

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF POLICE PENSION BOARD  
HELD AT NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD, WATERSIDE TOWER,  
CLARENDON DOCK, BELFAST  
TUESDAY 8 MARCH 2022 at 2pm**

**PRESENT:**

Mr Michael Burton, Chair  
Mr Liam Kelly, (Police Federation of Northern Ireland)\*  
Mr Mark McEwan, Assistant Chief Constable (Chief Police Officers Staff Association)\*  
Superintendent (Supt) Ian Magee\*  
Ms Aislinn McGuckin, (T/Director of Police Administration, Northern Ireland Policing Board)\*  
Mr Brian Quinn, (Independent)  
Ms Sinead Simpson, (Chief Executive, Northern Ireland Policing Board) \*

**PSNI REPRESENTATIVES IN ATTENDANCE**

Mr Jim Montgomery (PSNI Pensions Branch)

**NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE**

2 Board Officials

\*Attended via Video Conference

## **1. APOLOGIES**

No apologies were received.

The Chair noted the resignation of Mr Ryan Henderson and welcomed his replacement, Mr Ian Magee of the Superintendents Association of Northern Ireland (SANI).

## **2. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

No conflicts of interest were declared.

## **3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the Police Pension Board (PPB) meeting on 1 December 2021 were approved. The Chair asked that they also be published on the Northern Ireland Policing Board (NIPB) website.

## **4. MATTERS ARISING**

The Chair noted that the open actions would be addressed during the meeting.

In relation to Action Point 11, Assistant Chief Constable McEwan noted that he had spoken with the PSNI's Assistant Chief Officer for Corporate Services about the PSNI's procurement of an electronic pension administration system. It was noted that the business specification was agreed and that the procurement process would be completed during the 2022/23 financial year.

## **5. CHAIR'S BUSINESS**

### **5.1 Internal Audit Report of NIPB Police Pensions and Internal Dispute Resolution Procedure**

The T/Director of Police Administration provided an update on Internal Audit Report of NIPB Pensions and the Internal Dispute Resolution Procedure (IDRP) which had resulted in a satisfactory audit rating. Two priority two recommendations had been identified and it was noted that both were accepted and implemented.

## **6. PSNI GOVERNANCE REPORT AND SCHEME FINANCE**

### **6.1 Quarterly Scheme Administrator Report**

In relation to Action Point 4, the Chair noted that he and the T/Director of Police Administration and T/Police Administration Manager had met with PSNI Pensions Branch Officials and discussed the layout and content of the Quarterly Administrator Report and an updated and reformatted report was presented for members.

The PSNI Pensions Branch Official provided an overview of the updated and reformatted Quarterly Scheme Administrator Report, and noted that a further updated Report would be circulated to Members in due course for comment and/or feedback.

Members noted the new information detailed within the Quarterly Scheme Administrator Report including a breakdown of pension scheme membership by age and gender. In addition, information about PSNI Pensions Branch Performance was also included within the Report.

The T/Director of Police Administration noted the inclusion of erroneous information within the Quarterly Scheme Administrator Report which referenced correspondence exchanged between the Scheme Manager and Administrator. The T/Director of Police Administration noted that she would discuss the matter directly with the PSNI Pensions Branch Official.

### **6.2 Pensions Dashboard**

Members discussed the ongoing Department of Work and Pensions Consultation in England and Wales about the Pensions Dashboard Programme, and it was noted that Staff Associations should respond to this Consultation directly.

In relation to the issue of security concerns that the PSNI had about the Pensions Dashboard Programme that may affect the PSNI's participation in the Programme, Mr Quinn noted that if the legislation implementing the Pensions Dashboard Programme was finalised PSNI may not be able to opt-out of it if concerns about

the Dashboard had not been previously raised. Mr Quinn noted that the PSNI may be legally obliged to comply with the Pensions Dashboard.

## **7. POLICE PENSION BOARD RISK REGISTER**

The PPB Risk Register was discussed noting that the changes requested at the meeting on 1 December 2021 had been actioned.

Members discussed each Risk on the Register including the inherent and residual risks scores and agreed that no further changes were required at this time.

In relation to Action Point 3 and Risk 3 (Pension Administrator Controls) on the Risk Register, the T/Director of Police Administration noted that a draft Information Sharing Agreement (ISA) had been received from the PSNI and was currently being considered by the NIPB Data Protection Officer. It was intended that the ISA would be finalised and brought to the next PPB meeting.

## **8. MCCLLOUD REMEDY PROJECT**

### **8.1 Legislative Update**

The independent Pensions Advisor provided an update on progress made in relation to legislation implementing the McCloud Remedy.

The *Public Service Pensions and Judicial Offices Bill* was in its final stages of the parliamentary process and that it would be in place by 1 April 2022.

### **8.2 Scheme Administrator Update including Staffing/Resourcing and IT Infrastructure Updates**

The PSNI Pensions Branch Official provided an update on the PSNI's continued preparation for the implementation of the McCloud Remedy in April 2022, including staffing/resourcing and the IT infrastructure required to deal with the implementation of the McCloud Remedy.

Items discussed included:

1. The development of a Communications Plan which would provide information and support to officers. Initiatives being included in the Communications Plan included the publication of FAQs and live Webinars and information booklets. PSNI were also taking steps to ensure that Police Staff were directed to Civil Service Pensions who were responsible for Police staff Pensions.
2. Confirmation that the PSNI have appointed new staff to help deal with increased work streams as a result of the implementation of the McCloud Remedy.
3. Notification letters confirming the change in pension rights from April 2022 had been issued to the serving officer population, and the other categories of officers (e.g. retired officers) would receive similar written communications in due course.
4. An update on the procurement of an electronic pension administration system was also provided and it was noted that it was intended that the Business Case would be completed by May 2022 and the procurement process would be completed by December 2022. No further meetings of the PSNI Working Group had been held (relates to Action Point 9 on the Action Log).
5. No further information about the provision of roadshows to officers impacted by the McCloud Remedy had been received from the DoJ (relates to Action Point 12)

### **8.3 Government Actuary Department Calculator**

The T/Director of Police Administration confirmed the development of a Northern Ireland specific calculator system by the Government Actuary Department which would allow scheme members to generate benefit estimations based on their data input and it was intended to be available by summer 2022.

## **9. ANNUAL REVIEW OF POLICE PENSION BOARD TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Members reviewed the updated draft PPB Terms of Reference and accompanying paper which would provide an overview of the proposed changes to the Terms of Reference. Following discussion, Members approved the draft Terms of Reference as presented.

## **10. MEMBER TRAINING**

### **10.1 New Member Induction and Board Members' Roles and Responsibilities**

The independent Pensions Advisor delivered training to Members in relation to Police Pension Scheme Governance, and provided an overview of the key legislation, the various stakeholders and their roles, and members' roles and responsibilities.

## **11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Chair noted the Home Office's prospective remedy consultation response had been published and asked that it be shared with Members **(AP1)**.

Members noted the verbal update provided following the conclusion of a legal case involving the partner of a 1988 police pension scheme member who had passed away. The deceased's partner was challenging the legislation that allowed spouses or civil partners only to receive a survivor's pension. The Court had ruled that there was no entitlement of a partner receiving a survivor's pension.

## **12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would take place on Tuesday 7 June 2022 at 2pm.

The meeting ended at 3:30PM

---

**MR MICHAEL BURTON**  
**CHAIRMAN**