

Judicial Pensions Board Administration Committee

Key issues discussed at the meeting held on 10 November 2020

Administration

The Committee was updated by the Ministry of Justice's (MoJ) Interim Deputy Director for Judicial Pay and Pensions on ongoing recruitment and training within the MoJ Judicial Pay and Pensions Team. The Committee was informed that the staffing plan included the recruitment of a permanent Deputy Director to provide senior oversight of the administration of the judicial pension schemes.

The Committee was informed of the recruitment drive and training for and within the XPS administration team. The Committee scrutinised the newly drawn up XPS backlog recovery plan which included revised milestones and details of additional resource allocated to the administration team. The Committee questioned XPS on the current backlog of casework and sought assurance, in particular, on the augmented training and staffing plan and how it correlates with the timely achievement of milestones within the backlog recovery plan.

Following the significant delays that had occurred in the Annual Benefit and Pension Savings Statements exercises for the last two years, it was confirmed that a Working Group had been set up including representatives of MoJ, XPS and Liberata to learn from previous exercises and ensure that similar issues would not be encountered next year.

Government Internal Agency Audit

The Committee received a briefing on the most recent Government Internal Agency Audit which had been conducted in 2019. It was noted that a further audit would be undertaken once all if the recommended actions had been completed.

Judicial Pension Scheme - Data

The Head of Judicial Pay and Pensions briefed the Committee on progress made in investigating Fee Paid Judicial Pension Scheme data queries and the streamlining of processes within the data and analysis team. The Committee was also updated on the recruitment and training of new team members.

Complaints

The Committee questioned XPS on the recent rise in complaints and whether there were any themes emerging. The Committee was briefed on the nature of complaints XPS were receiving and the processes in place to resolve them, including enhanced partnership working with the Government Actuary's Department and the MoJ.

Date of next meeting: TBC, February 2021.