

Judicial Pensions Board

Key issues discussed at the meeting held on Thursday 24th February 2022

Administration

The Board was updated on the Judicial Pensions Board independent members' recruitment campaign and the campaign for the permanent Chair of the Judicial Pensions Board.

The Board welcomed the new interim Director for Financial Management and Control - Mark Ripley, Director for Governance, Risk and Assurance – whose portfolio will include oversight of Pensions Operations until a permanent candidate is recruited. The Board was updated on the ongoing recruitment campaign for three pensions qualified members of staff to join the Pensions Administration Team, with one new team member already started in their role.

The Board were informed that XPS performance against SLAs over the last quarter had remained at 91.6%. XPS had introduced the new call-handling system, Talkdesk, on 1st February 2022 which would enable calls to be recorded and had a call-back facility to avoid callers having to wait in a queue.

The Board was advised on MoJ and XPS planning for the McCloud options exercise.

GIAA Report

The Board was advised that the Government Internal Agency Audit (GIAA) report received in January 2022 had raised the MOJ's rating from limited to moderate. The management response would be shared with members once it had been finalised.

Data Strategy

The Head of Pensions Operations briefed the Board on the ongoing work to reconcile data in readiness for the Reformed Scheme going live on 1st April 2022. MOJ was working closely with partner agencies to formulate an overarching data strategy to ensure more robust data flow processes to support the Reformed Scheme and the McCloud options exercise. The Board was advised that a large cohort of staff from the Judicial Claims Team were now supporting the Data Claims Team's work on Fee Paid Judicial Pensions Scheme data for the McCloud Options exercise.

Pensions Savings Statements (PSS) and Annual Benefit Statements (ABS)

The Pensions Administration and Contract Lead informed the Board that planning was underway for the ABS exercise for 2022 between MOJ, Liberata and XPS. Members discussed the proposed format and content of the statements for 2022 and were to be updated by MoJ at the next Board meeting.

Reformed Scheme (JPS 2022)

The Board sought assurance from MOJ on the readiness for JPS 2022 Scheme going live on 1st April 2022. MOJ confirmed the Scheme was on track. The regulations were currently going through the 'ping pong' stage of Parliament and were expected to receive Royal Assent soon.

Complaints

The Board discussed current Stage 1 and Stage 2 cases brought under the Internal Dispute Resolution Procedure.

Risk & Assurance

The Pensions Administration and Contract Lead informed the Board that the MoJ Data Security Team was currently reviewing cyber security standards across the wider organisation in line with a pan-government Cabinet Office directive. The Pensions Administration Contract Team would be requesting regular updates from the MOJ Security and Privacy Team and would be updating members on a regular basis in future.

Date of next meeting: 6 June 2022