

Official

South West Regional Police Pensions Board

Thursday 2 December 2021 at 10:00am

Virtual meeting held via Microsoft Teams

Attendance

Ian Pollitt (Independent Chair)

Esther Lee (Minute Taker)

Member Representatives

Paul O'Brien (National Association of Retired Police Officers)*Non-voting attendee

Jim Purkiss (Devon and Cornwall Federation)

Tony Henley (Avon and Somerset Federation)

Robin Hobbs (National Association of Retired Police Officers)

Employer Representatives

Jane Heppel (Gloucestershire)

Nick Adams (Avon and Somerset)

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

Sandy Goscomb (Devon and Cornwall)

Sarah Holbrook (Wiltshire)

Tim Newman (Dorset) left at 04/21/45

Guests

Paul Mudd (XPS) (for 04/21/47 only)

Shirley Cuthbert (Peninsula) (for 04/21/47 only)

Clair Alcock (NPPC) left at 04/21/45

Richard Wand (National Association of Retired Police Officers)*Guest – pending joining Board

Apologies

Anthony Hart (Devon and Cornwall Supt Association)

Clive Barker (Wiltshire, Employer rep)

04/21/39 Introductions and Apologies, Declarations Conflict of Interest, [FOIA open]

Ian Pollitt welcomed Jane Heppel the Gloucestershire employer representative and Richard Ward who would shortly join as the new NARPO representative to the Board, with Robin Hobbs standing down in that capacity after this meeting. Apologies from Jon Stratford and Clive Barker were recorded.

Clair Alcock joined the meeting to provide a Remedy Pension update.

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

04/21/40 Minutes from the last meeting held on 16 September 2021 [FOIA Open]

The draft minutes from the meeting held on 16 September 2021 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

04/21/41 Action Log [FOIA open]

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

- a. **Action 129 - The Pension Regulator - TPR Survey (previous reference 01/21/06)**
No update provided at the meeting.
Action carried over
- b. **Action 136 – Succession Planning (previous reference 02/21/16 and 03/21/26c)**
No update provided at the meeting.
Action carried over
- c. **Action 141 - Update from Chair - Proactive approach to reducing Opt Out Figures (previous reference 02/21/23 and 03/21/26g)**
No update provided at the meeting
Action carried over
- d. **Action 142 - Pension Compliance and Performance Group - support to chair (previous reference 03/21/29)**
Rescheduled meeting took place on 23 November 2021 with a report to Board to follow.
Action discharged
- e. **Action 143 - Update on McCloud Remedy - ID policies [FOIA closed s.43] (previous reference 03/21/30)**
Contact had been made with NPCC Head of Pensions and Met Police Pensions Manager. Response sent to Richard Hicks for onwards transmission to XPS and Peninsula.
Action discharged
- f. **Action 144 - Commission of Pension Audit – accuracy of payments (previous reference 03/21/31)**
Richard Hicks provided an update to the chair of the SW NARPO Board prior to their quarterly meeting.
Action discharged
- g. **Action 145 - Communication (style/content) to pensioners/members (previous reference 03/21/32)**
Awaiting response from XPS, Richard Hicks to chase
Action carried over
- h. **Action 146 - Regional Pension Scheme Administration - Peninsula GMP reconciliation [FOIA closed s43] (previous reference 03/21/35a)**
The Board accepted that the national picture had changed and would be picked up with both administrators when they joined the meeting.
Action carried over
- i. **Action 147 - Regional Pension Scheme Administration - Peninsula GMP reconciliation and GAD Modeller [FOIA closed s43] (previous reference 03/21/35a)**
Response from NPCC Head of Pensions forwarded to RH for onwards transmission to XPS and Peninsula.
Action discharged

j. Action 148 - Request for SW Pension site to be linked to local SharePoint sites [FOIA open] (previous reference 03/21/38)

Esther Lee confirmed she had created links within the D&C and Dorset Intranet pages to both the SW Pension site where the Remedy comms for the region were published as well as links to the self-service portal for XPS.

Action discharged

04/21/42 Training / Knowledge of Board Members [FOIA Open]

No new training subjects had been identified for members to complete. The Board were however reminded they must complete all mandatory training as outlined by modules on the Pension Regulator site.

Links would be shared to new members to ensure they were able to complete all necessary training.

Since John Jones (Dorset employer rep) had retired from the Board the position of Deputy had been vacant. Richard Hicks had stepped into cover the post for a short time, however the Board supported Tim Newman as the permanent Deputy chair of the South West Pension Board.

04/21/43 The Pension Regulator [FOIA Open]

Standard engagement continued with the Regulator, with no new items raised.

04/21/44 McCloud Pension Remedy – [FOIA closed s.43 Legal Professional Privilege]

04/21/45 Pension Compliance and Performance Group [FOIA open]

Eyan Naylor had returned as Chair of the Group and he and Richard Hicks met with the regional leads as part of the business as usual compliance meetings, highlighting the following items:

- Regional Directors would soon be considering the Pension Administration contract (presently held by XPS) as it was due for renewal in 2023.
- XPS had returned to providing pension benefit calculations i.e. forecasts, to officers however they made clear they were supplied using current, not speculative legislation.
- The performance reports visually showed a green (good) picture but did not provide a holistic overview of all areas of activity, particularly in relation to call logs and in-flow work activity. The hope was that future dialogue and development of close working relationships with XPS would provide that more holistic understanding for the Board rather than simple KPI numbers.
- There was an expectation from the Group that Pension Administrators would be increasing their staffing levels as the impact of Remedy activity could impact on the ability to delivery business as usual activity.

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- GMP had not been resolved and no payments made to date. An understanding of the potential interdependencies between GMP and McCloud Pension Remedy was sought and would be put to the Pension Administrators.

04/21/46 D&C Pensions in Payments – audit/review [FOIA Open]

Richard Hicks provided a verbal update to the Board confirming that he had spoken to Mr Phil Cornish the South Devon Secretary for NARPO in readiness for their upcoming meeting and he was content the activity was moving the issue forward for members. Thanks were given to the NARPO Board members who had assisted with the activity in 2021 and communicated with members to allay concerns and provide a balanced context.

Further work would be undertaken, extending the cases reviewed, with another update expected early in 2022 and would include a communication strategy which was being prepared by Richard Hicks and looked to ensure that all affected members received a consistent message.

For action by: Richard Hicks

Tony Hadley left the meeting

04/21/47 Regional Pension Scheme Administration - Performance [FOIA closed s43 Commercial Interests]

A brief discussion was held regarding the content of the two Scheme Administrators quarterly reports and were broadly recognised as positive.

a. Peninsula quarterly performance report

Shirley Cuthbert joined the meeting and was thanked for the content of the report.

Shirley Cuthbert left the meeting.

b. XPS quarterly performance report

Paul Mudd joined the meeting and provided a verbal update alongside the detailed quarterly report:

Paul Mudd was thanked for the report and verbal update by the Board and left the meeting

04/21/48 Review of Risk Register [FOIA Open]

No specific concerns were raised with the Board with acceptance that discussion continued outside of the meeting to update the XPS Cyber Attack probability.

04/21/49 Formal Complaints [FOIA open]

Richard Hicks confirmed that there were no significant complaints to be reported to the Board and that independent audit activity via the South West Audit Team was ongoing in relation to payment accuracy. An update report was expected in early 2022.

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04/21/50 Updates from the Chair and matters raised by the Board for discussion [FOIA open]

Ian Pollitt informed the Board that Met Friendly continued their development work in relation to opt out comms for officers and further updates would be provided to the Board when available.

Thanks were extended to Robin Hobbs for his longstanding support and input during his time as the NARPO rep on the Board with a welcome to Richard Ward who was joining in his stead.

There being no further items for discussion the meeting closed.

Date, Time and Location of Next Meeting

Thursday 3 March 2022 in line with current COVID advice