



Report to Pension Fund Board

Date: 28 July 2021

Title: Annual Benefit Statements – Administration Year End Update

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Recommendation: The Board is asked to NOTE the content of this report.

Executive summary

1.1 Regulation 89 of the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013 require an administering authority to issue an annual benefit statement no later than 5 months after the end of the Scheme year to which it relates (31 August). The purpose of this report is to inform the Board of the position of the Buckinghamshire Council administering authority as at 19 July 2021.

Content of report

1.2 **Outstanding Returns**

89% of employers submitted accurate 2020/21 annual returns by 30 April 2021 deadline with the remaining returns received before the end of June 2021.

3 employer charges were issued for failure to submit the returns by the deadline.

Employers processed

Returns from 168 employers have been processed and have no queries relating to the 2020/21 return. These are classed as 'clean' employers where there were no queries or any queries have now been resolved, records have been updated and these are ready for annual benefit statements to be issued.

A further 46 returns from employers have been processed and have queries relating to the data provided. These queries have been sent to employers and the team are liaising in order to resolve these issues.

The following queries have resulted in cases being created and investigated by the team between 1 April 2021 and 19 July 2021.

The relevant turnaround time is 10 working days from when the response from the employer is received.

	Total new cases created	Total cases complete	cases open	Complete within turnaround time
Query arising from data provided on return	862	446	416	100%
New starter identified from return	308	220	88	100%
Leaver identified from return	23	16	7	94%
Total	1193	682	511	

Returns to be processed

Of the remaining 50 returns, 10 are currently being processed with the remaining 40 to be processed by 31 July 2021 with all queries issued to scheme employers.

A deadline of two weeks for responses is given which will allow the Employer Liaison Team to receive responses, review the query and hopefully resolve and issue statements over August.

Annual Benefit Statements

It is expected that the statements for the 168 'clean' employers will be issued to scheme members via 'My Pension Online' from early August. Going forward after this date statements will be issued once each employer return is processed and any queries cleared.

The 415 statements for active scheme members who have opted out of the online service will be printed and posted along side the published statements.

Outstanding queries relating to previous year returns

At the March 2021 Board, this report noted that there were 456 outstanding year-end related queries relating to returns received prior to 2016, up to and including the 2019/2020 return. Since March, the team have continued to liaise with scheme employers and have been successful in obtaining some responses to the earlier queries. A review was then undertaken by Senior members of staff of the 64 older cases and as a result all outstanding queries that related to pre 2016 returns, 2016/2017 & 2017/2018 returns have now been cleared.

The table below provides a breakdown of the outstanding queries that relate to previous year end returns.

	Cases outstanding
2018/2019	21
2019/2020	57
Total	78

These outstanding queries relate to 12 scheme employers, all of which have now been invoiced charges and will continue to be charged until responses are received.

A breakdown of these outstanding cases will be provided to Board in the October 2021 meeting including the new queries arising from the 2020/21 return that have not been resolved in order to produce an annual benefit statement.

Other options considered

1.3 N/A

Legal and financial implications

1.4 It is a requirement of the LGPS Regulations 2013 that an administering authority issue a scheme member with an annual benefit statement no later than 5 months after the end of the scheme year to which it relates (31 August).

1.5 There are no financial implications.

Consultation and communication

1.6 N/A

Next steps and review

Board policies are reviewed annually.

Background papers

N/A

Your questions and views (for key decisions)

If you have any questions about the matters contained in this report please get in touch with the author of this report. If you have any views that you would like the cabinet member to consider please inform the democratic services team. This can be done by telephone [01296 382343] or email [democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk]

