

In Confidence

Minutes of a meeting of the Public Sector Pensions Authority (PSPA) on 23 April 2014 at 09.30 in the PSPA Meeting Room, Goldie House, Douglas.

Present: PSPA

Mr J Carter (Chairman)

Hon C R Robertshaw, MHK (Vice Chairman)

Mr A Shipley

In Attendance: Mr I T Murray

Mr I W C Burnett

Not in Attendance: Mr T P Wild, MLC

Mr E Holmes

Minute No Minute

34/14 Pensions Working Group

The Board met to consider further the Pensions Working Group, and in particular its previous decision to write to the Council of Ministers with regard to Trade Union Membership of the Working Group. (Minute 28/14 Refers).

The Board noted that the Council of Ministers had determined that the Working Group would be Chaired Mr Robertshaw, MHK, with the other Political members being Mr Ronan, MHK and Mr Braidwood, MLC.

The Board considered a memorandum dated 16 April 2014 from the Chief Executive concerning the role and remit of the Pensions Working Group along with further considerations around union representation on the Working Group.

Having noted that the initial work of the Working Group would be largely based upon collecting and collating the relevant information in order to draw up an initial feasibility report to be considered initially by the PSPA before being referred to the Council of Ministers and then to COMIN, the Board agreed that it would be premature to involve employee representatives on the Pensions Working Group in its early stages given that:

- The PSPA already has employee representatives on the Board and will be closely involved in much of the background work that will inform the work undertaken by the Working Group;
- The Board will be involved in any proposals put to Council as part of its statutory remit as policy adviser to Council of Ministers [section 6. (1) (a) of the Public Sector Pensions Act 2011];
- The Chief Executive will be the link between the Board and the Working Group and will keep the Board up to date with the work being undertaken by the Group;
- The wider group of employee representatives could be kept updated via

the regular PSPA briefing sessions;

- The remit of the Working Group via the January 2014 Tynwald motion is to look at the “feasibility” of implementing further cost sharing and other measure. No changes to schemes can be introduced without the statutory requirement for the PSPA to consult with affected members and their representatives;
- The PSPA has always expressed a willingness to listen to the ideas of all groups affected by pensions changes. As it would be the PSPA who introduces any changes, then it would be the PSPA who discusses the options for change with members and their representatives once any decisions have come out of work undertaken by the Working Group and from December Tynwald.

In addition, the Board considered that if the results of the actuarial reviews suggest that future sustainability will not be achieved by GUS (or by other schemes), this information should be disseminated to members and their representatives and should not be hidden from them. The Board considered that the forum to do this should be through the PSPA briefing sessions.

After further consideration it was agreed that the previous decision to write to the Council of Ministers regarding Union Membership of the Working Group was to be revised and that the PSPA would not therefore write to Council on this matter.

The meeting closed at 10.30 am