providers to ensure all potential providers have expertise and business structures in place to meet their statutory requirements. All potential providers must be authorised or licensed entities and the Board will ensure the protection of PRSA contributors through the effective supervision of the production, marketing and selling of PRSA products."

PRSA is an investment vehicle which can be used for long term retirement provision by employees, self employed, homemakers, carers, unemployed and any other category of person. It is a contract between an individual and a PRSA provider in the form of an individual investment account which will hold units in investment funds managed by PRSA providers. The PRSA contributor will be the beneficial owner of the PRSA assets.

About The Pensions Board

The Pensions Board is the statutory body set up to regulate occupational pension schemes and PRSAs and to advise the Minister for Social and Family Affairs, and through her, the Government, on overall pension policy development.

See www.pensionsboard.ie

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For further information:

Mary Hutch
Head of Information & Training, The Pensions Board
Tel (01) 613 1900

Philip Dalton
Head of PRSA, The Pensions Board
Tel (01) 613 1900
Mail: Pdalt@pensionsboard.ie

Anne Maher
Chief Executive, The Pensions Board
Tel (01) 613 1900

Paul Keary/Declan Kelly
Financial Dynamics PR
Tel (01) 663 3600