

FIRE FIGHTERS PENSION BOARD - MINUTES
NOTES of Meeting Held 29th February 2024
Hybrid

Attendees:	
Glynn Luznyj, (GL), Chair	Irina Volkova-Heath, (IVH)
David Greensmith, (DG)	Susan Wilkinson, (SW)
Lee Russell, (LR)	Louise Clayton, (LC)
James (Jim) Bywater, (JB)	Sukhjot Kaur, (SK)
Minutes: Liam Buckley (LB)	
Apologies: None	
Helen Scargill, (HS)	

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 15th November 2023.

Action 55 – JB explained that there is a robust system in place now and there is assurance now in place, this process is leading the promotions process. There is no plateau in the next three years, but it was noted due to an 8 year pause there may be a plateau coming.

Action 56 – It was noted that the action for 56 will be reworded by SW.

3. Pension Manager Update

There is just under 700 records and the data is coming along quite nicely, however the data is not currently in the most suitable format, the integrity of the data is fine. This will then be dropped into the calculator, which then goes off to West Yorkshire. It was highlighted that there is a lot of manipulation of the data that is needed. The service is in a good position in Staffordshire. GL questioned how other fire authorities are addressing the immediate detriment procedure. SK explained that she will feedback to Helen Scargill and information will come in the form of a generalised update. The Matthews exercise is seeing around 400 people in scope for that exercise, a chasing letter has recently been sent. There have been 200 responses, all bar 12 have been acknowledged at this time. The service is intending send out a third chaser within the next week, but this time addresses that are no longer valid, the letters will be returned to the service. There was some concern around the 45 incorrect addresses, however, it was noted that there has been no material breach, which was the LGA's view. GL explained it would be good to ask the scheme advisory board of

their opinion, asking whether the attempt of contact constitutes as reasonable. LR questioned if other firefighters that are in service if they know addresses of former colleagues. SW noted this contact has been made via email internally at the moment. LR to raise this issue with the FBU to ensure that all possible contact avenues have been exhausted. LC explained that it may be worth looking at recorded delivery. The board that have come to the conclusion, based on the LGA advice that this is not a material breach. It was noted that this exercise is going to be expensive, and there is no guarantee of funds, DG has asked for clarification of this from the home office. The GAD calculator is raising some issues for Staffordshire only at this time, this may be due to the version of excel that the service has.

ACTION XX – SW to check with ICT on the excel capability is causing the issue with the GAD Calculator

ACTION XX SW to continue to attempt to contact relevant people for the Matthews case using sensible and proper procedures

ACTION XX - LR & GL to speak to the rep bodies promoting the contact of the Matthews process.

4. Local Pension Board Training Sessions

SW explained that the service is offering several sessions throughout the year for everyone to join in with. GL highlighted that it would be important for board members to attend the training sessions, and to let GL know so this is able to be logged.

5. Pension Board Risk Register

DG highlighted the risk register that is in the pack.

There is now a new risk management system in place. It is important that red risks are identified around the remedy processes that are in place, which is correct until the data is with West Yorkshire and is slightly further along. Risk number 9 has seen a lot of work around this at the moment, but the Matthews process is captured within, which means it will remain as red. SW explained that with the Matthews exercise and someone is in scope and they die, it has an impact on the benefit that the widow could get, which could throw up a potential challenge and risk. DG explained that this will be noted, a long with the finance risk. Additionally, the Matthews case will become identified as its own risk.

6. Contingent Decision Paper Update

DG explained the paper in the pack.

This paper has come through the SGB Fire, and is here to support the scheme managers should there be any requests coming through, where a contingent decision is needed. The main area which might affect the service is the 'opt out' process, where the contingent decision would be whether or not someone would be allowed to re-enter the scheme. This paper follows LGA guidance, and should be kept archived for reference.

7. Update from Administrator

SK explained that during the last three months, the KPI's have been consistently met. The estimates that were on hold have now been done. There have been no complaints from Staffordshire during the last three months. The member numbers have stayed consistent. The fire team has recently seen an uplift in staff in West Yorkshire. Bradford Council may be giving a section 144 notice, guidance has been put out regarding this to members and the operation is independent of the council. GL requested updates regarding the fire team which is always helpful for the board to know.

8. Any Other Business

No further business was noted.