

Judicial Pensions Board Administration Committee

Members present:

Ellen Kelleher - Chair

Simon Masterson - Deputy Director of Judicial Pay & Pensions Policy

Key issues discussed at the meeting held on Monday 25 April 2022.

Administration Update

The Committee was briefed on the appointment of the new permanent Director of Financial Management & Control and noted that he will be attending future Judicial Pensions Board meetings to support Pensions Operations.

The Committee was also advised on the successful recruitment of new members to join the Judicial Pensions Board, including two Judicial Members and two Independent Members joining with effect from 1 May 2022.

The Ministry of Justice's Deputy Director for Pensions Operations assured the Committee that resource planning remains a key focus for MoJ to provision resilience across the Pensions Operations department over the next couple of years. It was confirmed that, in addition to the current recruitment of staff, new posts will also be created to better support the ongoing projects, such as the McCloud options exercise. MoJ confirmed improving data widely across MoJ and relevant stakeholders is another priority area that is under systematic review.

The Ministry of Justice's Deputy Director for Pensions also updated the Committee on the remaining JPS 2022 post go live actions, following the launch of the Scheme on 1 April 2022, to deliver competent Scheme operation.

The Committee noted that XPS's performance for the last quarter till March was at 90.7%. The Committee was pleased to see XPS's service level performance across the previous year exceeded the contractual target of 90% and noted the transition of a hybrid working approach adopted across Wokingham and Middlesbrough staff to aid the administration of Judicial Pension Schemes.

Government Internal Audit Agency (GIAA) Report

The Committee welcomed the opportunity to see the latest GIAA report and noted the improved findings from an assessment of "moderate" to "substantial" indicating that the recommended actions had largely been completed. MoJ provided assurance that remaining recommendations are being considered and a management response will be shared with the Committee once finalised by MoJ.

Data Strategy

The Head of Pensions Operations informed the Committee that the Data and Claims Team have now started work on the McCloud remedy exercise to gain an understanding of requirements to undertake the work involved and to share this with the Judicial Pensions Board. The Committee was given assurance on the ongoing data strategy review which will include formulation of an improvement plan for Judicial Pensions data.

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

MoJ and XPS confirmed pre-emptive work for the PSS/ABS 2022 exercise was continuing and provided assurance to the Committee that statutory deadlines will be met. The Committee acknowledged there will be a slight change in this year's statements due to the new JPS 2022 Scheme going live, meaning there will be no projections, and noted that this could cause concern to some members. The Committee was advised there are communications going out to members to manage their expectations and explain why there are no projections in this year's statements.

Risk Register

The Committee reviewed the Risk Register for the judicial pension arrangements and noted a report from the Deputy Chief Information Officer of the MoJ concerning action being taken to mitigate cyber security risks across the department.

Date of next meeting: Monday 25th July 2022.