For immediate release **Date: 20th April 2020**

PRESS RELEASE

Today, the pensions consultancy, LCP, announced that hundreds of companies are expected to abandon attempts to fill shortfalls in their pension schemes during the coronavirus crisis.

The finding from pension experts suggests "top-up" contributions will be cut by at least £500m.

Commenting on the news, Renny Biggins, Retirement Policy Manager, at TISA said: *"The news that some 500 of the largest firms with defined benefit pension schemes are expected to cut "top-up" contributions by at least £500 million demonstrates the crippling conditions for businesses and the need for flexibility during this time.*

"But, it is not just large organisations with expensive DB schemes that are in need of breathing space. Regulators must also consider defined contribution schemes, which have proliferated since the introduction of AE in 2012. It is still compulsory for employers to contribute to their employees pensions.

"Our recent survey found that there is strong support for Government to protect the successes of auto enrolment. To date AE has successfully brought over 10 million people into pension saving and any interventions to reflect the current climate would need careful consideration, to ensure there is no long term detriment to employees, nor unintended consequences.

"There has been the pragmatic decision by The Pensions Regulator to extend late payment reporting from 90 days to 150 days to recognise the significant challenges that COVID-19 is bringing to companies and their cash flow."

Ends

For more information:
Fenella Cuthbert
Cicero/AMO
020 7497 5327
Fenella.cuthbert@cicero-group.com

Notes for Editors

TISA's ambition is to improve the financial wellbeing of UK consumers by bringing the financial services savings industry together to promote collective engagement, to deliver solutions and to champion innovation for the benefit of people, our industry and the nation.

We do this by focusing on good consumer outcomes and harnessing the power of our broad industry membership base to deliver practical solutions, new digital infrastructure and by devising innovative, evidence-based strategic proposals for government, policy makers and regulators. This holistic approach to address the major consumer issues uniquely positions TISA to deliver independent insight, promote innovation and facilitate good practice.

TISA's rapidly growing membership is representative of all sectors of the financial services industry. We have over 200-member firms involved in the supply and distribution of savings, investment products and associated services, including the UK's major investment managers, retail banks, online platforms, insurance companies, pension providers, distributors, building societies, wealth managers, third party administrators, Fintech businesses, financial consultants, financial advisers, industry infrastructure providers and stockbrokers.

Our current strategic policy focus includes making financial guidance more widely available; financial education for young people; retirement savings and addressing consumer engagement, particularly for the vulnerable. These will form essential elements of - *Vision 2025* - TISA's strategic policy roadmap towards delivering a material impact in enhancing consumers' financial wellbeing.

Complementing our development of consumer policy and thought leadership, TISA has become a major industry delivery organisation for consumer focused, digital industry infrastructure initiatives (TeX/STAR, Digital ID, MiFID II and Open Savings & Investment). This reflects TISA's commitment to open standards and independent governance.

TISA is also recognised for the support it provides to members on a range of operational and technical issues targeted at improving infrastructure and processes, establishing standards of good practice and the interpretation and implementation of new rules and regulations. This work currently includes MiFID II, CASS, SM&CR and addressing cybercrime.

www.tisa.uk.com