

Judicial Pensions Board

Key issues discussed at the meeting held on Monday 06 June 2022.

Administration Update

The Board was introduced to the new permanent Director for MoJ Financial Management & Control. The Board also welcomed two new Judicial Scheme members and two new Independent members. The Deputy Director for Pensions Operations updated the Board on the ongoing recruitment campaigns for the Board Chair and actuarial member.

The Board was updated on the follow-up activity being undertaken by MoJ and XPS after the implementation of JPS 2022 in April and the ongoing data reconciliation exercise underway with Liberata, the payroll provider.

The Head of Pensions Operations stated that the work for the McCloud options exercise was underway and resource levels were being closely monitored to ensure resourcing requirements for the project were being met. The Board was informed that a cohort of existing staff within the Pensions Operations Data and Claims Team had already commenced work on the Fee Paid Judicial Pension Scheme data required for McCloud and that this work was progressing at pace.

XPS informed the Board that performance against SLAs across the last quarter had remained consistently above the 90% target level. XPS Managing Director David Watkins updated the Board on work on the proposed developments for the improvement of administrative processes including increased automation and enhanced functionality in the Mypension.com website.

Government Internal Audit Agency

The Board was updated regarding two recent Government Internal Agency Audit (GIAA) reports issued in early 2022 and in April 2022, along with management responses that have been approved by the MoJ Pensions Operations Delivery Board. The most recent GIAA report finding had improved the rating to “substantial”, meaning that the framework of governance, risk management and control was assessed as being adequate and effective, with only low priority recommendations being made.

Data Strategy

The Head of Pensions Operations updated the Board on the overarching, unified data strategy which was being worked upon across Pensions Operations and Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service.

Pensions Savings Statements (PSS) and Annual Benefits Statements (ABS) 2022 Exercise

The Board sought assurance on the delivery of ABS and PSS for 2021/22 in line with statutory deadlines. Members of the Board were assured that the data reconciliation work that was carried out prior to JPS 2022 going live and the lessons learned exercise from last year's exercise had engendered a more robust, collaborative approach. The Board noted there would be a change to this year's statements as there would be no projections due to the introduction of JPS 2022 and noted that this could cause concern to some members. MoJ confirmed joint communications were being prepared with XPS which would explain these changes to members.

Cyber Risk

The Deputy Chief Information Officer explained to the Board the actions being taken to mitigate cyber security risks across the MoJ and in particular any which related to the judicial pension schemes.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 14th September 2022.