Public Service Governance and Administration Survey 2019



Please answer these questions in relation to FIREFIGHTERS PENSION SCHEME 2015 - NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Introduction

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.

Please answer the questions in relation to the following scheme:

FIREFIGHTERS PENSION SCHEME 2015 - NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Within the survey all references to 'the scheme' refer to the above. Where the scheme is locally administered, we mean the sub-scheme or fund administered by the local scheme manager.

Your responses will be kept anonymous unless you consent otherwise at the end of the survey. Linking your scheme name to your answers will help inform The Pensions Regulator's (TPR's) engagement with you in the future.

If you would like to print out a hard copy of this questionnaire to help you when collecting information from colleagues, please click <u>here</u>. Please note, however, that we need you to complete the questionnaire through this online survey and not by filling in a hard copy.

This survey should be completed by the scheme manager or by another party on behalf of the scheme manager. They should work with the pension board chair to complete it, and other parties (e.g. the administrator) where appropriate.

There is a space at the end of the survey to add comments about your answers where you feel this would be useful. There is also an option to print/save your responses before submitting them.

Please click the arrow below to continue to the questionnaire.

Section A - Governance

The first set of	questions is about now	your pension board i	works in practice.

A1	Does your scheme have a documented policy to manage the pension board members' conflicts of interest? Yes
	O No O Don't know
A2	Does your scheme maintain a register of pension board members' interests? Yes
	O No O Don't know
	Please complete all questions on this page before clicking the right hand arrow below to continue to the next question.
АЗ	Focusing on the scheme's pension board meetings in the <u>last 12 months</u> , please tell us the following:
	Please write in the number for each of a-c in the boxes below
	a) Number of board meeting that were <u>scheduled</u> to take place (in the last 12 months)
	b) Number of board meetings that actually <u>took place</u> (in the last 12 months)
	c) Number of board meetings that were attended by the scheme manager or their representative (in the last 12 months)
	3

A4	Oo the scheme manager and pension board have s ● Yes ○ No ○ Don't know	sufficient time and reso	urces to run the sch	eme properly?
A5	Do the scheme manager and pension board have a properly run the scheme? • Yes	access to all the knowle	dge, understanding	and skills necessary to
	O No O Don't know			
A6	How often does the scheme manager or pension be skills of the board as a whole in relation to running		ation of the knowle	dge, understanding and
	O At least monthly O At least quarterly			
	O At least every six months			
	At least annually			
	O Less frequently			
	O Never O Don't know			
	O BOIT KNOW			
	Please complete all questions on this page before click	king the right hand arrow	below to continue to	the next question.
A7	On average, how many hours of training <u>per year</u> the pension board?	does each pension boar	d member have in r	elation to their role on
	Please write in the number in the box below			
	5 hours per year			
A8	Does the pension board believe that in the last 12 of the scheme it has needed to fulfil its functions?		ss to all the informa	tion about the operation
	Yes			
	O No			
	O Don't know			
A9	Is the pension board able to obtain sufficient spec	cialist advice on the follo	owing matters when	it needs to?
	Please select one answer per row			
		Yes	No	Don't know
	a) Administration	•	Ο	0
	b) Cyber security	0	•	0
	c) Legal	•	0	0

A10	Focusing on the composition of your pension board, please tell us the following:
	Please write in the number far each of a-d in the boxes below
	a) Number of <u>current</u> board members
	4
	b) Number of <u>vacant</u> positions on the board
	С
	c) Number of members that have <u>left</u> the board in the last 12 months
	d) Number of members that have been <u>appointed</u> to the board in the last 12 months
	1
	Please complete all questions on this page before clicking the right hand arrow below to continue to the next question.
A11	Does the scheme have a succession plan in place for the members of the pension board?
	O Yes ● No
	O Don't know
A12	Has the scheme manager delegated the responsibility for making the day-to-day decisions needed to run the scheme to another person?
	O Yes
	No Don't know
	Please complete all questions on this page before clicking the right hand arrow below to continue to the next question.
Section	n B - Managing Risks
The nex	t set of questions is about managing risks.
В1	Does your scheme have its own documented procedures for assessing and managing risk?
	Please select 'No' if your scheme relies on your local authority's documented procedures for assessing and managing risk.
	Yes
	O No O Don't know
В2	Does your scheme have its own risk register?
	Please select 'No' if your scheme relies on your local authority's risk register.
	Yes No
	O Don't know
В3	In the last 12 months, how many of the 3 pension board meetings reviewed the scheme's exposure to new and existing risks?
	Please write in the number in the box below
	3
	Please complete all questions on this page before clicking the right hand arrow below to continue to the next question.

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B4	To what do the top three governance and administration risks on your risk register relate?
	Please select up to three options below
	☐ Funding or investment
	☑ Record keeping (i.e. the receipt and management of correct data)
	☐ Guaranteed Minimum Pension (GMP) reconciliation
	✓ Securing compliance with changes in scheme regulations
	□ Production of annual benefit statements
	☐ Receiving contributions from the employer(s)
	□ Lack of resources/time
	☐ Recruitment and retention of staff or knowledge
	☐ Lack of knowledge, effectiveness or leadership among key personnel
	☐ Poor communications between key personnel (board, scheme manager, administrator, etc.)
	☐ Failure of internal controls
	☐ Systems failures (IT, payroll, administration systems, etc.)
	Cyber risk (i.e. the risk of loss, disruption or damage to a scheme or its members as a result of the failure of its IT systems and processes)
	☑ Administrator issues (expense, performance, etc.)
	☐ Other (please specify)
	O Don't know
	Please complete all questions on this page before clicking the right hand arrow below to continue to the next question.
Section	C - Administration and Record-Keeping Processes
The next	t set of questions is about administration and record-keeping.
C1	Does the scheme have an administration strategy?
	• Yes
	O No
	O Don't know
C2	Which of the following best describes the scheme's administration services?
	O Delivered in house
	• Undertaken by another public body (e.g. a county council) under a shared service agreement or outsource contract
	O Outsourced to a commercial third party
	O Other O Don't know
	Please complete all questions on this page before clicking the right hand arrow below to continue to the next question.

C3	Which of the following do you use to measure the performance of your administrators (whether in-house or outsourced)?
	Please select all that apply
	☑ Performance against a service level agreement or service schedule
	☑ Member satisfaction ratings
	☐ 'Right first time' statistics
	☐ Testing the accuracy of calculations
	☐ Analysis of errors
	☑ Complaints volumes and trends
	☐ Volumes of rework required
	☑ Assessing project delivery against initially agreed time and cost
	☐ Benchmarking against the market
	☑ Auditing administration functions and systems
	O None of these

C4 To what extent are the following processes automated?

A process is automated if it is completed through the use of technology, for example through a software platform, with minimal human intervention.

Please select one answer per row

O Don't know

	Fully automated	Mainly automated with some manual intervention	Mainly done manually	All done manually	Don't know
a) Verification and input of employer data	0	•	0	0	0
b) Reconciliation of contributions	•	0	0	0	0
c) Reporting - data quality	•	0	0	0	0
d) Reporting - complaints and issues	0	0	•	0	0
e) Benefit value calculations	0	•	0	0	0
f) Transfer value calculations	•	0	Ο	0	0
g) Production of benefit statements	•	0	0	0	0
h) Monitoring workload and resourcing	0	•	0	0	0

C5	What, if any, barriers do you face to automating more	e of the scheme's p	rocesses?			
	Please select all that apply					
	☑ Lack of suitable technology					
	☑ Difficulty in integrating it with the scheme's existing	systems				
	☐ The initial set-up costs involved					
	☐ Securing the necessary internal approval					
	☐ Internal resistance to (further) automation					
	☐ Lack of knowledge/expertise about how to impleme	nt this				
	☐ Poor quality of the data					
	☑ Other (please specify)					
	O No barriers to automating more of the scheme's pro	ocesses				
	O Don't know					
	Please write in your 'Other' response in the box below					
	Complexities of system need the ability to sense ch	eck some elements				
	Please complete all questions on this page before clicking	the right hand arro	w below to continue to	the next question.		
C6	In the last 12 months, how many of the 3 pension boa agenda?	ard meetings had a	dministration as a dec	dicated item on the		
	Please write in the number in the box below					
	[3					
C7	Do you have processes in place to monitor scheme records for all membership types on an ongoing basis to ensure they are accurate and complete?					
	Yes					
	O No					
	O Don't know					
C8	Does the scheme have an agreed process in place with the employer(s) to receive, check and review data?					
	Yes					
	O No					
	O Don't know					
C9	Is your scheme single employer or multi-employer?					
	Single employer scheme (i.e. used by just one employer)					
	O Multi-employer scheme (i.e. used by several different employers)					
	Please complete all questions on this page before clicking	the right hand arro	w below to continue to	the next question.		
C10	Does your participating employer					
	Please select one answer per row					
		Yes	No	Don't know		
	a) Always provide you with timely data?	•	0	0		
	b) Always provide accurate and complete data?	•	0	0		
	c) Submit data to you monthly?	0	•	0		
	d) Submit data to you electronically?	•	0	0		
	,	=	=			

C12 Does the scheme have a process in place for monitoring the payment of contributions?

	• Yes
	O No O Don't know
	O BOIL KHOW
C13	Does the scheme have a process in place for resolving contribution payment issues?
	Yes
	O No
	O Don't know
	Please complete all questions on this page before clicking the right hand arrow below to continue to the next question.
Section	n D - Cyber Security
The nex	at set of questions is about your scheme's cyber security.
D1	Which, if any, of the following controls does your scheme have in place to protect your data and assets from 'cyber risk'?
	By 'cyber risk' we mean the risk of loss, disruption or damage to a scheme or its members as a result of the failure of its information technology systems and processes.
	Please select all that apply
	☑ Roles and responsibilities in respect of cyber resilience are clearly defined and documented
	☑ Cyber risk is on the risk register and regularly reviewed
	Assessment of the vulnerability to a cyber incident of the key functions, systems, assets and parties involved in the running of the scheme
	☐ Assessment of the likelihood of different types of breaches occurring in the scheme
	☑ Access to specialist skills and expertise to understand and manage the risk
	☑ System controls (e.g. firewalls, anti-virus and anti-malware products and regular updates of software)
	☑ Controls restricting access to systems and data
	☑ Critical systems and data are regularly backed up
	☑ Policies on the acceptable use of devices, passwords and other authentication, and on home and mobile working
	☑ Policies on data access, protection, use and transmission which are in line with data protection legislation and guidance
	☐ An incident response plan to deal with any incidents which occur
	☐ The scheme manager has assured themselves of third party providers' controls (including administrators)
	☐ The scheme manager receives regular updates on cyber risks, incidents and controls
	☐ The pension board receives regular updates on cyber risks, incidents and controls
	O None of these
	O Don't know

D2	Have any of the following happened to your scheme	, including at your ad	ministration provide	er, in the last 12 months
	Please select all that apply			
	$\hfill\square$ Computers becoming infected with ransomware			
	$\hfill\square$ Computers becoming infected with other viruses, s	pyware or malware		
	☐ Attacks that try to take down your website or online	e services		
	☐ Hacking or attempted hacking of online bank account	ints		
	People impersonating your scheme in emails or onl			
	☐ Staff receiving fraudulent emails or being directed to			
	☐ Unauthorised use of computers, networks or serve☐ Unauthorised use or hacking of computers, networ			ne.
	☐ Any other types of cyber security breaches or attac		e outside your serier	
	None of these			
	O Don't know			
	Please complete all questions on this page before clickin	g the right hand arrow	below to continue to	the next question.
Section	n E - Data Review			
CCCLIC	TE Buta Noview			
The nex	kt set of questions is about your scheme's approach to	reviewing and impro	oving its data.	
E1	When did your scheme last <u>complete</u> a data review e	exercise?		
	Within the last 12 months			
	O More than 12 months ago O Never completed one			
	O Don't know			
	Please complete all questions on this page before clicking	g the right hand arrow	below to continue to	the next question.
E2	Did your scheme's most recently completed data rev	view exercise identify	any issues or proble	ems with the following?
	Please select one answer per row			
		Yes	No	Don't know
	a) National insurance number	•	0	0
	b) Date of birth	Ο	•	0
	c) First name	0	•	0
	d) Surname	0	•	0
	e) Gender	0	•	0
	f) First line of address	0	•	0
	g) Postcode	0	•	0
	h) Membership start date	0	•	0
	i) Membership end date (if applicable)	0	•	0
	j) Expected retirement age	0	•	0
	k) Anticipated income at retirement (based on expected retirement age)	0	0	0
	l) Other data item(s)	•	0	0

E3	Focussing just on the specific data items that you identified issues or problems with in your most recently completed
	data review, approximately what percentage of the scheme memberships were affected by each one?

Please select one answer per raw

	Less than 1% of				30% or more of		
	memberships	1-9%	10-19%	20-29%	memberships	Don't know	
a) National insurance number	0	0	0	0	•	0	

Please complete all questions on this page before clicking the right hand arrow below to continue to the next question.

E4 Has any action been taken to address the issues or problems identified with the data?

Please choose one answer that most closely describes the action your scheme has taken to date.

- O An improvement plan is in development
- O An improvement plan is in place but rectification work is not yet complete
- O An improvement plan has been put in place and rectification work has been completed
- Rectification work has been undertaken without an improvement plan
- O No improvement plan has been developed and no work has been undertaken
- O Don't know

Please complete all questions on this page before clicking the right hand arrow below to continue to the next question.

Section F - Annual Benefit Statements

The next set of questions is about members' annual benefit statements.

F1 In 2019, what proportion of active members received their annual benefit statements by the statutory deadline?

Please write in the percentage in the box below. If you do not know exactly, please give an approximate percentage.

[100] %

F4 What proportion of all the annual benefit statements the scheme sent out in 2019 contained <u>all</u> the data required by regulations?

Please write in the percentage in the box below. If you do not know exactly, please give an approximate percentage.

Section G - Resolving Issues

The next set of o	questions is about	resolving issues of	or complaints the scher	ne has received.

1	Does the scheme have a working definition of what constitutes a complaint?				
	O No				
	O Don't know				
2	Focusing on the complaints you have received in the last 12 months from members or beneficiaries in relation to their benefits and/or the running of the scheme, please tell us the following information.				
	Please write in the number for each of a), b) and c) below. The number at b) should be equal to or lower than the number at a). The number at c) should be equal to or lower than the number at b).				
	number at a). The number at c) should be equal to or lower than the number at b).				
	number at a). The number at c) should be equal to or lower than the number at b).				

Please complete all questions on this page before clicking the right hand arrow below to continue to the next question.

Section H - Reporting Breaches

The next set of questions is about the scheme's approach to dealing with any breaches of the law.

- Does the scheme have procedures in place to allow the scheme manager, pension board members and others to identify breaches of the law?
 - Yes
 - O No
 - O Don't know
- H2 In the last 12 months, have you identified any breaches of the law that are not related to annual benefit statements?
 - O Yes
 - No
 - O Don't know

Please complete all questions on this page before clicking the right hand arrow below to continue to the next question.

- H4 Are there procedures in place to assess breaches of the law, and report these to TPR if required?
 - Yes
 - O No
 - O Don't know

Section I - Governance and Administration

The next set of questions is about your progress in addressing governance and administration issues.

What do you believe are the top <u>three</u> factors behind any improvements made to administration in the last 12 months?	o the scheme's governance and
Please select up to three options below	
Improved understanding of underlying legislation and standards expected by TPR	☑
Improved engagement by TPR	
Improved understanding of the risks facing the scheme	☑
Resources increased or redeployed to address risks	
Administrator action (please specify)	
Scheme manager action (please specify)	
Pension board action (please specify)	
Other (please specify)	Implemented Audit recommendations
No improvements made to governance/administration in the last 12 months	
Don't know	
What are the main <u>three</u> barriers to improving the governance and administration months?	in or your scheme over the next 12
Oleman adaption to the constitute halour	
Please select up to three options below Lack of resources or time	
☑ Complexity of the scheme	
☐ The volume of changes that are required to comply with legislation	
☐ Recruitment, training and retention of staff and knowledge	
☐ Lack of knowledge, effectiveness or leadership among key personnel	
☐ Poor communications between key personnel (board, scheme manager, adminis	trator, etc.)
□ Employer compliance	
☐ Issues with systems (IT, payroll, administration systems, etc.)	
☑ The McCloud judgement	
☑ Other (please specify)	
O There are no barriers	
O There are no barriers O Don't know	

Section J - Perceptions of TPR

The final set of questions is about your views of TPR.

J1 Thinking about your overall perception of TPR, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the following words as ways to describe TPR?

Please select one answer per row

Strongly		Neither agree		Strongly	
agree	Agree	nor disagree	Disagree	disagree	Don't know
0	•	0	0	0	0
0	•	0	0	0	0
0	•	0	0	0	0
0	•	0	0	0	0
0	•	0	0	0	0
0	•	0	0	0	0
0	•	0	0	0	0
0	•	0	0	0	0
0	•	0	0	0	0
	agree O O O O O O O O O	agree Agree O O O O O O O O O O O O	agree Agree nor disagree ○ ● ○ ○ ● ○ ○ ● ○ ○ ● ○ ○ ● ○ ○ ● ○ ○ ● ○ ○ ● ○ ○ ● ○ ○ ● ○ ○ ● ○ ○ ● ○	agree Agree nor disagree Disagree ○ ● ○ ○ ○ ○ ● ○ ○ ○ ○ ● ○ ○ ○ ○ ● ○ ○ ○ ○ ● ○ ○ ○ ○ ● ○ ○ ○ ○ ● ○ ○ ○ ○ ● ○ ○ ○ ○ ● ○ ○ ○ ○ ● ○ ○ ○	agree Agree nor disagree Disagree disagree O Image: Control of the contr

Please complete all questions on this page before clicking the right hand arrow below to continue to the next question.

J2	Thinking now about how TPR operates, how effective do you think it is at improving standards in scheme governance
	and administration in public service pension schemes?

- O Very effective
- Fairly effective
- O Neither effective nor ineffective
- O Not very effective
- O Not at all effective
- O Don't know

Please complete all questions on this page before clicking the right hand arrow below to continue to the next question.

J3 And to what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Please select one answer per row

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
 a) TPR is effective at bringing about the right changes in behaviour among its regulated audiences 	0	•	0	0	Ο	0
b) TPR is proactive at reducing serious risks to member benefits	0	•	0	0	0	0

Which of the following best describes your role within the pension scheme?

Section K - Attribution

K1

Thank you for completing this survey. Your responses will help TPR understand how schemes are progressing and any issues they may face, which will inform further policy and product developments. Before you submit your answers, there are just a few more questions about your survey responses.

	 Scheme manager* Representative of the scheme manager Pension board chair Pension board member Administrator Other (please specify) * In this survey 'Scheme manager' refers to the definition within the Public Service Pensions Act, e.g. the Local Authority, Fire and Rescue
K2	Authority, Police Pensions Authority, Secretary of Stote/Minister or Ministerial department What other parties did you consult with to complete this survey?
NΖ	what other parties did you consult with to complete this survey!
	Please select all that apply
	□ Scheme manager □ Representative of the scheme manager □ Pension board chair ☑ Pension board member ☑ Administrator ☑ Other ○ Did not consult with any other parties
	Please complete all questions on this page before clicking the right hand arrow below to continue to the next question.
К3	To inform TPR's engagement going forward, they would like to build an individual profile of your scheme by linking your scheme name to your survey answers. This will only be used for internal purposes by TPR and your scheme name would not be revealed in any published report.
	Are you happy for your responses to be linked to your scheme name and supplied to TPR for this purpose? • Yes, I am happy for my responses to be linked to my scheme name and supplied to TPR for this purpose • No, I would like my responses to remain anonymous
K4	And would you be happy for the responses you have given to be linked to your scheme name and shared with the relevant scheme advisory board? This is to help inform the advisory boards of areas for improvement and to further their engagement with penson boards. • Yes, I am happy for my responses to be linked to my scheme name and shared with the relevant advisory board O No, I would like my responses to remain anonymous
K5	TPR may conduct some follow up research on this topic to improve their advice and engagement with schemes such as yours. Would you be willing for us to pass on your name, contact details and relevant survey responses to them so that they, or a different research agency on their behalf, could invite you to take part?
	You may not be contacted and, if you are, there is no obligation to take part. Your contact details will be stored for a maximum duration of 12 months, before being securely destroyed. ② Yes, I am happy to be contacted for follow-up research O No, I would prefer not to be contacted for follow-up research

Κ6 Please record your name below. This is just for quality control purposes and will not be passed on to TPR (unless you have agreed that they can contact you for follow-up research).

Finally, please use the box below if you have any other comments or would like to clarify/explain any of the answers

The Fire Authority requested to use the Aquila Heywood report to obtain common data and scheme-specific data for this year in order to complete TPR's annual return. As no specific fields have been agreed between the LGA and the software provider, the fields reported on are wide ranging, including fields that have not been tested before. The results from the scheme specific report show that there are three main areas which hold noticeably lower scores. These are NI Contributions/Earnings history, Contributions and BCE7 where a death case has occurred. NI Contributions/Earnings History errors are due to different reasons. Many of these cases look to be: Pensioner records that do not have an NI earnings screen or Records where an NI screen is present but with no NI earnings on, however these records may have GMP details in their place. NI earnings are used to calculate GMPs however where Pensions have received an official GMP notification, they have to remove the NI earnings in order for the Pension system to accept the GMP on there, otherwise the system thinks that they are duplicating information. Where pensioners do not have an NI earnings screen, this does not mean that they do not have a GMP. This is held on a different screen on the system. Despite this, these records have been categorised as have a GMP. This is held on a different screen on the system. Despite this, these records have been categorised as failures. Contributions Having looked through a sample of these cases, Pensions have indicated that there appear to be a lot of cases where, despite all contributions being present on the records, as the system did not input a total contribution amount on the screen in question, the record has shown as a fail. This has been logged with Heywood as the system should be writing back a total amount. BCE7 These are a small amount of cases where a member has died and the report is expecting there to have been a death grant paid. This has also been logged with Heywood as there are cases where there was no provision in the regulations for a death grant to be paid due to the particular scheme that the member was in, yet these have been shown as fails. Pensions have a full list of the records which have errored under all the scenarios that have been tested this year. The issues above are national issues which will be affecting other fire authorities as well. issues which will be affecting other fire authorities as well.

If you would like to print and/or save a copy of your responses then please click the 'print' button below. This will open a new browser window (you may need to allow pop-ups from this site for it to open). You can then print this or choose to save it as a pdf document. Please do this before clicking the submit button.

IMPORTANT: Please click the 'tick' button below to submit your survey.

Once you have submitted your survey you will not be able to go back and change any of your answers or print/save a copy of vour responses.