



NORTHERN IRELAND POLICE PENSION BOARD

Annual Report 2016/17

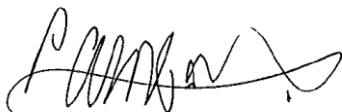
Chair's Foreword

I am pleased to report on the second year of the Northern Ireland Police Pension Board (PPB). The PPB in its oversight role of the Police Pension Schemes has noted the excellent administration service provided by PSNI Pensions Branch in ensuring the schemes meet all regulatory requirements.

In carrying out this function the PPB met on 3 occasions during 2016/17 and all PPB Members have undertaken appropriate training for fulfilling their duties. In line with its statutory obligations, information on the PPB is published and maintained on the NI Policing Board website, which should provide assurance to the public on the schemes' operation.

Over the next year the PPB will continue to review the schemes' compliance and focus on any potential risks/challenges for the future.

To the other members of the PPB I would wish to record my appreciation for their contributions. For their assistance to the PPB in developing a performance framework on key issues relating to the schemes, I would also like to give my thanks to the PSNI personnel concerned. This information is now utilised by the PPB to scrutinise the scheme's effectiveness and identify areas for improvement.



Patrick McCartan

Independent Chair

Background

The Northern Ireland Police Pension Board (PPB) was established in April 2015, following introduction of the Police Pension Regulations (NI) 2015.

The PPB provides assistance to the Northern Ireland Policing Board (NIPB) as Scheme Manager:

- a) to secure compliance with –
 - i. the scheme regulations;
 - ii. and other legislation relating to the governance and administration of the scheme and any connected scheme; and
 - iii. any requirements imposed by the Pensions Regulator in relation to the scheme or any connected scheme; and
- b) in the performance of the Scheme Manager's functions under the Regulations.

Composition

The PPB comprises Mr Patrick McCartan (Independent Chair), Employer Representatives (x 3), Employee Representatives (x 3) and an Independent Member.

A log of Member's training and register of declared Conflicts of Interest is maintained by the NIPB.

Terms of Reference

Terms of Reference for the PPB were agreed by Members and are reviewed on an annual basis. A copy of the Terms of Reference is available on the NIPB website under the Police Pension Board section.

Meetings

The PPB met on 3 occasions during 2016/17 - 27th May 2016, 23rd September 2016 and 22nd February 2017. At the 22nd February 2017 meeting, PPB reviewed the Terms of Reference and

determined that meetings should be held every 4 months (3 meetings per year) instead of the quarterly basis as originally set out, with ad hoc meetings as required.

A copy of the agenda and minutes of each meeting are published on the NIPB's website following ratification.

Pension matters considered

During 2016/17 the PPB considered the following issues:

- Pensions Ombudsman determinations relevant to the role of the PPB;
- PSNI Pensions Governance (reporting framework);
- Government Actuary Department guidance;
- NIPB Case Management System;
- Reports from the Pensions Scheme Administrator (PSNI) ;
- Risks and Challenges facing Police Pension Schemes;
- Pension Regulator Guidance ;
- Annual Benefit Statements ;
- Review of Police Pensions Regulations (NI) 2015 ;
- PSNI Pension Accounts for 2015/16 ; and
- Pensions Resources within PSNI and NIPB.

Training/Development Activities

The PPB is supported in its work by Mr Brian Quinn in his capacity as the Pensions Advisor.

During 2016/17 the PPB received training/development on the following issue:

- Scope of Pensions Advice Available to the PPB (27th May 2016).
- Members training session – including Public Service Pension Schemes Governance requirements, Pension Regulator Code of Practice, Police Pension Scheme 2015 (22nd February 2017).