

In Confidence

Minutes of a meeting of the Public Sector Pensions Authority (PSPA) on 15 January 2020 at 10.30 am in the PSPA Meeting Room, Prospect House, Douglas

Present: **PSPA**
Mr J B Carter (Chairman)
Hon C C Thomas, MHK (Vice Chairman)
Mrs J Poole-Wilson MLC
Mr I Wright

In Attendance: Mr I T Murray
Mr I W C Burnett, (Secretary)
Ms K C Brondon
Mrs J Mooney (Assistant Secretary)

Apologies: Mrs D Halsall

Minute Minute
No.

01/20 Conflicts of Interest

There were no other conflicts of interest declared in addition to those previously recorded.

02/20 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 9 December 2019 were approved and signed by the Chair.

03/20 Matters Arising

- i. Cost Sharing: The consultation exercise has commenced with very few responses having been received to date. The Executive reported that they had held a conference call with the TAG unions the previous day and it was expected that they would submit their views in writing shortly. The Chief Executive and the Operations Director had met with the Treasury the previous week and agreement had been reached with them with regard to the 75:25 with a 0.5% buffer option. It was noted that in the recent notice issued by the NASWT reference had been made to the issue of cost sharing in relation to pensions.
- ii. Public Sector Pensions (Amendment) Bill 2019: It was noted that the Bill is due to receive Tynwald approval in February 2020 and will then be subject to Royal Assent.

04/20 Risk Register Review

The Board reviewed the Risk Register noting that there were no changes since the full review in December 2019.

05/20 Administration Issues

The Board received a verbal update from the Operations Director in relation to administration issues and they were advised that the Compliance Manager was commencing a secondment to OHR for three months with effect from Monday 20 January 2020. The main purpose was to assist in the development of the reports available from PIP and to assist with identifying and resolving the data and

processes issues that are currently delaying the PSPA's work in hand. When the Compliance Manager returns he will take up a new post as Data Manager. It is hoped that his tenure at OHR will improve results in terms of the data being received from there. A permanent replacement for the Compliance Manager post is currently being advertised for with the role being that of Operations Manager - Systems and Data.

The Chief Executive advised that OHR and the PSPA were taking a joint initiative to gaining Treasury approval for the funding for the new post and that whilst the a Minute had been received from Treasury regarding funding for the post this lacked clarity and there was due to be a meeting with Treasury to confirm that funding was in place.

The Board considered that the focus needed to be on preventing the current situation happening again and that there needed to be firm provision within either the primary legislation or Financial Regulations to enforce the requirement for the provision of accurate information from employers and other third parties.

In summary, the Board considered that there were three priorities:

- i. Resolving the current situation
- ii. Ensuring that going forward the same situation does not arise
- iii. To enhance the legislation; systems and processes.

06/20 Compliance Schedule

The Board noted a report (paper ref 01/20) from the Chief Executive which provided additional compliance information and the Governance Work Schedule.

The Board commented on the lines of demarcation between the Board and the Executive and considered that the Schedule provided the Board with the oversight identified as being necessary in the Governance Review. It was requested that, as items on the schedule progressed, additional categories of amber (ongoing) and blue (closed) be added in line with the dashboard colours used across government.

07/20 Judicial Scheme

The Board considered a paper (paper ref 02/20) from the Chief Executive which considered the consultation responses and amendment schemes with a view to approving and making :

- The Judicial Pension (Amendment) Scheme 2020; and
- The Isle of Man Government Unified Scheme (Amendment) 2020.

It was noted that agreement and consent had been received from all members of the Judiciary with the proviso that the provisions in the Public Sector Pensions (Amendment) Bill 2019 in relation to the Judiciary were approved by Tynwald at its sitting in February 2020.

It was confirmed that the amendments from Section 5 of the Isle of Man Government Unified (Amendment) Scheme 2020 would take effect from 1 April 2020, whilst the approval of the Judicial Pension (Amendment) Scheme 2020 would be the day after the sitting of Tynwald in February 2020.

Given that, whilst agreement and consent had been received, there had been no official response to the actual consultation there was, therefore, no requirement to publish a consultation response document.

The Board approved the Schemes and they were duly signed by the Chair. Thanks were extended to the Executive for their work in achieving the

progression of the Schemes.

08/20 Board meetings for 2020

The Board agreed that the next meeting should be re-scheduled from 10 February 2020 to Monday 17 February 2020, commencing at 10.30am. It was also agreed that meeting in May should be held on Monday 18 May 2020, commencing at 10.30am.

09/20 Any Other Business

- i. The Chief Executive advised that he had been appointed as Chair of the Cost Saving Committee for the Local Government Pension Scheme, confirming that he is Chair in an Executive capacity and not as a member of the PSPA.
- ii. The Deputy Chief Executive provided the Board with a verbal update in relation to a longstanding complaint case. Clarification and confirmation was also given in relation to the formal processes and the roles and responsibilities of both the Board and the Executive in such cases. In particular it was confirmed that the Board acted as a collective and representations should therefore not be made to individual members of the Board.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 11.33 am.

Date