

# NI TEACHERS' PENSION SCHEME PENSION BOARD (NITPSPB) MEETING

14 March 2017 @ 10.30am

## ANTRIM BOARD CENTRE

**Attendees:** Michael Burton (Chair)  
Margaret Coyle (PSPS Member)  
Robbie McGreevy (Employer Rep)  
Nuala O'Donnell (Member Rep)  
Justin McCamphill (Member Rep)  
Graham Agnew (Member Rep)  
Shane McCurdy (Employer Rep)  
Mike Beard (Member Rep)  
Gerald McGarry (Employer Rep)  
Rosemary Barton (Member Rep)  
Barry Jordan (DE)  
Gary Fair (DE)

**In Attendance:** Peter Crossley (DE)  
Sinead Moore (DE)  
Gareth Park (DE)  
Billy Shiels (Secretariat)

No	Description	Action
1.	<b>Apologies</b>	
	No Apologies	
2.	<b>Welcome and Introduction</b>	
	Michael Burton (MB) welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Mike Beard and Gerald McGarry as newly appointed members of the Board	
3.	<b>Conflicts of Interest Statement</b>	
	MB requested that any conflicts of interests were declared at this point in the meeting. Rosemary Barton declared that she had been elected as an MLA. Barry Jordan (BJ) raised what he saw as a potential conflict of interest as he is the relevant DE Director with responsibility for the Teachers' Pension Scheme and a Pension Board member with Scheme oversight responsibility. It was agreed that this issue would be discussed at the forthcoming Pensions Board workshop	

	<p>on 4 May 2017. Ahead of this BJ advised that he would not comment on Scheme administration performance issues at today's meeting.</p> <p>MB advised that some fine-tuning of Board membership was required to keep representation levels at full capacity, cater for some appointments reaching the end of their term etc. MB will take this forward on advice from Brian Quinn in Pensions Policy, TPPT.</p>	<p>AP42 – Brian Quinn / Michael Burton</p>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Minutes of Last Meeting and Action Points</b>	
	<p>Minutes of last (December) meeting were agreed by all Board members. MB asked if the September meeting minutes had been published on the DE website. Peter Crossley (PC) confirmed that they had and now December's minutes were agreed, the secretariat would publish those.</p> <p>All previous action points were cleared.</p>	<p>AP43 - TPPT</p>
<b>5.</b>	<b>Scheme Administration – Quarterly Report on Performance and Governance.</b>	

	<p>PC presented the quarterly report on scheme administration performance and governance. He drew particular attention to the one page dashboard summary which the Board had requested and which was being provided for the first time. Key performance areas' data was examined.</p> <p>The different categories on the Performance Report (Red / Green / Amber) were discussed, particularly if we need to report amber performance. MB said that we should not and red alerts should only be reported if it was a systemic failure. The secretariat will seek further published guidance on reportable items and at the next meeting the Board will decide on their definitions of Red / Amber / Green.</p> <p>There was a discussion on overpayment recovery policy and when the policy for salaries could be implemented in pensions. Robbie McGreevy (RMCG) said EA are content with this but he could not confirm that the unions were. Nuala O Donnell (NOD) and Justin McCamphill (JMC) advised that this had been shared with the unions for consultation, but not agreed. Shane McCurdy (SMC) indicated that while EA is a major employer they are not the only one. TPPT will finalise the current version for teachers' pay overpayments, get Director approval for this version and return to EA for finalisation with other employers / unions in keeping with the role they had undertaken to perform at JWC in May 2016.</p> <p>Late receipt of monthly payment / information from non DE paid members' employers was discussed. There are a small number of offenders, no real pattern of repeat offenders and late returns tend to coincide with school holiday closures. Gary Fair (GF) asked what the current policy is and MB said that he would meet with TPPT to discuss, with a view to drafting a discussion paper for the Board's consideration.</p> <p>The issue of 2017 Annual Benefits Statements (ABS) was discussed. Mike Beard (MBe) stated that it would be beneficial to have the salary information for the last 10 years included. PC suggested that TPPT circulates to the Board the proposed ABS format for their consideration. SM said that final requirements needed to be ready for Capita by 10 May as the ABS exercise is planned to commence at the beginning of June.</p>	<p>AP44 - TPPT</p> <p>AP45 - TPPT</p> <p>AP46 - TPPT</p> <p>AP47 - TPPT</p>
<p><b>6.</b></p>	<p><b>Scheme Finance</b></p>	
	<p>MB discussed the scheme finance reports and the role /responsibility of the Board in relation to this. GF stated that the reports produced are intended as visibility for the</p>	

	<p>Board.</p> <p>Gareth Park (GP) distributed copies of a summary finance report for the scheme to the Board members. SMC queried why no budget figures were also included. MB stated that the role of the Board in relation to finance would be discussed at the away day. GP agreed to revise the draft finance report with Financial Reporting Team in Rathgael in advance of the away day.</p>	AP48 - TPPT
<b>7.</b>	<b>Scheme Legislation and Policy</b>	
	<p>PC confirmed that the scheme valuation is progressing and GAD is content with our data.</p> <p>There was an acknowledgement that the Board needs to be aware of potential cases linked to the Brewster ruling and any financial impact. BJ said that Public Sector Bodies will be guided by Treasury advice.</p> <p>Margaret Coyle (MC) asked about advising of the Annual Pay Increase (PI). MB asked did this need executive sign off and MC confirmed that it did.</p>	
<b>8.</b>	<b>Pay/Pensions IT Systems and Interface</b>	
	<p>PC spoke briefly on the proposed new pay system being introduced for Teachers' Pay Team. There has been some slippage on timescale but we have been kept informed. Ian Gallagher's project team continues to work on the Teachers' Pension System 2020 Project.</p> <p>SM stated that the interface fine-tuning between the pay and pensions systems is nearly complete and ready for QA testing - this will give information at individual level in pensions, as required by the Regulator.</p> <p>The interface for details of members in non DE paid schools will be addressed by Capita after the ABS exercise.</p>	
<b>9.</b>	<b>Risk Register/Update on Audit Matters</b>	
	<p>PC stated that there was nothing to report. GP to send out TOR for audit of scheme statements and any feedback should be submitted within the next 2 weeks. Grant Thornton are the auditors.</p>	AP49 - TPPT
<b>10.</b>	<b>GMP – End of Contracting Out</b>	
	<p>SM informed the board that three members of staff are currently working on this exercise. They are still at the scoping stage with 33,000 records to evaluate. All NI public sector pension schemes are working together and looking at a potential £150 write -off threshold. MC said that DFP are pushing treasury for consistency of approach. MB said we need updates as the deadline for completion is 31-12-18. PC confirmed that the board will be kept updated on developments.</p>	

11.	<b>Any Other Business</b>	
	The arrangements for the Pensions Board and Advisory Board 'away day' to reflect on and review performance were discussed. MB suggested that the review take place on 4 May. The venue will be in the Templepatrick area. Barry Jordan agreed to facilitate the event.	AP50 – Barry Jordan
12.	<b>Date of Next Meeting</b>	
	It was agreed that the next meeting will be held in INTO Belfast headquarters at 2pm on 6 June.  <b>NOTE THIS IS A CHANGE FROM THE PREVIOUS ARRANGEMENT THAT THE MEETING WOULD BE HELD IN WATERSIDE HOUSE.</b>	AP51 – Board Members