

Fire Fighters Pension Board

7 May 2025 - 14.00 – 15.30

MS Teams

Meeting notes

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| Attendees: | |
| Glynn Luznyj, (GL), Chair | Nicola Daniels, (ND) |
| David Greensmith, (DG) | James (Jim) Bywater, (JB) |
| Louise Clayton, (LC) | Helen Scargill, (HS) |
| Richard Mortimer, (RM) | Irina Volka-Heath, (IVH) |
| Apologies: | |
| Ralph Butler, (RB) | |

1. Attendance, Apologies and Declarations of Interest

2. Minutes and Actions Arising

Meetings were recorded as a true record of the meeting.

Action 63 – It was noted from a member of the board that they had received feedback that the form was not accessible on the website. Further checks to be done on this. – **ONGOING**

Action 64 - Action is on the agenda and can be closed. - **CLOSED**

3. Reports

All reports were noted and accepted as accurate.

4. Governance

HS stated there has been delays with documents being sent out, but this should all start to rectify once the records are received in the rollback position as this will be an automatic figure as well as an improved performance on estimates, which was discussed at the client meeting. There will be some that work as rollback has been completed, and some which are in the rollback process, envisaging after June the other two areas should start to improve as well. There was 7 wholetime retirements in April, with only one months' notice, which is a rush on both sides. GL would advise people to give as much notice as possible. HS noted it is difficult to balance the estimate requests with the actual retirement dates, trying to be fair to everybody but generally the numbers are meaning there are delays. HS advised 12 months of notice, but to be prepared of a bigger delay than usual. JB advised of some comms to staff explaining the need from people and the realistic nature of the situation. GL noted the automated figure will allow a much smoother system.

Pension dashboards are awaiting a matching criteria process, and this is a West Yorkshire final decision and they will continue to provide updates. The October date is not a go live date for

members, this is for the systems to be live, which may see a further 6 months wait for members to physically log in.

ACTION 65 – DG/IVH to organise some comms around the request of a figure estimate for Pensions, and to ensure that the expectations are clear, following the discussions around the delays.

5. Review of breaches

GL highlighted the report which can be found within the pack.

The template follows the information that was provided by West Yorkshire. The suggestion is that this is reported as a material breach given all the information that has been provided. This was agreed by board members and will be reported to TPR.

6. Review of Risk Register

DG noted the third risk was increased, which was the failure to adhere to pension regulations and following the breach this has been realised, and should now be noted within the register.

7. Actions arising from FPS Bulletins

No actions were noted.

8. Updates

HS – WY have been going through a restructure for some time and this became effective from the 1st April, this has taken the Fire Pension admin team out of the global service centre team and this team is now stand alone and reports directly to Matt Mott, which should make the needs of the team independent to the rest of the service, which in time allow an improvement in all aspects of the pension's administration. The SE5 has been split into three teams which are, LGPS Death & Injury for Fire Services only and a separate payroll team. WY are going through another recruitment exercise and the candidates are seemingly more experienced for the advisor role. Another group of casual administrators have been recruited, and there are more Pension Officer roles being recruited for. The service is under resourced, however there is constant recruitment drives, however the need for Fire knowledge is difficult to recruit to. The annual benefit statement is in the process of finalising rollback across the clients. The deliveries were tested in the rollback environment and this seemed to work, however, once it was live there were 9 stages to go through, and there was an error through every stage. This is now sorted, and there has been 9 out of 24 clients being rolled back. Staffordshire is half way through being rolled back. The active members should see 80% of the active members in the rollback by the end of this week for Staffordshire. The immediate choice pensioners are also being worked through, 20 have been sent out in April across the FRA's which are all now ready for checking. HS explained the GAD contribution adjustment calculation update issues, there are cases where the gross difference in the contribution doesn't agree, this has been raised and should now be resolved, following communication with FRAs checking the bulk template data is correct. WY can now pay those clients in a receipt of a Pension for the Matthews cases, however there is an issue that the pay that is being supplied on Matthews two to calculate the pension isn't the same for Matthews 1, this is under review within WY Pension Team.

GL questioned whether the ABSRSS statements will be issued in batches. HS noted that this document is being finalised, this will then be sent out. GL questioned that the immediate choice pensioners that are with an ill health or those with the biggest financial deficit are being prioritised, HS confirmed this is the case. DG questioned if WY are confident that the Civica issues are resolved. HS noted that the process to roll back is now working, the ABSRSS calculations have been tested and for the normal cases all the outputs are what are to be expected, but there are still a number of areas of concern that are still be tested. RM questioned if all areas are using Civica. HS explained that there are two

clients for Fire and Civica have the majority of FRAs throughout the country. Not all administrators are experiencing the same issues as WY with Civica, this is due to them being an Oracle client.

ND explained that Sergeant McCloud is now with West Yorkshire. Some IDRs have been received from the pensioners which are being dealt with. Matthews cases have seen 20 paid of the over 80 cases that have been sent, which is resulting in a lot of questions from the members. There is a letter in draft which will be sent to members, however as discussed there is minimal update. There are around 65 cases awaiting guidance, which are being worked through. There have been further people come who were not on the original list, and there is around an extra 170 cases, however the methodology will be the same so these should be able to be processed quickly. HS noted that there are some IDRs coming from Staffordshire members, but these will be forwarded onto Staffordshire to process. RM explained that some members of his union noted there are some confusion on where they should go for questions.

ACTION 66 – DG to share the papers regarding the Sergeant McCloud and Matthews cases which went to SGB with RM.

9. Training and Development

ND – There is a date in the diary for some training for the Pensions Board, an exact date to be confirmed shortly.

10. AOB