

FIRE FIGHTERS PENSION BOARD - MINUTES
NOTES of Meeting Held 8 Feb 2023
Hybrid

Attendees:	
Glynn Luznyj, (GL), Chair	Irina Volkova-Heath, (IVH)
David Greensmith, (DG)	Helen Scargill, (HS)
Susan Wilkinson, (SW)	Ralph Butler, (RB)
James (Jim) Bywater, (JB)	
Minutes: Liam Buckley (LB)	
Apologies:	
Louise Clayton, (LC)	Matt Mott, (MM)
Lee Russell, (LR)	Sukhjot Kaur, (SK)

1. Attendance and Apologies

Attendance and apologies were noted as above.

2. Minutes and Actions Arising

Minutes were reviewed and taken as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting held on the 6th October 2023. Actions were updated as follows:

Action 52: SW to give update regarding manager update.

Action 53: Proposal was taken through to the Commissioners manager scheme. There was approval from the FBU in November.

3. Pension Manager Update – Pensions

SW explained that there was not much change in terms of remedy. The service has had the final part of the template to complete from West Yorkshire. In the meantime, data has been checked and West Yorkshire have populated. Remedy position has not since changed, no further updates.

GL highlighted the preparation for the application of the remedy, it is important to check the data. SW noted three templates to complete, the first two have been completed, the financial template is still to be completed. Two parallel records need to be completed, so as people come to retire, the data is there so West Yorkshire are able to provide them with both sets of quotes. The temporary promotion calculations and similar have been done in advance. GL questioned if we are recording their intention of preferred choice, or is this left until after. SW confirmed if they retire between now and Oct 2023, we are providing them the information under the

current legislation. GL is aware that the advisory board is meeting and FRS have provided advice for this. The current advice from all bodies is exactly the same that no FRS should be processing this.

GL noted the FBU are in a position where they are agreed with the settlements and once the amount has been agreed, FBU members will be able to apply, based on their category. GL noted that other trade unions did put forward lists and there is going to be a lot of work ongoing with this. Collected grievances have been suggested to see if it can be resolved in a pragmatic way.

GL explained that all the pension claims are being pulled together. The preliminary hearing is listed for the 20th April. SW noted the claims that we have had have been sent to the LGA. As long as we have notified the LGA, they are all being done as a bulk response.

4. Pension Board Risk Register

There are 10 Risks currently on the register, some key points were highlighted below.

RISK 4 – HS explained that with all the data cleansing that has been done, the service hasn't missed any deadline since 2017. GL agreed and questioned if this should be archived off the risk register now. HS stated that it could potentially still be a risk and to leave it on and change it just to green for now.

Risk 5 – GL explained that this is a relatively low risk anyway, training has been completed and the competence around training has been done, there are no policy gaps. The mitigating action needs to be amended slightly, similarly with risk 3.

Risk 7 – GL questioned if all member is still comfortable that the risk rating is at a 12? SW explained that it is around the complexity and lack of clarity of the risk, rather than the service failing to understand.

5. RSM Internal Audit Report on Pension Arrangements

DG noted the report that was sent out in the pack. This is part of the internal audit plan for this year, the scope of the year was around governance and the flow of data through all authorities. This knocks onto the annual benefit statement. The audit has overall substantial assurance and one low level remedy which the service is happy to accept. This shows the level of the work that goes on from a governance point of view and that the data is correct that is being sent through to West Yorkshire.

6. Update from Administrator

HS explained that there is not much change in terms of immediate detriment. Attending technical working groups with home office and LGA's around Matthews. It will be fairly clear and straight forward in terms of eligibility and processes. GAD is looking to produce a calculator that will do the majority of the case types for Matthews, specifically for the contribution's element, so you can bulk upload data into the calculator, which will work out all contributions.

West Yorkshire updated that they have had a new director, and have confirmed a new post that is called pension fund representative for fire clients which will involve work with FRAs on training and forms.

SW questioned how the service would get to know if someone has been on strike or not. GL explained that the service will know 24 hours before each period the service will check, if they don't contact us or respond it will be taken that they are on Strike. It will be a laborious process but Fire Watch will also help us, it will be flagged via this. There will also be manual checks in place.

7. **Any Other Business**

No other business noted.

Next Meeting date: 18th May 2023