

South West Regional Police Pensions Board

Thursday 27 July 2022 at 10:00am

Virtual meeting held via Microsoft Teams

Attendance

Ian Pollitt (Independent Chair)

Esther Lee (Minute Taker)

Member Representatives

Jim Purkiss (Devon and Cornwall Federation)

Richard Wand (National Association of Retired Police Officers)

Employer Representatives

Sandy Goscomb (Devon and Cornwall)

Richard Hicks (Professional Advisor, Devon and Cornwall & Dorset)

Tim Newman (Dorset)

Emma Snailham (Avon and Somerset) rep for Nick Adams

Guests

Paul Mudd (XPS) (for 02/22/23a only)

Shirley Cuthbert (Peninsula) (for 02/22/23b only)

Apologies

Jon Stratford (CPOSA Rep)

Anthony Hart (Devon and Cornwall Supt Association)

Tony Henley (Avon and Somerset Federation)

Clive Barker (Wiltshire, Employer rep)

Nick Adams (Avon and Somerset)

Sarah Holbrook (Wiltshire)

Jane Heppel (Gloucestershire)

02/22/13 Introductions and Apologies, Declarations Conflict of Interest, [FOIA open]

Ian Pollitt welcomed members, confirming the group was not quorate as there was a requirement to have three member representatives and three employer representatives present for any decision-making activity.

The Board accepted the meeting could go ahead as there were no specific decisions needed and looked instead to represent the Scheme Managers by holding the Scheme Administrators to account and ensuring relevant trends and risks were reported upon.

The meeting had been postponed from 9 June 2022 (due to a Chief Finance Officer conference) and it was felt that waiting until September left too long between meetings, but it was hoped the autumn meeting would be in person with provision for people to dial in.

Ian Pollitt explained the declarations process and confirmed that no conflict of interest declarations had been received.

02/22/14 Minutes from the last meeting held on 3 March 2022 [FOIA Open]

The draft minutes from the meeting held on 3 March 2022 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

02/22/15 Action Log [FOIA open]

The Chair presented the action log, highlighting the following updates:

- a. **Action 136 – Succession Planning (previous reference 02/21/16 and 03/21/26c 04/21/41b and 01/22/03b)**
Esther Lee would meet with Ian Pollitt and Richard Hicks to facilitate the 3-year re-election process for relevant members.
Action to remain open
- b. **Action 151- D&C Pensions in Payments – audit/review [FOIA open] (previous minutes 04/21/46 and 01/22/03f)**
Action discussed at minute reference 02/22/20
Action discharged
- c. **Action 156 – Training Records for Members [FOIA open] (previous minute reference 04/21/46 and 01/22/03f)**
No further updates had been provided by members to populate the training record and was therefore considered complete.
Action discharged
- d. **Action 157 – D&C Pensions in Payment – audit/review [FOIA open] (previous minute reference 01/22/08)**
Action discussed at minute reference 02/22/20
Action discharged
- e. **Action 158 – Update of Risk register – cybercrime [FOIA open] (previous minute reference 01/22/09)**
Esther Lee confirmed she had updated the risk register – 3x3=9 for cybercrime.
Action discharged
- f. **Action 159 – Peninsula Pensions Update – New Joiners [FOIA open] (previous minute reference 01/22/11a)**
No update provided prior to the meeting and would be raised at minute reference 02/22/23b
Action to remain open
- g. **Action 160 – Peninsula Pensions Update –New Members Video [FOIA open] (previous minute reference 01/22/11a)**
No update provided prior to the meeting and would be raised at minute reference 02/22/23b
Action to remain open
- h. **Action 161 – Peninsula Pensions Update – Widows benefits [FOIA open] (previous minute reference 01/22/11a)**
No update provided prior to the meeting and would be raised at minute reference 02/22/23b
Action to remain open
- i. **Action 162 – McCloud Pension Remedy Implementation plan [FOIA open] (previous minute reference 01/22/11b)**
No specific single approach had been identified by the NPCC in relation to the creation of a single priority list for implementation list.
Action discharged.

02/22/16 Training / Knowledge of Board Members [FOIA Open]

No new training subjects had been identified for members to complete and the training record tab was up to date.

02/22/17 The Pension Regulator [FOIA Open]

Standard engagement continued with the Regulator, with no trends or concerns to raise to the Board.

02/22/18 Pension Compliance and Performance Group [FOIA Closed s.43 commercial interests]

02/22/19 McCloud Pension Remedy – [FOIA closed s.43 Legal Professional Privilege]

02/22/20 Devon and Cornwall Police Pensions in Payment – Audit [FOIA Open]

Devon and Cornwall Police had initially been contacted by retired members who believed their pension in payment calculations were incorrect. Interest grew to an initial 50 cases, and a small project was scoped and undertaken to review records and report; this had identified some shortcomings. Accordingly, a larger cohort (overall 250 pension records) were investigated as a supplementary project and that work along with the final report had been received by Devon and Cornwall Police.

The Director of Finance for Devon and Cornwall led on a detailed verbal update and discussion ensued.

Broadly the Board were content that the review had been well managed and delivered effectively with a realistic and even-handed conclusion. NARPO were thanked for their input and collaboration throughout what had proven a lengthy process.

Due to the complexity of pension data, member records and manual interventions when calculating benefits, the Board accepted the potential for error but still found the percentage of errors found in the review concerning. Concerns were exacerbated by the fact that a high percentage of members did not access the online self-service site to check their own records were correct. McCloud Remedy would further complicate the picture for many years to come which was why the current data verification being undertaken by Forces with the pension administrators (see 02/22/19 above) was key, alongside the updated software implementation by Heywoods.

Official

Richard Hicks would provide the Board with a further update on the scoping work being undertaken by XPS to further inform what if further activity was required in relation to the Devon and Cornwall Pensions in Payment review.

For action by:

Richard Hicks

02/22/21 Review of Risk Register [FOIA Open]

No specific concerns were raised by the Board with confirmation that the Cyber Crime risk had been updated after the last meeting and the ongoing South West Audit Team (SWAP) activity in relation to data integrity would culminate in a report to CFO's.

02/22/22 Formal Complaints [FOIA open]

No significant issues, overall trends or concerns were raised to the Board.

The Board broke for refreshments

01/22/23 Regional Pension Scheme Administration - Performance [FOIA closed s43 Commercial Interests]

02/22/24 Updates from the Chair and matters raised by the Board for discussion [FOIA open]

There were no matters raised by the Chair for consideration by the Board.

Esther Lee provided members with details of actions from the meeting.

There being no further items for discussion the meeting closed at 11.48am

Date, Time and Location of Next Meeting

8 September 2022 with the expectation of meeting in person (venue to be advised), alongside an opportunity to join remotely.