

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON SUPERANNUATION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 23 SEPTEMBER 2009**

Present

Official Side

Karen Cadman
Julia Wood
Peter Spain
John Anderson
Mike Mordecai
Sandie Woods (secretary)

Trade Union Side

Alan Maloney
Rob O'Neill
John Allison
Neil Walsh

1. Introductions and Apologies

- 1.1 The Official Side (OS) explained that in addition to the recent restructure of Civil Service Pensions Division (CSPD) responsibility for pensions Policy had now transferred to the Reward function within the Civil Service Capability Group. The Trade Union Side (TUS) welcomed the new members of the OS, recorded their thanks to Ian Bass for his work as JCS secretary and congratulated Julia Wood on her appointment as Head of Reward. Apologies were received from Naomi Cooke, Jim Dawson and Charles Cochrane.

2. Minutes of the meeting of 6 May and amended minutes of 2 October 2008 meeting

- 2.2 These minutes were agreed.

3. Matters arising from the meeting of 6 May

- 3.1 (Item 2 from 06/05/09) The OS had formally responded to the TUS about CELTEC. The TUS agreed that compensation issues had been dealt with in the OS letter of 4 September 2009, but that pension issues were still outstanding. OS had sought advice from the Treasury Solicitors on whether this meant the PCSPS rules would need to be amended and agreed to keep the TUS informed accordingly. **Action OS.**
- 3.2 (Item 2 from 06/05/09) The OS gave the TUS an update on the number of CSCS ET cases that had been settled and those that were awaiting settlement.
- 3.3 (Item 9 from 06/05/09) The OS confirmed that the guidance in respect of PC305 was the current version. After taking advice from the Civil Service Web Manager the OS recommended that users use the refresh option when visiting the website and this should stop the problem. The OS asked the TUS to report any further problems with this.

- 3.4 (Item 2 from 06/05/09) OS agreed to circulate an updated version of the CSPD organisation chart to the TUS following the recent changes. The OS would also send an organisational chart for the Pensions Policy team when that was finalised. **Action OS.**
- 3.5 (Item 14 from 06/05/09) The TUS pointed out that the query on the impact of breaks in service on the purchase of added years was outstanding. The OS agreed to look into this and report back to the TUS. **Action OS.**
- 3.6 (Item 14 from 06/05/09) The OS had formally responded to the TUS on 17 September on the purchase of added years from pension lump sum query. The OS reported that this was now an IDR case.
- 3.7 (Item 14 from 06/05/09) The OS could not recall receiving a case from the TUS on CES/CER estimates. The TUS agreed to supply the OS with the details and the OS would respond accordingly. **Action TUS.**
- 3.8 (Item 14 from 06/05/09) The OS could not recall receiving a letter about ill health retirement and gainful employment. The TUS agreed to send another copy of the letter to the OS. **Action TUS.**
- 3.9 (Item 14 from 06/05/09) The TUS agreed to look into whether they are awaiting a formal response to the issue on EPN 241 on 'Buying added pensions – annual reminder'. The OS stated that work is planned to draw up a calendar of events that would require PCs and EPNs **Action TUS.**
- 3.10 (Item 14 from 06/05/09) The OS could not recall receiving a specific case from the TUS on 'EPN 246 New maximum'. The TUS agreed that if any further problems were brought to their attention they would refer these to the OS.
- 3.11 (Item 14 from 06/05/09) The TUS asked if By Analogy Schemes were included in the consultation process on reform of the CSCS. OS stated that By-Analogy scheme rules followed those of the PCSPS and CSCS and, as such, were potentially affected by the proposed reforms. The Employers receive EPNs and have therefore been able to attend the CSCS reform seminars along with Civil Service employers.

4. GMP overpayments – Receipt of NAO report

- 4.1 The TUS confirmed that they had seen the NAO report. The OS confirmed that all corrective action had been taken in respect of the pensions of those civil servants who had been affected. It was noted that the number of complaints about the GMP errors had been very low. There was, however, one particular case that the TUS asked if the OS could look into. TUS agreed to provide the OS with all the relevant details. **Action TUS.**
- 4.2 The OS informed the TUS that HMRC would now be taking the lead in determining how best to take forward the NAO recommendations across government departments. The OS added that the Cabinet Office was already in discussion with Capita Hartshead about the lessons learned and improved processes.

5. Partial retirement

- 5.1 The TUS confirmed that they are content with the OS response about abatement in the context of partial retirement. The OS added that a PC on

abatement would be issued shortly to ensure APACs were following the correct procedures.

- 5.2 The OS agreed that a review of partial retirement should take place in the new year.

6. Option to switch between classic and premium

- 6.1 The OS confirmed that their position as stated in the JCS minutes of 6 May remained unchanged i.e. there are no plans to have a further option exercise.

7. NHS Arms length bodies

- 8.1 The TUS confirmed that they are content with the recent OS response on the pension arrangements that applied to one of the NHS arms length bodies.
- 8.2 The TUS asked how this impacted on nuvos members transferring into the NHS scheme. The OS believed the position had been clarified in a recent MOCOP paper but would confirm this. **Action OS.**

8. Review of PCSPS Administration

- 8.3 The OS confirmed that on 22 July Permanent Secretaries' Management Group were presented with a proposal to change the way that we manage and deliver Civil Service pensions. The proposal recommended a move to an in-house single delivery organisation responsible for all pension administration and payroll services and separation of governance, policy and delivery.
- 8.4 Permanent Secretaries identified a potential host department for the new delivery organisation and a piece of work was commissioned to provide assurance that this is the best place for this work to be carried out. Further information will be made available once this work has been completed. **Action OS.**

9. Data Quality

- 9.1 The OS confirmed that APACs have until the end of October 2009 to update individual PenServer records. The APACs are confident that they will have all corrective member data in time to meet this deadline. However, individual records will not be correct until any awards have been run. APACs will be given a further deadline for completing the awards associated with the data corrections. The OS has offered APACs help and support where necessary and has provided APACs with scripts to help clean data.
- 9.2 The TUS asked if scheme members were involved in the data cleansing process. The OS stated that the current exercise was a 'one off' following concerns the Actuary had expressed at the last valuation. For routine enquiries on data accuracy the APAC and individual had a dual responsibility. For example it was the member's responsibility to check that their details are correct on their annual benefit statements and report any discrepancies to the relevant APAC.

10. Any other business

- 10.1 The TUS had a case where a member's annual benefit statement did not include their purchase of added years. The APAC (PPPA) stated that this was

a known problem with the classic plus scheme, and that work was being carried out to rectify it. The OS side confirmed that they were not aware of a problem and that testing had been unable to replicate the issue. TUS agreed to forward the information to the OS to look into this. **Action TUS.**

11. Date of next meeting

11.1 The next meeting will be at 2:00 pm on Thursday 3 December 2009 at FDA HQ, 8 Leake Street, Off York Road, near Waterloo, London.

Civil Service Pensions September 2009

ACTION POINTS

Action point	Para.	Status
OS said it would seek advice from Treasury Solicitor on whether or not PCSPS rules need to be amended in light of CELTEC judgement. OS to inform TUS of outcome.	3.1	Open
OS to circulate updated CSPD organisation chart to TUS. And once finalised a chart for Pension Policy team.	3.4	Closed 02/10/09
OS to look into the impact of breaks in service on the purchase of added years and report back to TUS.	3.5	Closed 01/10/09
TUS to supply OS with case involving CES/CER estimates. OS to respond.	3.7	Open
TUS to write to OS regarding ill health retirement and gainful employment. OS to respond.	3.8	Open
TUS to investigate if OS response to issue on EPN 241 'Buying added pension - annual reminder' is still outstanding.	3.9	Open
TUS to provide details of a GMP overpayment case they would like OS to look into.	4.1	Open
OS to inform TUS of MOCOP paper covering the transfer of nuvos members to NHS Pension Scheme.	7.2	Closed 23/10/09
TUS to forward member details of annual benefit statement/added years problem to OS for investigation. OS to respond.	10.1	Open