



LOCAL PENSION BOARD

12 MARCH 2018

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE RESOURCES

RECORD KEEPING - DATA IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to inform the Board of the data improvement plan within the Pension Section.

Background

2. At the Pension Board meeting on the 4 December 2017 the Board was presented a report titled Record Keeping – Data Improvement (Monthly Posting), in response to The Pension Regulator’s focus on pension record keeping and data improvement.
3. The report, identified monthly posting as an area where improvements could be made in order to ensure the timely receipt of accurate data from employers
4. The report detailed the phased implementation of monthly posting as being the most significant data improvement for the Pension Section which was set out in the Fund’s data improvement plan.

Monthly Postings

5. Monthly postings have started for a small number of employers with a number of other employers developing the necessary payroll extract in order to run the process. The position as of 31 January 2018 is detailed in the appendix.
6. Monthly posting provides a number of benefits;
 - The Pension Section receives more timely data
 - Data queries are identified more quickly and resolved more easily
 - Significant data errors will not be received by the Pension Section as the system will not allow employers to submit certain flawed data
 - Data accuracy is improved and maintained more easily on the pension system
 - Scheme members running their own on-line calculations will be able to access more timely and accurate data

- Data available for benefit calculations e.g. retirements, deaths, leavers will be more timely and accurate
- Employers will receive data queries throughout the year in a much more timely manner, reducing the significant volume of work at year-end
- The Pension Section is able to manage the year-end process more easily, by spreading the data queries over 12 months
- The Pension Section is meeting The Pension Regulators requirement for data improvement.

Data

7. The Pension Regulator has instructed pension administrators to measure, record and improve certain data fields. These are split into two main categories (common data and conditional data) but the conditional data differs between active members and preserved/pensioners members;

Common Data

- National insurance number
- Surname
- Sex
- Expected retirement date
- Last status event (e.g. the date a member moved from active to pensioner)
- Address
- Postcode
- Date of birth
- First name or initials
- Date pensionable service started
- Active, deferred or pensioner (or dependant)

Conditional Data (Active members)

- Employer
- Contributions
- Pre 2014 pay
- Career average revalued earnings (CARE) pay
- Date of last annual benefit statement
- GMP
- Monthly or annual posted data

Conditional Data (Preserved and Pensioner members)

- Employer
- Date of leaving
- Reason for leaving
- Pension increase date

- GMP
 - Current pension value with pensions increase
 - Date pension paid (pensioners only)
8. The common and conditional data checks will be run annually after completion of the annual benefit statements and pension taxation saving statements have been completed. The Pension Section will monitor the scores for each field, including whether data has been received monthly or annually, and the results will be presented to the Board at a meeting towards the end of 2018.

Recommendation

9. It is recommended that the Board notes the report.

Appendix

Monthly posting position 31 January 2018

Background Papers

Pension Board Report - 4 December 2017 - Record Keeping - Data Improvement (monthly posting)

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Equality and Human Rights Implications

None specific.

Officers to Contact

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