

Judicial Pensions Board

Key issues discussed at the tele-conference meeting held on 4th December 2020

Administration

The Board received a briefing from the XPS Managing Director on XPS's Annual Review for 2019-20 and discussed XPS's plan to clear the backlog of cases. The Board welcomed the increased resource being applied by XPS as part of the plan and questioned why this had not been considered sooner.

The Board were briefed on contract meetings with XPS covering their Service Level Agreement (SLA) performance. The Board raised concerns with XPS on their SLA performance as well as their disappointment that the regulation deadline for delivery of ABS/PSSs had been breached for a second year, despite the efforts of XPS's administration team. The Board questioned XPS's resourcing of the contract and improvement plans for the backlog, emphasising greater assurance was needed from both the MoJ and XPS on management of the contract.

The Board were updated by the Judicial Pay & Pensions (JP&P) team on recruitment to supplement the work of the team; progress of the Judicial Claims Team in relation to the O'Brien and Miller claims; and the planned implementation of the McCloud remedy. The Board noted the Annual Benefit (ABS) and Pension Savings Statements (PSS) breach had been reported to the Pension Regulator and were informed of progress against recommendations to improve the process for next year's exercise.

Fee Paid Judicial Pension Scheme (FPJPS) Data Queries

The Board noted the continued roll-out of the Judicial Fee & Expenses Payment System (JFEPS) within courts and tribunals, including training to judicial office holders on the self-service function. The Board were informed of the work of the Payroll and Pensions Working Group and recruitment of a new Pension Manager and Project Manager within HMCTS to liaise with JP&P. The Board were advised approval had been secured for additional recruitment to the JP&P FPJPS Data Claims Team to increase clearance of queries and address data requirements for the McCloud remedy and new reformed scheme.

Risk and Assurance

The Board considered the Risk Register and agreed no changes.

Internal Dispute Resolution and Appeal Cases

The Board noted there had been no cases considered in the period.

Date of next meeting: 3rd March 2021