

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF POLICE PENSION BOARD
HELD AT NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD, WATERSIDE TOWER,
CLARENDON DOCK, BELFAST
TUESDAY 7 JUNE 2022 at 2pm**

PRESENT:

Mr Michael Burton, Chair
Superintendent (Supt) Ian Magee (1)
Ms Hannah Francis (PSNI)*
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) (2)

PSNI REPRESENTATIVES IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Jim Montgomery (PSNI Pensions Branch)

DELEGATE IN ATTENDANCE

Gareth McAlister, Detective Inspector (on behalf of Assistant Chief Constable Mark McEwan)

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

2 Board Officials

*Attended via Video Conference

(1) Present from Item 9

(2) Present from Item 6.1

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received in advance of the meeting from Mark McEwan and Liam Kelly.

2. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No conflicts of interest were declared.

3. MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

The Chair welcomed Hannah Francis, PSNI Head of Financial Reporting and Accounting, as a new Board Member with effect from 1 March 2022.

4. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 8 MARCH 2022

The minutes of the Police Pension Board (PPB) meeting on 8 March 2022 were approved. The Chair asked that they also be published on the Northern Ireland Policing Board (NIPB) website.

5. MATTERS ARISING

In relation to Action Point 3 from the PPB meeting held on 1 December 2021, 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 (DPO). The ISA would be provided to Members for their consideration in due course.

6. CHAIR'S BUSINESS

6.1 Update on The Pensions Regulator Supervisory Report

The Chair provided an update to ongoing engagement with Officials from The Pensions Regulator (TPR) and that the draft report was with TPR Management for checking and would be shared with the Chair. The Chair noted that he would review the Report and its recommendations from the T/Director of Police Administration and T/ Head of Pensions Branch. It was further noted that a copy of the Report would be circulated to Members for information.

7. SCHEME MANAGER REPORT

Members noted the Scheme Manager Report and specifically that the Northern Ireland Policing Board had been reconstituted. A meeting of the Resources Committee would be held on 30 June 2022 and at that meeting ill health retirement and injury on duty award cases would be considered in keeping with the Resources Committee's role as final decision maker in matters relating to ill health retirement and injury on duty awards.

In response to a Member's query, the T/ Head of Pensions Branch provided an update on the PSNI's processes to deal with officers who had opted out of the Pension Scheme including confirmation of the launch of a new opt-out form which makes clear the consequences of opting out of the scheme, and noted that Pensions Branch Officials also engage with those who have opted out of the Pension Scheme.

8. PSNI GOVERNANCE REPORT AND SCHEME FINANCE

8.1 Quarterly Scheme Administrator Report

The T/ Head of Pensions Branch provided an overview of the Quarterly Scheme Administration Report. The paper provided Members with an analysis of scheme movements, current scheme membership, and an overview of the current performance levels.

Items discussed included:

- Age and gender analysis of Officers that have opted out of the Pension Scheme.
- The increased number of leavers from the PSNI in May 2022 in comparison to previous months.
- The abolishment of the commutation cap in Scotland resulting in the Department of Justice writing to NIPB requesting insight on affordability within PSNI for same. The T/Director of Police Administration noted that she

would engage with PSNI Officials to obtain information about PSNI affordability.

- Members noted the comments of the T/ Head of Pensions Branch in that the process of gathering information in relation to informal complaints received by the PSNI was a time consuming exercise and so was not included within the Report.

The T/ Head of Pensions Branch also provided an update on the McCloud communications issued to officers noting that there had been a large attendance at the information webinar.

8.2 Pensions Dashboard Programme Update

The T/ Head of Pensions Branch provided an overview on the progress of the Pensions Dashboard Programme and noted the Programme had been delayed because of the impact of the McCloud Remedy on pension schemes.

The T/ Head of Pensions Branch also provided an update on the drafting of the legislation that would govern the Programme, noting that the security concerns that had been expressed were being taken on board and when the Programme was in place, participants may provide as much or as little information as they wish to the Programme.

8.3 Procurement of Electronic Pension Administration System Update

The T/ Head of Pensions Branch confirmed that following confirmation of the capital budget for the Pension Administration system, the business case was in the final stages of preparation before the commencement of the procurement exercise.

8.4 Annual Benefit Statement and Annual Allowances Update

The T/ Head of Pensions Branch noted that that Annual Benefit Statements would be prepared and distributed in August 2022 but that they would not include a McCloud Remedy calculation.

9. CHAIR'S ANNUAL REPORT

The PPB approved the draft Chair's Annual Report. The Chair asked that the T/Director of Police Administration share this report with the NIPB Audit and Risk Assurance Committee for their information. **(AP1)**

10. PSNI PENSION ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

10.1 Draft Annual Report and Financial Statements Update

The PSNI Head of Financial Reporting & Accounting Services provided an update on the external audit of the PSNI Pension Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2022.

It was noted that the Draft Annual Report and Financial Statements would be shared with Members in the coming days so that Members may provide feedback.

11. POLICE PENSION BOARD RISK REGISTER

Members discussed each Risk on the Register including the inherent and residual risks scores and agreed on the following updates to the Register.

1. Risk 2 (Record Keeping), Members discussed this risk and requested an update to the "Progress" column so it included reference to the PSNI's annual review of data. Further, it was agreed that the progress should be updated to include reference to the progress made to procure an electronic Pension Administration System.
2. Risk 4 (Member Communications), Members requested an update the "Progress" column to again reference the progress made towards procuring an electronic Pension Administration System.
3. Risk 5 (McCloud Remedy), Members discussed this risk and requested that under "Progress" reference should be included to the appointment of additional staff within Pensions Branch.
4. Risk 6 (PSNI Procurement of an Electronic Pension Administration System), Members discussed this risk and requested an update to the "Progress" column

to include reference to the progress made towards procuring an electronic Pension Administration System.

Officials agreed to action all Risk Register changes as requested by Members **(AP2)**

12. MCCLOUD REMEDY PROJECT

12.1 Legislative Update

The Independent Pensions Advisor noted that all legislation required to enact the prospective remedy had concluded and that all remaining active members of the 1988 and 2006 Police Pension Schemes had transferred to the 2015 Police Pension Scheme from 1 April 2022. It was noted that the publication of the proposed Retrospective Remedy Regulations was awaited from the Home Office.

12.2 Scheme Administrator Update including Staffing/Resourcing and Communications

The T/ Head of Pensions Branch provided an update on staffing/resourcing and communications noting that one new EOII and four ASOs had been appointed to Pensions Branch to specifically work on McCloud Remedy work streams.

The Chair asked that item 12.2 be removed as an agenda item in advance of the next PPB meeting.

13. ACCOMODATION MOVE

An NIPB Official confirmed that the next PPB meeting on Tuesday 6 September 2022 would be held in the new NIPB premises at James House.

Post meeting note: following the meeting, it was identified that the proposed NIPB accommodation move to James House in August 2022 was delayed. A new accommodation move date would be advised to Members in due course and NIPB was remaining in Waterside Tower for the foreseeable future. Members were advised that the accommodation move was not proceeding as planned in an email dated 27 June 2022.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chair requested that 20 minutes be allocated to all future PPB meetings for Members Training. A proposed Members Training Plan was being drafted and would be shared with members **(AP3)**.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would take place on Tuesday 6 September 2022 at 2pm.

The meeting ended at 3:10PM

MR MICHAEL BURTON
CHAIRMAN