

## **In Confidence**

Minutes of a meeting of the Public Sector Pensions Authority (PSPA) on 4 October 2013 at 11.00 a.m. in the PSPA Meeting Room, Goldie House, Douglas.

**Present: PSPA**

Mr A Cannan, MHK (Vice Chairman)

Mr J R Turner, MLC

Mr A Shipley

**In Attendance:** Mr I T Murray

Mr I W C Burnett

**Apologies:** Mr J Carter (Chairman)

Mr E Holmes

**Minute No    Minute**

**58/13        Minutes**

The minutes of the meetings of 17 July and 13 September 2013 were approved and signed by the Vice Chairman. The minutes of the meeting on 17 July 2013 were signed by the Vice Chairman in the absence of the Chairman from the meeting.

**Conflicts of Interest**

Mr Shipley declared a Conflict of Interest in relation to any items concerning the Teachers Pension Scheme.

**59/13        Matters Arising 17 July 2013**

**Cost Sharing**

The Board noted that Treasury had agreed to the cost sharing proposals made by the PSPA in relation to the Unified Scheme. It was further noted that the proposals had been included in the October Report to Tynwald.

The Board agreed that the proposals would need to be considered by the Council of Ministers in due course. It was also noted that the proposals would be discussed with the Trade Unions at a meeting to be arranged in the near future prior to going out to consultation on the required legislative amendments.

**Teachers joining GUS**

The Board noted that a series of presentations regarding the future of the Teachers Pension Scheme had been held over recent weeks.

The Board considered a request made on behalf of Teachers that the deadline for Teachers having to reach a decision in principle on whether to join the Unified Scheme should be extended from the current end of December 2013 deadline until details of the UK Teachers Pension Scheme is released and further discussions around locally negotiated pay have taken place. The Board noted that Teachers and college lecturers considered they would then have more information at their disposal to make a more informed decision.

After due consideration, and in particular noting that the PSPA is unlikely to progress any work relating to changes on the Teachers Pension Scheme until the

UK authorities publish the draft scheme, the Board agreed to the extension of the deadline to 31 March 2014.

The Board further noted that guidance may be requested by the Executive from Council of Ministers that a Protected section of GUS would be offered to Teachers and what a likely contribution might be, in order to provide further assistance to Teachers in reaching a decision.

### **Internal Dispute Resolution Procedure**

The Board noted that to date no response had been received in relation to the Internal Dispute that had been raised by a member of the Unified Scheme and considered by the Board at its July meeting.

It was confirmed that there was no time limit for the member to raise the matter with the Pensions Ombudsman's Office should they wish to do so.

### **PSPA Auditors – Audit Plan**

The Board was informed of the amount of work that had been undertaken by the staff of the PSPA as a consequence of the work relating to the production of the audited report and accounts for each scheme.

The Board noted that part of this work involved the production by the Auditors of a Issues and Actions report, which had highlighted areas of established policies and procedures which could be reviewed with a view to improving them. The Board noted that none of the issues identified were of a major concern, and that the report would be made available to the Board in due course. It was confirmed that the matters identified were being addressed, as far as possible, as and when they arose.

The Board noted that the Audited Accounts would be ready for consideration in November, and it was agreed that these would be considered and signed of at the December Board Meeting.

### **Meeting With Trade Unions**

It was noted that the proposed meeting with Trade Unions would be held in November 2013 with a view to discussing:

- Injury Benefits;
- Cost sharing; and
- Future pensions changes and consultations.

### **Matters Arising 13 September 2013**

#### **Public Sector Consultations**

The Board noted that the consultations in relation to:

- Miscellaneous Public Sector Pension Schemes Bulk Transfer Regulations 2013
- Public Sector Pension Schemes (Revocation) Scheme 2013
- Public Sector Administration (Fees) Order 2013

would commence after discussion at the proposed meeting with Trade Unions.

#### **“Fair Deal”**

The Board was informed that a paper to the Council of Ministers concerning “Fair Deal” had been prepared, but a request had been received from the Office of Human Resources that the paper is held over as it was seeking legal advice in

relation the inclusion of pensions in any agreements made in relation to the outsourcing of public services. The Executive were therefore awaiting the outcome of this advice before submitting the paper to CoMin.

### **Police Pension Scheme**

The Board noted that a meeting had been arranged by the Department of Home Affairs to discuss future changes to the Police Pension Scheme. The meeting will include the PSPA Executive, the Chief Constable and the Police Federation and the meeting was scheduled to take place on 6 November 2013.

### **60/13 Risk Register Review**

The Risk Register was reviewed and the changes that had been made since the September meeting of the Board were noted.

### **61/13 Isle of Man Government Unified Scheme 2011 (GUS) – offer of a Protected section option of GUS to a new employee, x, by the Department of Health**

Minute not Published.

### **62/13 October 2013 Tynwald Report**

The Board noted that the Report was due to be laid before the October sitting of Tynwald.

### **63/13 Public Sector Compensation Scheme Consultation**

The Board receive a verbal update with regard to the consultation on the Public Sector Compensation Scheme, and noted that a number of responses had been received.

It was noted that at the time of the meeting a response had not been received from Unite the Union. The Board requested that if a response was not forthcoming by the close of consultation the Executive should confirm this position to the Unite representative.

The Board agreed that the consultation response and next steps should be discussed at the November Board meeting.

### **64/13 Review of Public Service Injury Benefits**

The Board noted that, following the completion of the work on the Compensation Scheme, work would progress on revised proposals for Public Service Injury Benefits. The Board confirmed that it was content for the current committee to progress this work and that the Vice Chairman of the PSPA should continue as Chair to that Committee.

### **65/13 Future Meetings**

It was proposed that the next two meeting will be held on:

Friday 8 November commencing at 09:00; and

Friday 13 December commencing at 14:00.

The Secretary was requested to circulate the dates amongst Board members following the meeting and to emphasise the importance of attending the next two meetings, where possible, due to the important business to be discussed and agreed.

## **Any Other Business**

**66/13**

### **Actuarial Valuation**

It was noted that as a consequence of the ongoing data cleansing exercise, identified at Item 38 in the Risk Register, that the Actuarial Valuation of the Unified Scheme would now not be completed until the first quarter of 2014.

**The meeting closed at 12:00**