

MINUTES OF MEETING OF POLICE PENSION BOARD

**WATERSIDE TOWER
MONDAY 27 JANUARY 2020
10.00am**

PRESENT:

Members: Michael Burton (Chair)
Liam Kelly (Police Federation NI)
Superintendent John Magill (Superintendent's Association NI)
Amanda Stewart (Chief Executive NI Policing Board).
Brian Quinn (Independent)
Paul King (PSNI)

Also present: 2 x NIPB Officials

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from ACC Mark Hamilton (Chief Police Officers Staff Association), Tim Logan (Director of Resources, NI Policing Board) and Aislinn McGuckin (T/Director of Police Administration, NI Policing Board)

2. DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The Chair asked Members to consider today's agenda and advise if there were any conflicts of interest. No conflicts of interest were declared.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Chair requested that the members present at the Police Pension Board (PPB) meeting on 30 September 2019 advise if they were content that the draft minutes represented an accurate account of the meeting. Following consideration Members

AGREED:

The draft minutes as accurate account of the 30 September 2019 meeting and that they should now be published on the NIPB's website.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Members considered a paper regarding the matters arising from the PPB meeting of 30 September 2019. Members noted that all agreed actions had been progressed or alternatively, an update would be provided during the course of today's meeting

Members noted that the PPB Terms of Reference at 5.1 had been updated to reflect quarterly meetings. The Chair advised that an annual review of the Terms of Reference (**ToR**) for PPB is now due and proposed this be included on the agenda for the next PPB meeting.

The Chair also noted that the timeframe for the issue of papers ahead of a PPB meeting was included in the ToR and that this timeframe is not being consistently met ahead of each meeting. He requested Board officials review this aspect of the ToR and bring forward an alternative proposal for the circulation of PPB papers for consideration alongside the overall ToR review.

Following discussion it was,

AGREED:

The Police Pension Board Terms of Reference would be placed on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting.

Paul King provided Members with a short update on the GMP Reconciliation Exercise and advised that a final update should be available at the next meeting.

PPB Members noted that, in respect of ongoing Pensions Ombudsman cases, to date no decisions have been reached. Any decisions received will be circulated on receipt.

5/6. PSNI GOVERNANCE REPORT & SCHEME FINANCE

Paul King briefed Members on the PSNI Governance Report paper tabled at the meeting. This paper provided Members with an analysis of scheme movements, current scheme membership, and an overview of the current performance levels for key items such as response times to general pension queries.

Issues discussed by Members included:

- The current position of PSNI's pension budget and spending, the slight shortfall in employee contributions due to the delay in implementing the 2019 Pay Award and the slight increase in Ill Health Retirement cases.
- Lump sum and pension payments which are all close to budget but continue to rise. PSNI advised however that there are no significant issues.
- The audit strategy for 2019/20 a draft of which is expected in mid-February. This will be circulated to Members when available and also be brought to the next meeting.
- An analysis of Scheme movements. Members noted that the number of retirements and new pensions are slightly higher as compared with previous years and that ill health retirements, currently the highest they have been in the last 15-20 years, are also expected to rise. The significant increase in transfer in requests was noted as well as the small number not opting into the scheme.
- The McCloud case and the recent announcement from the Department of Finance (**DoF**) in respect of the changes which will apply to all members. PPB Members noted that estimates of possible resource requirements are currently being reviewed.

7. PPB RISK REGISTER

No amendments or additions were made to the risk register.

In respect of the action at **Risk 3** (Record Keeping) that the Pension Administrator would undertake a scoping exercise with a view to introducing a new records management system, PPB Members noted that such an exercise would be held in abeyance pending the outcome of the implementation of the McCloud judgement.

8. MEMBER TRAINING

Mr Brian Quinn provided a presentation to Members on roles and responsibilities of the various stakeholders in respect of the Police Pension Scheme governance framework. These included:

- The Scheme Manager (NIPB);
- The Scheme Administrator (PSNI)
- The Police Pension Board (PPB); and,
- The Scheme Advisory Board (SAB).

Members noted that the role of the PPB is to focus on governance and administration however also discussed the cross over in some areas between the work of the PPB and the SAB.

The Chair thanked Brian for the presentation and requested this training be logged on Members' training records.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

9.1 Superintendent John Magill discussed with PPB Members the Aarons Case (the lead Police case relating to the McCloud judgement). Members noted that the Superintendent's Association NI (SANI) would continue to lobby on behalf of its Members. PPB Members discussed potential differences between England & Wales and Northern Ireland in terms of timeframe for the implementation of the McCloud judgement, the time set for technical discussions and noted that SANI is working to manage their Members' expectations in respect of timeframe for implementation in this jurisdiction.

9.2 Superintendent John Magill raised the issue of the Commutation Cap and discussed with PPB Members that some SANI members are keen to see this removed. Members noted that this issue has previously been discussed at the SAB and that SANI will continue to raise this issue in that forum. Members also discussed the importance of reaching clarity on who would be responsible for any upfront costs in the event that the Commutation Cap was removed.

9.3 As outlined above at agenda item 4, Members noted the current position in respect of Pensions Ombudsman cases.

9.4 The Chair advised Members of the date of the upcoming Public Sector Pensions Conference taking place on 25 March 2020. He again requested that any attendees ensure their attendance at this event is logged as CPD training hours.

9.5 Paul King raised the matter of the current Internal Dispute Resolution Procedure (IDRP) and requested this be placed on the agenda for discussion at a future meeting. He advised PPB Members that PSNI are supportive of a move from the current two stage process to a one stage

process and he would welcome the opportunity to discuss this further. It was,

AGREED:

The IDRPs would be placed on the agenda for discussion at the next PPB meeting.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Members noted the date of the next meeting of the Police Pensions Board as Monday 20 April 2020.

(Meeting closed 11.10am)

MR MICHAEL BURTON
CHAIRMAN