

## Chair's Forward

I am pleased to report on the fifth year of the Northern Ireland Police Pension Board (PPB). The PPB in its oversight role of the Police Pension Schemes Board notes the excellent administration service provided by PSNI Pensions Branch in ensuring the schemes meet all regulatory requirements.

In carrying out this function the PPB met on 3 occasions during 2019/20 and all PPB Members have undertaken appropriate training for fulfilling their duties. In accordance with its statutory obligations, information on the PPB is published and maintained on the NI Policing Board website, which should provide assurance to the public on the schemes' operation.

Over the next year the PPB will continue to review the schemes' compliance and focus on any potential risks/challenges for the future.

To the other members of the PPB I would wish to record my appreciation for their individual and collective contributions, and for their assistance in developing a performance framework on key issues relating to the schemes. I would also like to give my thanks to the Policing Board NI personnel concerned in the administration of the PPB. This information is utilised by the PPB in scrutinising the scheme's effectiveness and the identification of potential areas for improvement.

Michael N Burton

Independent Chair

## Background

The Northern Ireland Police Pension Board (PPB) was established in April 2015, following introduction of the Police Pension Regulations (NI) 2015.

The PPB provides assistance to the Northern Ireland Policing Board (NIPB) as scheme manager:

- a) To secure compliance with –
  - i the scheme regulations:
  - ii and other legislation relating to the governance and administration of the scheme and any connected scheme; and
  - iii any requirements imposed by the Pensions Regulator in relation to the scheme or any connected scheme and
- b) In the performance of the Scheme Manager's functions under the regulations

## Composition

The PPB comprises Mr Michael N Burton (Independent Chair) Employer Representatives (x3), Employee Representatives (x 3) and an Independent Member.

A log of Member's training and register of declared Conflicts of Interest is maintained by the NIPB.

## Terms of Reference

Terms of Reference for the PPB were agreed by Members and are reviewed on an annual basis. A copy of the Terms of Reference is available on the NIPB website under the Police Pension Board section.

## Meetings

The PPB met on 3 occasions during 2019/2020 –May 2019, September 2019 and January 2019.

PPB has reviewed the Terms of Reference and determined that from 2020 going forward there would be 4 meeting per annum. No further changes were required during this period.

A copy of the agenda and minutes of each meeting are published on the NIPB's website following ratification.

## PENSION MATTERS CONSIDERED

During 2019/2020 the PPB considered the following issues:-

- Pension Schemes Manager and administrators response to the Covid-19
- PPB work with The Pension Regulators regulatory supervision exercise on Public Sector Pension Schemes
- Pensions Ombudsman determinations relevant to the role of the PPB;
- PSNI Pension Governance (reporting framework)
- Government Actuary Department guidance
- NIPB Case Management System
- Performance Reports from the Pensions Scheme Administrator (PSNI)
- Risks and challenges facing Police Pension Schemes
- Pension Regulator Guidance
- Annual Benefit Statements
- Annual Allowance Statements
- Reporting breaches of the law
- Guaranteed Minimum Payment Reconciliation Exercise
- Data Protection Regulations
- Audit Reports and the Report to those Charged with Governance
- PSNI Pension Accounts for 2018/2019
- The PPB Risk Register and
- Pensions resources within PSNI AND NIPB

### Covid-19 Response

Following the Covid-19 requirements for social distancing and the requirement for working from home arrangements to be put in place, the Pension Schemes Administrator implemented its Business Continuity Response Plan. Board Members are updated and briefed on issues involving the administration and management of the Schemes on an ongoing basis to ensure all regulatory requirements of the Schemes are being met.

### Regulatory Supervision

In March 2020 The PPB entered a joint review process with The Pension Regulator to examine ways to deliver best practice across its activities. The outcome of the process will be rolled out across similar Public Sector Pension Scheme Boards. This work is to be a standard Agenda item at subsequent PPB meetings.

### Training Development Activities

The PPB is supported in its work by Mr Brian Quinn in his capacity as the Pensions Advisor. During the 2019/2020 year, the PPB received training/development on a number of relevant issues and updates including Pensions Increase Review and

modifications, Review of the State Pension Age, Record Keeping, Annual/Lifetime Allowances, a presentation and discussion with the Pensions Ombudsman.