

## **Judicial Pensions Board**

### **Key issues discussed at the meeting held on Wednesday 15 March 2023**

The Board was introduced to a new employee member and observers were welcomed from Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Members of the Board were updated on ongoing recruitment processes with progress being made. Resource requirement work continues including where business cases are needed to extend current staff or recruit new staff.

The Board was updated on a Lessons Learnt workshop based on The Pension Regulators recommendations for Annual Benefit Statement planning; a key area identified was early engagement with stakeholders to enable quicker response times.

Development of calculators to be used to calculate benefits comparison is currently being explored by the Government Actuary's Department and the board will be updated on the progress within the next Judicial Pension Board.

An update on the performance of the pensions' administrator was given in Q4 of 2022. An Improvement plan was presented to the Board. The National Audit Office is currently undertaking an audit of the pensions' administrator and a number of visits have taken place to their offices. Positive feedback has been received from the NAO regarding the digital communications exercise.

A Government Internal Audit Agency audit has taken place within the Ministry of Justice Pensions Operations. The outcomes in the report were positive and will be shared at the next meeting.

The Board was advised that the majority of the McCloud preliminary information statements had now been sent to members and the information statement and options exercise work was on target for later this year.

Updates were provided on the Cyber Security Audit; Judicial Payroll; and Dispute Resolution.

The Board was asked to consider Diversity and Inclusion in areas such as member communications for further discussion at the next Judicial Pension Board meeting. XPS, the pensions administrator was also asked to provide further information around Diversity and Inclusion policies.

The Board agreed the new chair of the Judicial Pensions Board Administration Committee and it was decided that risks and assurance would be the focus of the next administration committee meeting. Members were asked to give feedback on the current risks dashboard ahead of the meeting in order to review the current process.

**Date of next meeting: Thursday 15th June 2023.**