



Key issues discussed at the meeting held on 25th January 2017.

Fee Paid Judicial Pension Scheme (FPJPS) and update on legislation

The Board heard an addendum was issued to the original FPJPS consultation the closing date of which was extended to the 31st October 2016. The addendum clarified who was entitled to membership of FPJPS by office. A further consultation went out on the 24th January 2017 after an error was identified in the GAD formula for calculating the cost of buying added years for retired members before FPJPS becomes operational. This consultation closes on the 8th February 2017. The formal response will be issued once the regulations are laid before Parliament. The Board received confirmation that the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) is intending to lay the regulations w/c 20th February 2017. The Board were also informed of amendments to the Judicial Pension Scheme (JPS) 2015 and two sets of AVCs which form part of a series of amendments which MOJ Policy intend to lay before Parliament as a wider judicial pensions' package.

The Board heard that MOJ is currently considering its position whilst the Treasury considers whether to appeal with regards to the McCloud judgment.

Administration

The Board reviewed the following papers:

- Stewardship report from the MoJ Head of Pensions
- Punter Southall administration report

The Board heard that the submission had been completed on the five year reappointment of Jill Youds, Susan Andrews and Ellen Kelleher and was with the Secretary of State for consideration.

The Board that Punter Southall Administration Limited (PSAL) has taken over the administration of the judicial pension schemes. The contract remains the same with services now being provided by the administrative arm of the wider Punter Southall (PS) group.

The Board heard that PSAL had carried out an Internal Audit overseen by MOJ Internal Audit for assurance. Good progress had been made by PSAL against report recommendations with clear governance structures now in place and a marked emphasis upon the judicial schemes being brought under the PSAL standard quality control framework.

The Board were informed that regular monthly meetings were taking place between the Judicial Pay and Pensions team and Judicial Office, the Pay Claims team (responsible for making interim payments to fee paid judges) and payroll providers to refine procedures and processes in readiness for FPJPS.

The Pensions Regulator

The Board were informed that the Pensions Regulator had sought assurance regarding the governance of the JPS 2015 and the actions that were being taken to insure compliance with the Public Service Pensions Act 2013. The Regulator identified a number of factors which it felt demonstrated the Board was carrying out stringent governance of PSAL. The Regulator also indicated its view was that risk was being managed well regarding FPJPS. The Board agreed to the Regulator 'sitting in' on a Board meeting subject to care being taken to preserve confidentiality where any complaints/individuals' cases are being discussed.

The Board considered in detail the discretions policy regarding 'transfers in' and the concept of extraneous circumstances which could warrant a referral to the Board where the Scheme Manager refuses entry to the Scheme after the twelve month period.

Administration Committee

The Board agreed the JPB Administration Sub-Committee Terms of Reference. The Board heard that the Administration Committee had scrutinised the findings of the Internal Audit report and the progress made in the implementation of its findings. The Board was heard that the Committee had sought assurance from PS' senior management that it is committed to resourcing the MOJ contract and that sustained remedial action is being taken with regard to the findings of the Internal Audit.

Date of next meeting: 4th April 2017.