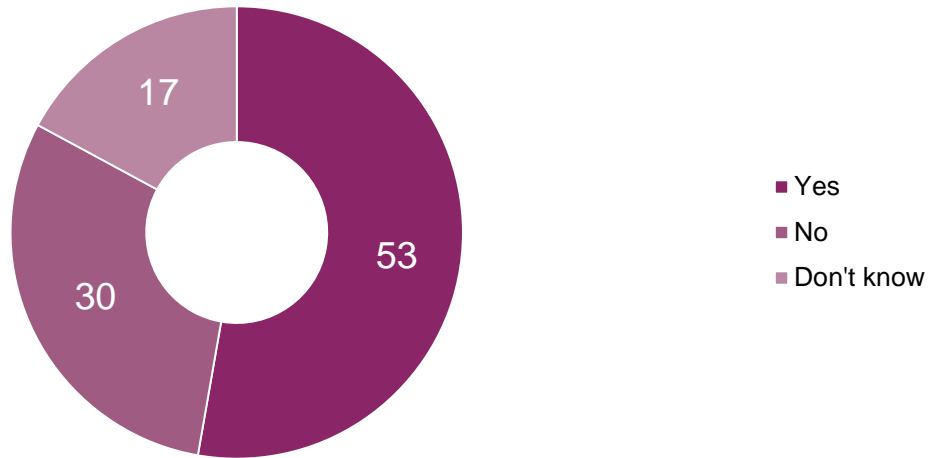


Do you think Frank Field, chairman of the Work and Pensions Committee, is a good thing for pensions?



Do you have any comments?

Those who said "Yes":

- A pensions champion and does more than the minister responsible as he has served for a lot longer!
- A real world approach which communicates the injustices that others overlook. Equity remains a goal for all parties; it's just that some are not even at the table yet. Long may he continue.
- Although I disagree with him on many points, he performs a useful function in Parliament.
- Always has been.
- Anyone who is not afraid to raise issues and discussion on pensions gets my vote.
- As a representative of the people, he holds the powerful to account. He also gets the pensions system, and isn't afraid of innovation.
- As he gives pension matters media attention, despite some of his ideas being a little off centre.
- Asks all the difficult questions other MPs are totally unaware of.
- But he needs to moderate some of his comments
- Definitely yes, a principled man with a long standing drive to improve pensions for members.
- Far better that parliament (or a subsection of it) is discussing pensions than ignoring them.

- Given the scandalous behaviour of companies like Carillion and BHS, members of pension schemes need a champion like Frank Field.
- Good for scheme protection, bad if he interferes with pension freedoms.
- Good in that he is not afraid to ask difficult questions and gets them out into the public arena, but his expectations of schemes, providers and employers are not always realistic or pragmatic.
- Good intentions – but needs to be careful about voicing his concerns.
- Good to have a strong voice to hold parties to account. However, Brexit will be a bad thing for pensions!
- He asks the difficult questions. The main problem is that he doesn't seem to have any answers.
- He brings to the public's attention issues which would not be progressed without that level of scrutiny.
- He doesn't suffer fools gladly and frequently asks 'awkward questions' which put people on the spot. We need people like him so that employers know that if they do something wrong then somebody will come gunning for them.
- He has a good track record of standing up for the rights of individuals.
- He is independent of narrow party interest and gets public attention on pensions matters. That fact that one might not agree with him does not make him a bad thing.
- He is one of very few MPs who understands pensions.
- He raises awareness of pensions' issues, battling for the consumer. What a shame the same cannot be said for tPR.
- He raises the profile and most of what he says is 'spot on'.
- He's basically the government opposition – asking the difficult questions and bringing government to account
- I don't always agree with what he says but at least he is saying it loud enough (and into the right ears) to be heard.
- It is important to have someone in parliament strongly representing the interests of pension scheme members.
- Like most politicians, Field can be an attention seeker but overall in the work around BHS, Tata, mis-selling he is a force for good.
- Make participants more accountable.
- Not always 100% correct, but he is all the better for that.
- On balance yes, but a tendency to fire off in random directions.
- On balance. At least he is interested.
- One of very few politicians who understands and cares about the pensioners.
- Probably on balance – but he does seem to feathering his nest by poking his nose in places it probably isn't necessary.
- Publicises pensions issue, although often does not get to the bottom of what the issues actually are.

- Strongly supportive of pension scheme members. Greatly experienced and knowledgeable and very street wise politically.
- There is not an obvious way for members to hold trustees to account. Frank Field is quite effective at it. This will also make trustees think more carefully about risk-taking.
- Very experienced and politically balanced.
- Whilst he is sometimes wide of the mark he generally acts for the good.
- Yes in the sense that he gives pension issues profile. No in the sense that he allows his personal agenda to drive his behaviours making him look infantile.

Those who said “No”:

- Absolutely awful.
- Every time he looks a failed company and is shocked it has a deficit – he has the memory of a goldfish!
- Has his own agenda.
- He demonstrates poor understanding of the practical side of the trustees having to negotiate top-up payments with the Employer.
- He detracts from what positive results he could bring by being insulting during the select committee hearings. If he acted like a politician, rather than a schoolyard bully, he would be much more effective. I believe his time has come and gone.
- He has a political agenda and deliberately refuses to understand the complexities of the relationship between Trustees and Scheme Sponsors.
- He has a sentimental view of pensions, presents simplistic arguments, seemingly for good headlines and, whilst keen to highlight the damage entrepreneurial spirit can do to pensions, fails to appreciate the damage that pension legacies can do to entrepreneurial spirit. He speaks for his baby boomer generation: entirely selfish and wanting somebody else to pay for everything. He is part of the problem, not the solution.
- He seems more interested in sound bites and point scoring than improving the pension system.
- He simplifies the issues to score political points. He fails to mention that almost all the dividends paid by companies go into pension funds.
- He tries to oversimplify complex pension issues by turning them into sound bites for the media.
- He used to be but now just comes across as a grumpy old man with attitudes that are a hindrance to proper investigation.
- He uses his select committee chair position to grandstand and is doing pensions and pensioners much harm in the process.
- He was, but he has lost his edge and is now not helping pensioners and potential pensioners, who are the only people who matter in pensions.
- His overblown criticism of some companies will make more firms only prepared to offer minimum pension provision.

- His self-promoting approach is politically driven and, for all his bluster, has achieved nothing that wouldn't have happened under the auspices of the regulator.
- I used to respect him, but recently he has become a grandstander whose knee-jerk reactions just serve to bring him headlines and do nothing for pensions.
- If he wants to be the Pensions Regulator, he should apply for the job. If not, he should "butt out" and focus his energies and making sure that the pension provision of the future of the UK is fit for purpose.
- Loose cannon effect in the delicate balance between trustees and sponsors. Likely to lead to unhelpful behaviour on both parts.
- Lost the plot. Seems to have personal agendas that he can't keep out of this. Irrational and bullying. Britain's Trump for Pensions.
- Makes too many ill-informed soundbites for own agenda.
- Sometimes too accusatory without seeming to have full knowledge of all facts.
- Trustees work in the world of foresight. Frank Field is the master of hindsight. It sounds as though he is fighting for the pensioner, but his efforts are strictly for his own ego.
- While his work is to be generally commended, his with-hunting and waste of energy going after Philip Green and British Steel advisers has caused untold harm.
- Whilst his drive for scrutiny and transparency is laudable, his persistence in stating that pensions have been lost is grossly irresponsible. He should be held to account over this as it is causing unnecessary anxiety and detriment to pension scheme members. The PPF is there to provide substantial protection, whereas his scaremongering is driving people into the hands of the unscrupulous advisers and scammers.
- Would do better to understand the existing system properly rather than seeking headlines.

Those who said "Don't know":

- As in 'not sure' – bit like the curate's egg – good in parts. Worrying thing is that there is no one in the wings to take in his crusading mantle.
- Danger that this leads to a distorted focus.
- He does a good job of raising the issues but sometimes his inflammatory approach, picked up by the media, causes undue alarm to public sentiment. Does he want people saving for their future?
- He is both good and bad. Good because he cannot be ignored and he is forcing some difficult issues to be addressed. Bad because every investigation he is involved in is conducted like a witch-hunt, and public perception of pensions must be at an all-time low as a result of some of the headlines he has generated in the media.
- He is succeeding in getting people to pay attention to pensions, which is definitely a good thing, but he frequently lacks understanding/appreciation of the nuances of the subject and tends to resort to political theatre rather than meaningful inquiry.
- He's certainly challenging, but whether he's challenging on the right things is sometimes open to question.

- Helpful to have someone people are afraid of having to answer difficult questions from, but he is not always realistic about the powers people have had or should have.
- He's done some good in helping probe serious failings, but he's not proposing the significant shifts to policy we need.
- His heart is in the right place, but he shows a lack of knowledge which in this area is very unhelpful. He is also enabling a blame culture which will not facilitate learning from mistakes in the system of pensions regulation.
- I think he's well-meaning and he certainly brings attention to issues but I can't believe for one minute that he actually believes some of the stuff that he comes out with. On balance, I think he may do more harm than good to the public's perception of pensions, but who knows?
- It is always good to have people who care involved. Sometimes passion can be blinding.
- Sometimes he is, sometimes he isn't.
- Too early to form a considered opinion.