

Metropolitan Police Pension Board

Minutes of the Board's Meeting

Details

Date: 24th January 2018

Place: Empress Building, London

Present

Role

From

Pension Board Members

Ian Pollitt (IPo)	Chair	Independent
Ian Percival (IPr)	Employer Representative	Finance
Mark Pomroy (MP)	Employer Representative	HR
Simon Bray (SB)	Member Representative	CPOSA
Kate Halpin (KH)	Member Representative	Superintendents' Association
Judy Redford (JR)	Member Representative	NARPO

In Attendance

Ken Anthony (KA)		Metropolitan Police
Ray Henry (RH)	Observer	Metropolitan Police
Graeme Hall (GH)	Secretarial	Kier Group
Kevin Courtney (KC)	Observer	NPCC
Rebecca Woodley (RW)	Observer	Pensions Regulator

Apologies

Rahima Ali (RA)	Employer Representative	MOPAC
Richard Martin (RM)	Employer Representative	Operational Policing/Professionalism.
Paul Deller (PDe)	Member Representative	Police Federation

Minute

Introduction and apologies for absence

Action

2018-1

Apologies were received from RA, RM and PDe.
IPo welcomed RH, KC and RW to the meeting and introductions were made.

Minute	Conflicts of Interest and Confidentiality	Action
2018-2	No conflicts were raised.	

Minute	Minutes of Meeting	Action
2018-3	Minutes for the previous meeting held on 1 st November 2017 were agreed by the Board.	

Minute	Pension Board Action List	Action
2018-4	IPo reviewed the updated Action List:	

a) It was requested that anyone who has not done so, to provide GH with a brief biography to be included on the website for the Pension Board

b) KA confirmed that the letters regarding the change in Regulations to make ESA a deductible benefit are to be issued soon. KA will discuss the current appeal to ESA deductions with the Home Office (HO) to ensure the correspondence contains the latest requirements.

KA

c) KA confirmed Equiniti's attendance at the next meeting.

d) KH confirmed her attendance at a recent tax seminar and provided an example Pension Saving Statement (PSS) that was felt to be clearer than those currently issued. KA agreed to take forward with Equiniti to see if they can improve the PSS correspondence for 2018.

KA

KH also raised an issue whereby a colleague had not received a PSS for the past 2 years although they had breached the Annual Allowance.

KA advised that Equiniti use the Met Directorate for addresses and in this case the PSS was sent to the member's general office address, as this is what was held. It was agreed that members need to review the address details held and ensure that they are specific enough to allow correspondence to be issued directly to them.

KA / KH

e) KA has provided IPo a full list of KPIs reported by Equiniti/SSCL relating to pension administration. IPo provided a list of 10 key KPIs which he thought ought to be provided each meeting with others only being reported if breached.

f) Valuation data is still to be issued from NPCC/SAB. KC confirmed that HO are still considering the points raised before a response is issued.

g) IPo confirmed that he had met with the Deputy Commissioner and gained agreement that it would be a good idea that an information pack is issued to optant

outs outlining the benefits to being a member of the scheme(s). The information pack will be targeted to the new joiners and issued via email.

KA advised that all optant outs will be contacted in January 2019 as part of Auto re-enrolment exercise. It was agreed that this is too far away and the info pack should be issued within the next 6 months.

- h) KA confirmed that SSCL are the contracting company for the provision of pension administration services and that he is happy that they have the introduction of GDPR under control.
- i) KA confirmed that the Certificate of Continued Entitlement will be issued to relevant dependents for completion within the next couple of months.
- j) GH agreed to issue the latest Terms of Reference for the Board to review and forward any amendments that may be required.
- k) KA advised that the provision of data quality scores is currently not included in the contract with SSCL and therefore may result in a potential additional cost for them to be provided.

KA

GH / Board

Minute

Training Update

Action

2018-5

KH confirmed that the Pension Tax training was very useful and that the Superintendents Association is looking to repeat the event in October for their members.

KA stated that 700 members were invited to the tax presentations, with 250 attending. The Met are looking to provide this again in the Autumn but timings are reliant on access to large enough meeting rooms.

Minute

Voluntary Scheme Pays (VSP)

Action

2018-6

KA provided an overview of the current situation and that the intention is for an amendment to the regulations, expected in April 2018, to provide VSP to members.

KA confirmed that it is believed that up to 41 members are potentially currently affected, all of whom have been written to but so far there has been no response.

KA did state that 3 members came forward with a tax charge from 2015/16 who may now use VSP, though the amount now due to HMRC will include interest for late payment.

The Board extended their thanks to KA and MP for the work undertaken to get the discretionary policy in place.

Minute	Report by Senior Contract Manager	Action
2018-7	KA provided an overview of the main statistics for the Pension Scheme along with an overview of the complaints (3 IDRP cases) received since the last meeting.	
Minute	Presentation by the Pensions Regulator	Action
2018-8	RW provided an overview of what duties tPR performs. SB queried what constituted an employee, therefore RW agreed to provide GH a copy of a presentation on Self Employment for dissemination to the Board. RW advised that the results of the Governance Survey undertaken in December 2017 are expected March/April time via the tPR website. RW presented the slide pack provided. KA queried whether the reporting of data quality is mandatory. KW stated she would check and get back in touch. However, the 2017/18 Scheme Return will be asking not only when the scheme had last undertaken a review of Common and Scheme Specific data but what the data score is. GH stated that it would be useful for SAB to provide guidance on the data schemes should report on to make it easier to compare schemes. KC agreed to discuss with SAB but may not be able to issue quickly. RW confirmed that tPR has one point of contact for each Public Sector Scheme. This would be Neil Wilson, though all tPR contacts would be in position to answer queries / provide presentations if required.	RW / GH
Minute	Risk Register	Action
2018-9	IPO highlighted that data quality is one of the highest scores on the risk register. If it is possible to provide a report on the data quality scores for Common and Scheme Specific data this may assist in determining an accurate risk score. With Equiniti attending the next meeting it was agreed to keep the risk score the same until a decision on what can be reported is made.	
Minute	GMP Reconciliation	Action
2018-10	KA confirmed that the first stage of reconciliation has been undertaken (i.e. matching data with HMRC). Progress is underway on a service amendment to commence the	

Investigation of any differences and calculating any over/under payments.

IPO confirmed that HMRC would no longer be writing out to all members with a GMP liability. It is hoped that there will be a common approach across all Public Sector schemes in how any over payment is dealt with. The Pension Board will be kept informed of any developments.

KA / IPO

Minute	Current Issues	Action
2018-11	a) Annual report – this has been shared with the Deputy Commissioner. The Board agreed its contents and KA will upload to the website (https://www.met.police.uk/accessing-information/the-met-publication-scheme/met-pensions-board/) b) There has been no update on the Judges and Firefighters appeal regarding the introduction of the 2015 schemes. The case was heard in December but a response is not expected until later in the year.	

Minute	Any Other Business	Action
2018-12	With Equiniti attending the next meeting the Board was asked to send any questions to GH beforehand, so as to give Equiniti sufficient time, to ensure that answers can be provided.	Board / GH

Minute	Date of Next meeting	Action
2018-13	23 rd May 2018 at Empress State Building.	
