Judicial Pensions Board

Key issues discussed at the meeting held on 4 December 2019.

Administration

The Board were updated by the Ministry of Justice's (MoJ) Head of Judicial Pay and Pensions (JP&P) on the McCloud litigation and work in progress following the Court of Appeal judgment. The Board were also made aware of the establishment of the Judicial Claims Team (JCT) who will be processing pre-2000 O'Brien claims.

The Board noted XPS's backlog of casework and the number of outstanding priority cases as outlined in XPS's Administration Report. The Board requested analysis of the current backlog and asked XPS to furnish a plan for clearing cases, to be provided to MoJ by the end of December 2020.

The Board raised concerns about the Benefit Statement breaches and the need for XPS to implement sufficient internal controls to identify such breaches. Members were made aware of an issue with the inclusion of 1993 Judicial Pension Scheme (JUPRA) and Fee Paid Judicial Pension Scheme (FPJPS) service, as well as transferred in benefits, within the death in service illustration in Judicial Pension Scheme 2015 (JPS2015) Benefit Statements. The Board also questioned XPS on their Complaints Management process.

The Board discussed XPS's plan for recording calls and sought clarification on recording and managing the call data. The Board were informed the statistical call data will be managed by XPS and provided to the Board at a future meeting.

Fee Paid Judicial Pension Scheme (FPJPS) Data Queries

The Board heard work is progressing to clear existing FPJPS queries however new data queries continue to be received, adding to the backlog. The Board were updated on issues with the underlying data which the MoJ are aiming to address using the Judicial Fees & Expenses Payment System (JFEPS) and by bringing in new data analysts to review and fix historical data.

Risk and Assurance

The Board considered the Risk Register and agreed amendments to reflect recent statutory breaches.

Internal Dispute Resolution and Appeal Cases

The Board noted two cases had been reviewed under the Internal Dispute Resolution Procedure (IDRP) at the last Dispute Resolution Committee meeting.

Date of next meeting: 27 February 2020