

<b>Committee:</b> Police Pensions Board	<b>Date:</b> 3 February 2020
<b>Subject:</b> The City of London: Police Pension Scheme - Update	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> The Chamberlain	<b>For Information</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Matt Mott	

### Summary

The Board have agreed that at each meeting that information regarding a range of topics in relation to the City of London Police Pension Scheme (the Scheme) would be provided along with any updates.

<b>Item</b>	<b>Update</b>
Annual schedule of events for the Pensions Scheme	Update provided (Appendix 1).
Task Statistics	At the 12 June 2019 Board meeting, Members asked for statistics of the administration work carried out by the Pensions Office to be added as a standing item.  Update provided (Appendix 2).
Information of Scheme Record Keeping	No amendments since the last Board meeting.
A record of any complaints or disputes under the Scheme's complaints procedure	1 complaint – resolved
Any recent Police Pension Scheme breaches of the law	No breaches to report.
Any audit reports relating to the administration of the Scheme	None to report.
Required Training	No regulatory changes to report.  Email regarding training sent to individual Board Members in December as agreed at the October Board.  To date the current Board Members have completed 25 of a possible 35 modules of the TPR Online Toolkit.  This is an increase of 2 modules since the October Board

GDPR / DPA18	<p>No amendments since the last Board meeting.</p> <p>No breaches to report</p>
Legal Challenge 1	<p><u>Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice v McCloud and others</u></p> <p>Guidance from the Home Office / Police Pensions Technical Group is still awaited. However, the Pensions Office has been asked by City Police Authority to join them as part of a technical working group known as the Pension Remedy Work Plan.</p> <p>The group is made up of a number of Police forces, their administrators and the Local Government Association (LGA) working alongside the Home Office.</p> <p>Appendix 3 McCloud Remedy Letter Appendix 3.1 Home Office McCloud/Sargeant fact sheet</p> <p>Updates will be provided at future Board meetings</p>
Legal Challenge 2	<p><u>Evans &amp; Ashcroft vs Chief Constable of South Wales</u></p> <p>This is a court of appeal case in respect of the Police (Injury Benefit) Regulations 2006.</p> <p>In October 2018 the Court of Appeal handed down its judgement in the case of Evans &amp; Ashcroft v Chief Constable of South Wales Police. The Court held that the Chief Constable was entitled to deduct from a former police officer's police injury pension the full amount of certain social security benefits actually paid to the retired police officer, as increased with index-linking from year to year.</p> <p>However, the Court also held that the deductible levels of those social security benefits from the tax year 2010/11 onwards need to be recalculated as if the increases in the 2010/11 tax year had never been implemented and as if the</p>

	<p>base levels for subsequent increases had been correspondingly lower.</p> <p>The judgement currently only applies to the two officers involved in the case, but it is likely to be cited in any similar claims brought under those regulations for those officers that have been in receipt of a police injury pension prior to April 2010 and have had an entitlement to certain social security benefits.</p> <p>Guidance from the Home Office / Police Pensions Technical Group is still awaited. Once received, a communication that can be sent to officers that make enquiries will be prepared</p>
<p>5 Year Anniversary of the Police Pension Scheme (PPS) 2015</p>	<p>On 1 April 2020 the Police Pension Scheme (PPS) 2015 will have been in place for 5 years.</p> <p>If a scheme member opts out or leaves a Public Service Pension Scheme and subsequently re-joins after a period of 5 years or more, any benefits originally linked to final salary will have that link broken and the pension values calculated by the pensionable pay as determined by the current CARE regulations.</p> <p>At the October Board the merits of writing to all those Police Officers who opted out of the PPS when the CARE scheme was introduced was discussed. A decision was made to communicate the 5 year anniversary of the PPS 2015 was approaching and remind officers that should they re-join the scheme on or after 1 April 2020 that they would not retain that link to final salary for all their pension benefits in the PPS.</p> <p>Further to the October meeting the Pensions Manager has become aware that other public sector pension schemes and pension administrators are not planning to communicate with their scheme member regarding this issue.</p>

	<p>The concern is that such a communication directly to Police Officers who have opted out of the PPS may be deemed as advice.</p> <p>Further discussions have since taken place between the Chairman, the Pensions Manager and Comptrollers. It was agreed that a communication regarding the 5 year anniversary of the CARE scheme was still relevant and important, although a cautious approach is necessary so that advice is not given.</p> <p>It has been decided and supported by Comptrollers that a general pensions update that also includes pension topics such as the 5 year anniversary of CARE as well as McCloud would be facilitated by the City Police Authority and would be sent to all serving Police Officers.</p>
Scheme Communications	<p>Members of the Pensions Office and City Police Authority recently met to discuss matters of communications.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Pensions Office would draft a suitable communication regarding various pension related topics such as key dates, nomination forms contact details and an update on McCloud, plus a reminder of the 5 year anniversary of the CARE scheme on 1 April 2020.</p> <p>The force agreed to broadcast such a communication as part of an internal All Force Broadcast to all serving Police Officers.</p>
Changes to administration	<p>A member of the Pensions Office will soon be commencing a period of parental leave and is due back to work in mid-April.</p> <p>To ensure the high standards of the PPS administration are maintained some changes to processes have been implemented.</p> <p>Work has been distributed around the office, senior officers undertaking calculations whilst junior officers</p>

	<p>undertaking record maintenance. Technical scheme knowledge support has been offered by the PPS technical group and another Police administrator, should it be required.</p> <p>Furthermore, a review of general administration practices has enabled the Pensions Office to implement some criteria for estimate requests and update the email auto response. (Appendix 4)</p> <p>These changes which are designed to reduce requests for calculations that may be unnecessary, enabling the Pensions Office to focus on the more important aspects of the scheme administration. This has been discussed with and is supported by the City Police Authority and will be communicated in the All Force Broadcast.</p>
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### **Recommendation**

Members are requested to review the information and provide any comments.

#### **Appendices:**

Appendix 1 – Annual Schedule of events

Appendix 2 – Statistics

Appendix 3 – McCloud Remedy Letter

Appendix 3.1 – Home Office McCloud/Sargeant fact sheet

Appendix 4 - Email auto response

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