



Personal Injury Discount Rate (PIDR)

Expert Panel Meeting Minutes

Thursday 21 September 2023 10:00 - 13:00

10 South Colonnade, London, E14 5EA

Expert Panel members

Martin Clarke CB (Chair), Government Actuary

Charl Cronje, member with experience as an actuary

Donald Taylor, member with experience of managing investments

Dr Rebecca Driver, member with experience as an economist

Edward Tomlinson, member with experience in consumer matters as relating to investment

Additional attendees

Rachel Powell, Policy Lead, Ministry of Justice

Leanne McAughey, Senior Policy Advisor, Ministry of Justice

Andrew Meads, Deputy Chief Economist, Ministry of Justice

Charles Smulian, Economic Advisor, Ministry of Justice

Thomas Glynn, Principal Social Researcher, Ministry of Justice

Paul Butcher, Government Actuary's Department

Steve Humphrey, Government Actuary's Department

Robert Williamson, Government Actuary's Department

1. Welcome and introduction

1.1. The Chair welcomed all to the second substantive meeting of the Expert Panel, noting that this would be his final meeting as Chair before retiring, after which Fiona Dunsire, the new Government Actuary, will take over.

1.2. RP summarised the outstanding actions from the last meeting.

1.3. Panel members declared any new conflicts of interest arising.

2. Values, Factors and Assumptions

2.1. The panel discussed values, factors and assumptions.

2.2. The Chair noted that in the context of the PIDR, values are overarching guiding principles, factors are explicit areas to be taken into account and assumptions more tightly define the approach.

2.3. A discussion took place overarching values, and in particular agreed those which will guide the panel in their commissioning of evidence and formulating of advice.

2.4. The panel considered the value of fairness and what that means in the context of the review, and agreed that transparency and the need to balance proportionality with being comprehensive would serve as guiding principles in their deliberations. The panel agreed to be broad ranging in their considerations, taking into account a comprehensive set of factors.

2.5. The factors which the panel have taken into account will be set out in their response to the Lord Chancellor's consultation.

2.6. The panel also discussed whether there were factors that they would wish to take in account, but which we are unlikely to be able to obtain data on. This was for the purpose of setting out the "known unknowns" to provide context to, and set out the scope of, the advice to the Lord Chancellor.

2.7. The panel discussed which assumptions they will make, beyond what is stipulated by the CLA.

2.8. The assumptions which the panel have made in their analysis will be set out in their response to the Lord Chancellor's consultation.

Research, analysis and data

3.1. RP outlined different options available for commissioning research, data and analysis, highlighting that this was not exhaustive, and that the panel may wish to consider additional options.

3.2. The panel explored each of the options, and noted that prioritisation, time and cost constraints dictate that not all options can be undertaken.

3.3. The panel agreed at a high level which options to be explored further and commissioned, to be agreed at the November meeting.

Analytical approach

4.1. PB outlined an accompanying paper which set out several analytical options, covering the approach taken by GAD in 2019 alongside alternatives, with the aim of building an analytical framework within which the core analysis will be undertaken. The focus of the paper had been informed by previous panel discussions.

4.2. PB noted that the panel can remain open to commissioning approaches outside of the framework, as a reasonableness check to the analysis being undertaken and to inform assumption setting.

4.3. The panel discussed the options and agreed, which suggested approaches to explore further and those noted as being potentially useful as a reasonableness check, rather than within the core analysis.

Next agenda and forward look

5.1. The Chair gave an overview of the next agenda.

5.2. The meeting concluded.