

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF POLICE PENSION BOARD
HELD AT NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD, JAMES HOUSE, BELFAST
TUESDAY 3 SEPTEMBER 2024 at 2PM**

PRESENT:

Mr Michael Burton, Chair
Bobby Singleton, Assistant Chief Constable (ACC) ⁽¹⁾
Amanda Ford, Superintendent (Supt)
Ms Alison McClune, (PSNI)
Ms Natalia McMahon, (Temporary/ Director of Police Pensions and Injury Benefits, Northern Ireland Policing Board)
Ms Sinead Simpson, (Chief Executive Northern Ireland Policing Board) ⁽²⁾
Mr Brian Quinn, (Independent)
Mr Liam Kelly, (Police Federation NI)

PSNI REPRESENTATIVES IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Jim Montgomery, (PSNI Pensions Branch)

**NORTHERN IRELAND
POLICING BOARD OFFICIALS
IN ATTENDANCE**

1 Board Official

⁽¹⁾ Attended from item 7.1

⁽²⁾ Attended from item 7.3

1. APOLOGIES

No apologies were received, and the Chair welcomed a new member of the Police Pension Board (**PPB**) to the meeting.

2. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No conflicts of interest were declared.

3. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 4 JUNE 2024

The minutes of the **PPB** meeting on 4 June 2024 were approved. The Chair asked that they also be published on the Northern Ireland Policing Board (**NIPB**) website.

(AP1)

4. ACTION LOG

Members noted that all outstanding actions following the previous PPB meeting had been completed.

5. CHAIR'S BUSINESS

The Chair noted that all outstanding recommendations on the action plan created following a review of the PPB by The Pensions Regulator (**TPR**) were completed with no further action required.

6. SCHEME MANAGER REPORT

The Temporary Director of Police Pensions and Injury Benefits (**PPIB**) provided an overview of ongoing workstreams following the previous PPB meeting on 4 June 2024.

Items discussed included:

- An update to Members confirming ongoing engagement between the Scheme Manager and Administrator in relation to matters around the Government Actuary Department (**GAD**) Calculator, case management system, budget forecasting and ad-hoc member issues.

- Pensions Ombudsman (**PO**) update regarding two ongoing complaints. The Temporary Director of PPIB noted that one of the two complaints had been closed since the last PPB meeting in June 2024, however, a response to the final complaint remains outstanding from the PO. Further updates will be provided to Members in due course.
- NIPB response to the Department of Justice (**DoJ**) Consultation on the Proposed Changes to the Police Service of Northern Ireland Injury on Duty Scheme approved and uploaded following June Resources Committee.
- Update on the increase in serving officer Ill Health Retirement (**IHR**) and Injury on Duty (**IOD**) applications.
- Confirmation that all cases to Resources Committee since the last meeting on 4 June 2024 were noted with results issued in the usual manner.
- Update on progress made in relation to the McCloud Reassessment project and confirmation of 161 non-consenter cases. Member's raised concerns around the process when dealing with non-consenting McCloud cases and questioned if they would be reassessed in line with consenting members. The Temporary Director of PPIB provided clarity on the matter and confirmed that those referred to as "*non-consenters*" were members who did not reply to the McCloud Reassessment Project and were separate from those who did reply to reject the request of being reassessed under the McCloud Reassessment Project. Members noted this update and asked that the Scheme Administrator Report be updated to make clear the difference between both cohorts. **(AP2)**

7. PSNI GOVERNANCE REPORT AND SCHEME FINANCE

7.1 Quarterly Scheme Administrator Report

The Pensions Branch Official provided an overview of the Quarterly Scheme Administration Report. The paper provided Members with an analysis of scheme membership, financial reporting, branch performance and governance.

Items discussed included:

- Overview on age profiles, namely those members over the age of 100.
- Confirmation of a reduction in the number of deferred members.
- Confirmation that all monthly payrolls had been maintained and payment deadlines met during the reporting period.
- Update on figures relating to Immediate Choice Remedial Service Statements (**RSS'**) issued between October 2023 and July 2024 with serving police officer RSS' scheduled to be issued in November 2024.
- Update on changes to the 2015 Police Pension Scheme from April 2024 and its impact on officers who were previously excluded from accruing IHR benefits due to preexisting medical conditions. The Pensions Branch Official provided assurances that contact would be made with staff associations in due course regarding the matter.

The Pensions Branch Official notified PPB Members of technical issues with logging on to the PSNI Pensions Portal which meant that members were unable to access Annual Benefit Statements (**ABS**) published on 31 August 2024. Members noted the issue which was reported to the PSNI's software provider for correction. The Chair noted the PPB's obligation to notify TPR and asked that the Temporary Director of PPIB write to TPR to report the issue. **(AP3)**

7.2 Pensions Dashboard

The Pensions Branch Official provided an overview on the progress of the Pensions Dashboard Programme and Members noted the update.

7.3 Implementation of Electronic Pension Administration System Update

The Pensions Branch Official noted ongoing challenges encountered during the process of implementing the Electronic Pension Administration System but assured Members that it would be up and running in the coming months.

7.4 Update on report of those charged with governance

The PSNI Pensions Branch Official provided an update on a recommendation made by Klynveld Peat Marwick Goerdeler (**KPMG**) during the 2023/24 audit whereby KPMG requested a review of the actuarial report. The Pensions Branch

Official noted ongoing conversations with KPMG in order to come to an agreement which satisfies the requirements set out in the recommendation in order that it be closed.

8. POLICE PENSION BOARD RISK REGISTER

Members discussed each Risk on the Register including the inherent and residual risk scores and agreed on the Register being updated accordingly.

- Risk 2 – Members reviewed this risk and agreed that the likelihood be changed from 3 to 1 under the “current status” column with the colour updated from amber to green.
- Risk 6 – Members discussed this new risk and agreed that it should hold the colour code red and that the Pensions Branch Official should provide the necessary wording to be added to the risk register.

Officials agreed to action all Risk Register changes as requested by Members.

(AP4)

9. MEMBER TRAINING

9.1 Roles and Responsibilities

The Independent Pensions Advisor provided an overview of the various stakeholders, their roles and members’ roles and responsibilities.

9.2 Pension schemes complying with the new TPR General Code of Practice

The Independent Pensions Advisor delivered a presentation on the general code of practice, outlining the TPR’s expectation on how Schemes should comply with the law.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chair noted the resignation of the Director of PPIB and requested that a letter be issued thanking her for her time in the PPB and to wish her well in her new job.

(AP5)

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would take place on Tuesday 3 December 2024.

MR MICHAEL BURTON

CHAIRMAN