

# **WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

## **PENSION BOARD**

**5 MARCH 2020**

### **PENSION SECTION SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

#### **1. WEST MIDLANDS FIRE SERVICE FIREFIGHTERS' PENSION SCHEMES MEMBERSHIP AS AT 29 FEBRUARY 2020**

Active Firefighters	1,395	(+13)
1992 Scheme members	147	(-11)
2006 Scheme members	6	(No Change)
2015 scheme members	1,095	(+13)
Non-members	147	(+11)
Pensioners	2,210	(+2)
Dependants	399	(+2)

The figures in brackets indicate movement since 30 November 2019.

#### **2. ANNUAL ACTIVITY LEVELS**

2.1 During the last twelve months (01/3/2019 to 29/02/2020) the following levels of activity have been experienced:

Age Related Retirements	61	(+3)
Ill Health Retirements	0	(No change)
Opt outs	68	(-5)
Other leavers	10	(-14)
New joiners	99	(+11)
Applications to transfer in/out	29	(-4)

The figures in brackets indicate movement since 30 November 2019.

- 2.2 The section has also processed the requests shown in the table below and achieved the levels of performance shown.

Request type	Received	Average Response time in days
Benefit Estimate	118 (+9)	63 (-4)
CETV for Divorce	16 (nc)	23 (-16)
General Information	77 (+12)	165 (+157)

The response times for General Information have been raised due to the clearance of several cases which had been pending for a number of years. These cases were not covered by disclosure regulations but are reported for completeness.

### **3. INTERNAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCEDURE (IDRP)**

No further cases have entered IDRP since the last Pension Board meeting.

Of the three active cases two remain with the member and have not progressed, whilst the third is due to be heard by the Appeal Committee during March or April.

### **4. OPT OUT LEVELS AND REASONS**

Since the last meeting, seven members have opted out of the 2015 scheme. Of these two were members who had returned to employment following career breaks and opted out within three months of joining. Four members had been auto-enrolled in June and had now chosen to opt out. The remaining member had been in the scheme for almost 18 months.

### **5. Ill Health and Injury Pensioners**

As a result of discussions at the last Pension Board and further meetings with People Support Services, the attached report has been submitted for consideration at the next Audit and Risk Committee meeting.

**6. Action from FPS Bulletins 27 and 28**

Bulletin 28 asked Scheme Managers to provide some information regarding number of individuals immediately affected by the remedy announcement. A copy of the data submitted is attached to this report.

**7. Scheme Manager Decisions**

The Scheme Manager has made no further decisions since the last meeting but will be asked to decide the approach with regard to reviewing Ill Health retirements.

Two further papers will be submitted to the Scheme Manager for decisions on Pensionable Pay.

**8. Data Review and Scoring**

Further work has been undertaken with regard to data checking which indicates a score of 99.26% for Common Data. Work has begun on producing a score for Scheme Specific Data using the SAB guidance. Early indications give a score of 94.6%. The work is time consuming and it is not anticipated that completion will be achieved before 31 December 2020.

**9. McCloud Judgement – Update**

HMT are in the process of finalising a proposed solution to the McCloud case and expect to publish this for consultation shortly. We understand that the proposal will be for deferred choice. This means that members will be returned to their previous final salary schemes and on reaching retirement offered the option of choosing the benefits from that scheme or the 2015 scheme. This option, whilst being reasonably easy to understand for members, will require administrators to maintain two sets of records. It is vital that the impact of this on Payroll, Pensions, and HR teams is fully understood.

Paul Gwynn  
Payroll and Pensions Manager