



Report of the Section 151 Officer

Local Pension Board – 15 October 2019

Breaches Report

Purpose:	The report presents any breaches which have occurred in the period in accordance with the Reporting Breaches Policy.
Report Author:	Claire Elliott, Pension Manager
Finance Officer:	Jeff Dong – Deputy S 151 Officer
Legal Officer:	Stephanie Williams – Principal Lawyer
Access to Services Officer:	N/A
For Information	

1. Introduction

1.1 The Reporting Breaches policy was adopted with effect from 9 March 2017.

1.2 The policy requires a report to be presented to the Pension Board and Pension Fund Committee on a quarterly basis, highlighting any new breaches which have arisen since the previous meeting and setting out:

- all breaches, including those reported to The Pensions Regulator and those unreported, with the associated dates
- in relation to each breach, details of what action was taken and the result of any action (where not confidential)
- any future actions for the prevention of the breach in question being repeated

2. Breaches

2.1 Under the policy, breaches of the law are required to be reported to the Pensions Regulator where there is reasonable cause to believe that:

- A legal duty which is relevant to the administration of the scheme has not been, or is not being, complied with
- The failure to comply is likely to be of material significance to the regulator in the exercise of any of its functions

2.2 The Breaches Report is attached at Appendix A and the following further information is provided.

- 2.3 Under the LGPS regulations, interest is paid on retirement lump sum payments if the payment is made more than one month after retirement and calculated at one per cent above the base rate on a day to day basis from the due date of payment and compounded with three-monthly rests.
- 2.4 Since the last report in July 2019, 1.67% of retirement lumps sums have not been paid within the benchmark (it should be noted that 100% of payments were made within 1 month when all documentation was received). The % of non-payment of retirement lump sums within the specified benchmark was due to the members not returning completed pension election forms within a timely manner. Communication sent to members at time of retirement has been reviewed to ensure that the importance of timely return of required documents is highlighted and reminder triggers put in place.
- 2.5 The Fund requires that employers pay employee and employer contributions to the Fund on a monthly basis and no later than the 19th of the month after which the contributions have been deducted. There have been a number of instances during the reporting period where breaches have occurred. In each case, Treasury Management staff have written to the employers to request payment and provide a reminder of the responsibilities to submit on time.
- 2.6 With regards to performance data in respect of processing refunds, in most cases, the sums are quite small and the problem is locating the member/former member to process the refund, quite often they may have moved address or even passed away.
- 2.7 The target asset allocation to global equities and UK equities has been superseded by the transition to WPP Opportunities, notwithstanding the same the existing specified limit has been breached. The Pension Fund Committee has previously approved a de-risking programme which shall re-allocate those assets into real/yielding assets. Meanwhile an equity protection programme has been implemented in March 2019.

3. Equality and Engagement Implications

- 3.1 N/A

4 Legal Implications

- 4.1 Where breaches have occurred, the legal implications are outlined in Code of Practice no.14.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 Minimal loss of investment income and a possible penalty charge from TPR.

Background papers: None.

Appendices: Appendix A: Breaches Report.

Appendix A - City and County of Swansea Breach Register

Date	Category (e.g. administration, contributions, funding, investment, criminal activity)	Description and cause of breach	Possible effect of breach and wider implications	Reaction of relevant parties to breach	Reported / Not reported (with justification if not reported and dates)	Outcome of report and/or investigations	New Breach (since last report)
Mar – May 2019	Administration	1.56% of retirement lump sums not paid within 1 month of normal retirement or 2 months of early retirement; 100% was paid within 1 month of receipt of member option return	The administering authority has accrued interest payments on retirement lump sums, paid more than one month after their due date, under the 2013 LGPS regulations	% due to members failing to return pension election forms in a timely manner	.	Communication to members regarding retirement options reviewed to ensure the importance of returning documents in a timely manner is emphasised	
30/04/2018	Administration	All annual returns for year-end by 30/04/2018 have been submitted.	N/A	N/A		N/A	
Apr – June 2019	Administration	Frozen refunds unclaimed for this period equates to 95.83%	In accordance with current Scheme Regulations, no further interest will accrue on or after 5-year anniversary.	High % due to member not making a positive election to claim refund	Information has been reported in the breach register	Member was written to 3 months prior to the date of the 5-year anniversary of date of leaving	

			Should the member enter re-employment membership cannot be aggregated, the member will not be able to transfer the benefit out and if a refund is claimed there will be tax implications as this is deemed to be an unauthorised payment				
Jun-August 2019	Administration	1.67% of retirement lump sums not paid within 1 month of normal retirement or 2 months of early retirement; 100% was paid within 1 month of receipt of member option return	The administering authority has accrued interest payments on retirement lump sums, paid more than one month after their due date, under the 2013 LGPS regulations	% due to delay in payment of 1 members AVC fund value from the Prudential		Communication to members highlighting a possible delay in the payment of their retirement benefits if the member continues paying AVCs up to and including the last month of employment	✓
Jul-August 2019	Administration	Frozen refunds unclaimed for this period equates to 81.25% This	In accordance with current Scheme Regulations, no further interest	High % due to member not making a positive election to claim refund	Information has been reported in the breach register	Member was written to 3 months prior to the date of the 5-year anniversary	✓

		equates to a monetary value of £1,581.92	will accrue on or after 5-year anniversary. Should the member enter re-employment membership cannot be aggregated, the member will not be able to transfer the benefit out and if a refund is claimed there will be tax implications as this is deemed to be an unauthorised payment. The above is subject to change and we are waiting for confirmation that the above Regulation has been amended to support this. Going forward there will be no further requirement to report non-payment of refunds as the 5 year anniversary			of date of leaving	
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			ruling will be removed.				
Apr – July 2019	Contributions	2 Employers have not paid contributions within required timescale	Loss of investment returns	Employers are contacted once breach has occurred		Employers are contacted as soon as the deadline for submission of contributions has passed	✓

*New breaches since the previous meeting should be highlighted