

**MINUTES OF THE POLICE PENSION BOARD MEETING -
WATERSIDE TOWER
27 May at 10.30 am**

PRESENT:

Members	Pat McCartan (Chair) David Wilson (NIPB) Paul King (PSNI) Marty Whittle (PFNI)
Others	Brian Quinn (Pensions Advisor) Jenny Passmore (NIPB)

The Chair noted that the meeting was quorate.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from ACC Mark Hamilton (CPOSA), Chief Superintendent George Clarke (SANI), Lorraine Montgomery (Independent Member) and Amanda Stewart (NIPB).

2. DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Members were asked to declare any conflicts of interest arising from the agenda. No conflicts of interest were declared.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Members agreed that the minutes were a true and accurate account of the last meeting on 5 February 2016. A typographical error was noted by the Chair at point 6 of the minutes.

4. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from the last meeting.

5. BRIEFING FROM PENSIONS ADMINISTRATOR

Members received an update on the police pension scheme(s) and a copy of the draft PSNI Pensions Accounts for 2015/16.

In relation to the Pension Schemes information Paul King advised as follows:

- There is an increase in opt outs which was expected as a number of those in the closed scheme (1988 scheme) have maximised their benefits.
- Overpayments are mainly due to deaths of members during the month as pensions are paid in advance at the beginning of the month. 90% of overpayments are recouped.
- The number of officers with full protection in the closed scheme is approximately 2000. Most of those remaining in the new scheme (2006) will most likely transfer to the CARE scheme (2015) and the numbers in that scheme will rise due to those transfers along with the new joiners.
- There have been no complaints received through the Internal Dispute Resolution Procedure since the last Pensions Board meeting.
- The total cost of the MILNE payments is likely to be in the region on £50 million.

Brian Quinn wished to highlight that he had previously provided advice to individual officers in relation to disputes they had with the pensions schemes in his role as a volunteer with the Pensions Advisory Service. However he confirmed if he was assigned any future PSNI cases by the Pensions Advisory Service he would decline the work.

The Chair asked if there is likely to be opt outs from senior officers due to the new lifetime allowance and was advised that it may be a possibility in the Chief Officer ranks.

Action: David Wilson to speak to ACC Mark Hamilton about Policing Board business however he would discuss the lifetime allowance issue with him and report back any relevant information.

In relation to the draft PSNI Pensions Accounts Paul King advised as follows:

- In relation to the membership statistics on pages 6 – 8 the number of deferred members refer mainly to the Full Time Reserve officers coming of age.
- On page 10 the liabilities are largest with the closed scheme.
- Assumptions on page 11 – GAD have used the short term rate for the first time.
- There is an increase in the liabilities outlined on page 26 and 27 however this is just a timing issue associated with the MILNE payments, the cost of which will be met by treasury.
- On page 36 there is an increase in employer's contributions whilst employee contributions largely stayed the same.
- It should be noted that the assumption on life expectancy has reduced slightly on previous years

- Accounts will be finalised by PSNI early June, signed by the Comptroller and Auditor General shortly after with a view to having them laid before the Assembly in early July.

Paul advised that the Annual Benefits statement templates were being finalised and those with full protection had already been completed.

6. DFPNI Biennial Review of the effects of the Public Service Pensions Act (NI) 2014

Members noted this request for information from the Department and were advised that a copy of the response will be provided at the next Pensions Board Meeting.

7. Schedule of charges

Members noted an email from the Board to the DOJ advising that the charges for scheme member requests would be reviewed. The schedule of charges has never been reviewed and it should reflect the cost of staff time in preparing the various information statements. PSNI Pensions would discuss the issue with the Board and the Pensions Board would be kept updated on the outcome.

8. The Pensions Regulator: An essential guide to issuing annual benefit statements

Members noted the Pensions Regulator guide. Paul advised that PSNI have complied with the disclosure checklist and are well within the stipulated timeframe.

9. Policing Board's Pensions Advisor

Brian Quinn provided an overview of his background and experience in the Pensions field. It was confirmed that Xafinity had been awarded the Pensions Advisor contract for a period of four years from January 2016. Brian will provide advice on pensions matters to the Board and PSNI as and when required.

10. Information papers

Members noted the information papers as follows:

- *The Pension Regulator's Corporate Plan 2016-19*
- *GAD technical bulletin – Budget 2016*
- *Pensions Ombudsman determination – Lettman*

11.AOB

The Chair wished to formally record the support from Lorraine Montgomery, Independent Member for contribution to the Pension Board. Lorraine will resign from the Board with effect from 1 June 2016.

Discussions took place around the appointment of an independent member and options are to be considered by the Chair and the Board before the next meeting.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on a Friday morning in September 2016.

The meeting ended at 11.40am.

Paul King will brief Members on work carried out by PSNI Pensions Branch covering sample benefits statement; a year-end update on pensions; and draft pension accounts.

1. DFPNI Biennial Review of the effects of the Public Service Pensions Act (NI) 2014

Members will receive a copy of the Board's response to the Biennial Review at the next PPB meeting.

2. Schedule of charges

Email from the Board to the Department of Justice advising that the Board, in liaison with PSNI Pensions Branch, will review the existing charges for scheme member requests.

3. The Pensions Regulator: An essential guide to issuing annual benefit statements

Members can access a copy of the essential guidance using the following link:

www.thepensionsregulator.gov.uk/docs/public-service-annual-benefit-statements-guide.pdf

4. Policing Board's Pensions Advisor

5. Information papers

- *The Pension Regulator's Corporate Plan 2016-19*
<http://www.thepensionsregulator.gov.uk/about-us/corporate-plans.aspx#s8355>
- *GAD technical bulletin – Budget 2016*
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/budget-2016-a-gad-technical-bulletin>
- *Pensions Ombudsman determination – Lettman*
<https://www.pensions-ombudsman.org.uk/determinations/2016/po-3753/government-pension-scheme/>