

FIRE FIGHTERS PENSION BOARD - MINUTES
NOTES of Meeting Held 6th October 2022 – 13:00
MS Teams

Attendees:	
Glynn Luznyj, (GL), Chair	Ralph Butler, (RB)
David Greensmith, (DG)	Lee Russell, (LR)
Susan Wilkinson, (SW)	Helen Scargill, (HS)
James (Jim) Bywater, (JB)	
Minutes: Lyndsey Pajor (LP)	
Apologies:	
Louise Clayton, (LC)	Matt Mott, (MM)
Irina Volkova-Heath, (IVH)	Sukhjot Kaur, (SK)

1. Attendance and Apologies

Attendance and apologies were noted as above.

2. Minutes and Actions Arising

Minutes were reviewed and taken as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting held on the 7th July 2022.

Action 41: Item covered within the agenda. Action closed

Action 48: Item covered within the agenda. Action closed

Action 50: SW confirmed the LGA have advised of training dates and that these will be circulated after the meeting. Action closed.

3. Pension Manager Update – Pensions

Immediate Detriment Update:

SW advised the SFARS Ceased Immediate Detriment in May 2022 due to number of unknown risks involved. A statement is currently being drafted that can be included within packs for those requesting figures that explains the current situation. This information at present is only provided verbally if requested. There has been no further advice provided nationally, and the LGA is still drafting its framework and no formal updates have been provided.

GL advised that he believed the LGA had provided the framework to the FBU for their comments, but that nothing had been heard in some time.

LR indicated that he had heard nothing from the FBU.

HS advised that she had received no updates either.

GL queried whether it would be appropriate to contact the LGA to request an update and timeframes for the publication of the framework. Without the further guidance it is not possible to make recommendations to the scheme manager for a way forward. SW indicated that she had seen a draft copy of the framework and that it appears to address a number of concerns and that this is on a restricted section of the LGA website.

ACTION 52: DG to contact the LGA to formally request an update on the framework for immediate detriment.

GL asked JB and LR if they have any further comments or concerns regarding immediate detriment and the current position. JB & LR indicated that whilst not ideal, the current situation is the most appropriate way forward until further advice and guidance is issued.

DG confirmed that he had nothing further to add.

Casual Contract Update:

SW provided an overview of a proposed way forward to address pension issues associated with casual/temporary contracts. It is proposed to remove the casual contracts and the work would be carry out under the current retained contracts. This would need to be carefully managed from a payroll perspective and would necessitate two payroll numbers to be allocated, the existing retained number and then a separate one for the work carried out under the temporary contract. This will ensure that the wholtime earnings are not included in the retained holiday pay calculation. This would make the additional earnings on wholtime shifts pensionable as they would form part of the retained contract.

GL thanked SW for the updated and advised that the proposal has been warmly received by the FBU but not yet formally approved. JB and LR agreed that this was a sensible way forward.

DG queried whether this scenario is used by any other FRA's. SW advised that they have looked into this but received limited responses so far. HS added that this seems like a sensible way forward, and that she is not aware of other FRA's facing this type of issue.

GL asked the members if they were content for him to take this proposal forward with the FBU. All agreed.

ACTION 53: GL to formally present the Temporary Contract Proposal to the FBU for approval.

Matthew's Case Update:

SW advised that nothing significant has been happening with the Matthew's case as yet, and that the Government still have 18 months to draft, consult and implement. A data request has been submitted which is based on the exercise previously carried out. It does look like it will be a lengthy exercise, but hoping that information previously submitted in 2014/15 can be utilised.

It was confirmed that it would be the responsibility of the FRA to determine who may be eligible and not the Trade Unions. A statement is currently being drafted that can be circulated to staff to advise that this is being worked on, and that those who are eligible will be notified.

4. Immediate Detriment Update

Item covered within Section 3 of the agenda.

5. Update from Administrator

HS presented the Administrator Update paper circulated prior to the meeting, details can be found within the meeting papers.

GL queried what the implications on pensions may be as a result of any industrial action. HS advised that this would be a local matter.

SW confirmed that buy-back is processed locally, and that she believed that HR are in the process of drafting communication that can be circulated to staff explaining the implication of industrial action on pensions, and the process for buy-back. It was noted that communications would need to be carefully balanced.

DG advised that there is an internal audit scheduled to take place in January that will look at data flow between SFRA and West Yorkshire.

6. Any Other Business

GL advised that there is an AGM on the 25/26 October and to let GL know if you wish to attend so that the Board had a coordinated approach to events.

GL suggested that future meetings are hybrid, everyone agreed with this.

LR requested an update on the on-call element of pensions. GL stated that he is aware of one challenge and this will be effectively managed, but there are no timescales as yet.

Next Meeting date: 08th Feb 2023 at 14:00