

North East Scotland Pension Fund
nespf

Pension Administration Strategy

Quarterly Reporting December 2021

1. NESPF performance from 1st April to 31st December

1.1 Key administration tasks

Measuring performance is essential to evidence the efforts made by both the Pension Fund and Scheme employers to comply with statutory requirements and deliver a high-quality pension administration service. The Pension Fund aims to provide the information below within the agreed timescales shown.

Administration Task	Target	Completed cases during reporting period			Additional targets for completed cases during reporting period				Uncompleted cases during reporting period	
		Cases	Achieved	Percentage	+ 5 days	+ 10 days	+ 20 days	> + 20 days	Cases	Revised %
Notification of death in service	5 days	33	29	87.9%	97.0%	97.0%	97.0%	1		87.9%
Notification of retirement estimate	10 days	339	338	99.7%	100.0%				15	95.5%
Notification of retirement benefits	10 days	1554	1353	87.1%	94.8%	96.9%	99.0%	16	49	84.4%
Notification of deferred benefits	10 days	804	775	96.4%	98.0%	98.4%	99.0%	8	58	89.9%
Notification of refund	10 days	959	924	96.4%	97.9%	99.0%	99.3%	7	15	94.9%
Notification of transfer in value	10 days	34	23	67.6%	70.6%	70.6%	73.5%	9	16	46.0%
Notification of transfer out value	10 days	349	221	63.3%	64.1%	64.9%	68.7%	109	29	58.5%
		4072	3663	90.0%				150	182	86.1%

Completed cases during reporting period - reporting output is based on 5 and 10 day targets built into workflow cases for processing administration tasks as declared in the pension administration strategy:

- *The overall percentage is up 10% on previous year with significant increases for processing retirements +379 and transfers out +143 compared with the same reporting period last year.*

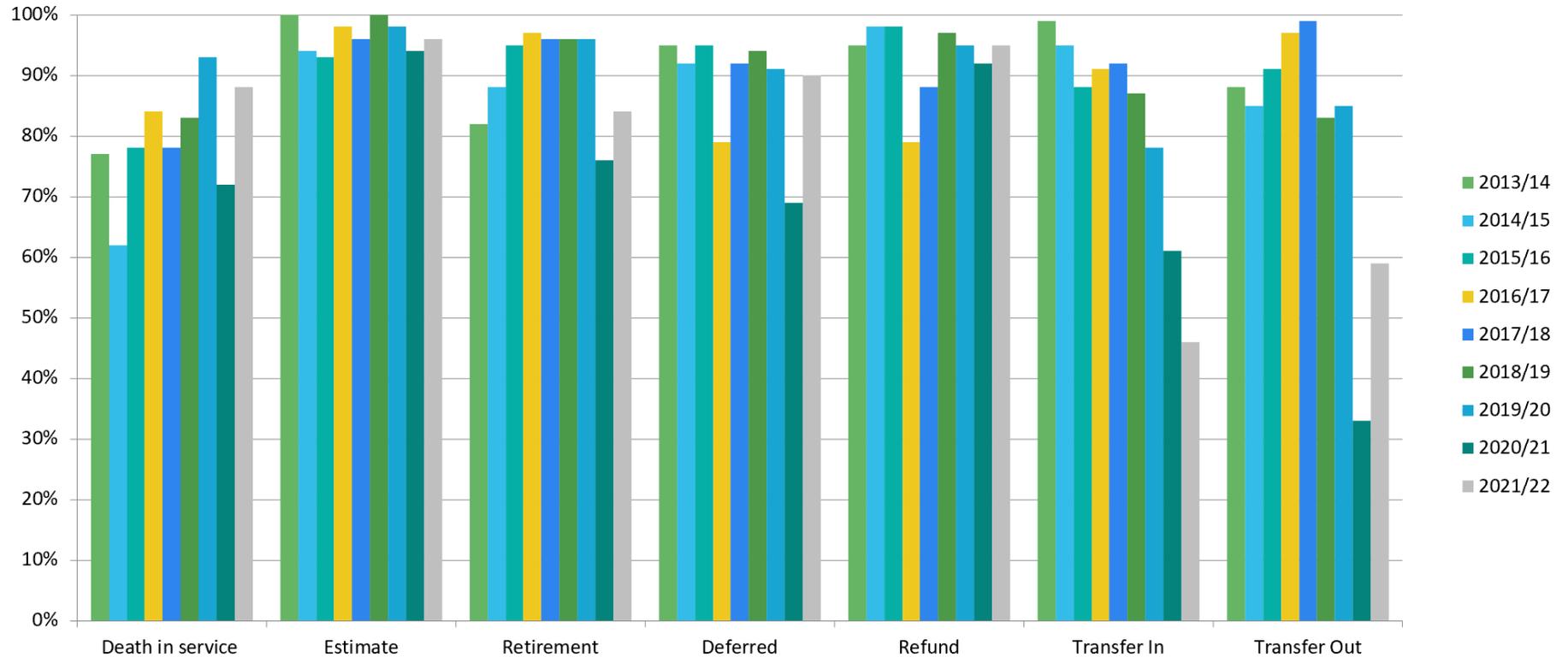
Additional targets for completed cases during reporting period - reporting output is based on adding 5/10/20 days to the 5 and 10 day targets built into workflow cases for processing administration tasks:

- *Cases taking more than 20 days over target is similar to last year however all performance measurements are expected to continue to improve as the gradual return to the office for administration staff continues.*

Uncompleted cases during reporting period - cases identified that were due to be completed and do not have a Reply Due date set in advance of the end of the reporting period:

- *Uncompleted cases have significantly reduced by almost 400 when compared with the same reporting period last year, evidence that our experience during the pandemic shows we are more efficient in the office compared with working from home.*

1.2 Previous years comparison



1.3 McCloud template

In December 2018 the Court of Appeal ruled in *McCloud v Ministry of Justice* that “transitional protection” offered to some members as part of pension reform amounted to unlawful discrimination. In July 2019 following employment tribunal Government stated difference in treatment would be remedied across all public sector schemes.

This report provides an update on progress made to extend protections by recalculating benefits for all eligible members in accordance with the new regulations.

Eligible members



Count of Date Ready is the total number of eligible members ready for the revised calculation and *Count of Date Processed* is the total number of eligible members processed by the revised calculation.

Provisional guaranteed amounts

McCloud Status	Eligible Members	Provisional Cost	Provisional Members
Active	0	Null	0
Deferred	0	Null	0
Undecided	0	Null	0

This is the provisional future cost of benefits identified during the 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2022 remedy period for members taking their benefits at NPA/Age65.

Final guaranteed amounts

McCloud Status	Eligible Members	Final Cost	Final Members
Deceased	0	Null	0
Leaver	0	Null	0
Pensioner	0	Null	0
Undecided	0	Null	0

This is the additional cost of benefits identified during the 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2022 remedy period for benefits already paid to members.

2. Employer performance from 1st April to 31st December

2.1 Policy on discretions received (85%)

Each Scheme employer is required under regulation 58 of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Scotland) Regulations 2018 to prepare a written statement of its policy on how it will exercise various discretions provided by the Scheme. This 'discretions policy' must be kept under review by employers and revised as necessary.

Employers			
Aberdeen City Council	Aberdeen Cyrenians	Aberdeen Endowments Trust	Aberdeen Foyer
Aberdeen Heat and Power	Aberdeen Performing Arts	Aberdeen Sports Village	AIYF
Aberdeenshire Council	Aberlour	Archway	Bon Accord Care
Bon Accord Support	Outdoor Access Trust for Scotland	Fersands and Fountain	First Aberdeen
Forth & Oban (City)	Fraserburgh Harbour	Grampian Valuation Joint Board	Home Start Aberdeen
Inspire	Mental Health Aberdeen	Moray College	NESTRANS
North East Scotland College	North East Sensory Services	Osprey Housing	Pathways
Peterhead Port Authority	Printfield Community Project	Robert Gordons College	Robert Gordon University
Sanctuary Scotland	Scottish Fire and Rescue	Scotland's Lighthouse Museum	Scottish Police Authority
Scottish Water	Sport Aberdeen	St Machar Parent Support Project	Station House Media Unit
The Moray Council	Visit Scotland	Xerox	

2.2 Signed PLO statements received (46%)

Following the revision of the NESPF Pension Administration Strategy in April 2018 each Scheme employer must designate a named individual to act as a Pension Liaison Officer, the main contact regarding any aspect of administering the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS).

Pension Liaison Officers			
Aberdeen City Council	Aberdeen Cyrenians	Aberdeen Endowments Trust	Aberdeen Foyer
Aberdeen Heat and Power	Aberlour Childcare Trust	Alcohol & Drugs Action	Archway
Bon Accord Care	Bon Accord Support	Outdoor Access Trust for Scotland	Fraserburgh Harbour
Moray College	North East Scotland College	North East Sensory Services	Pathways
Peterhead Port Authority	Printfield Community Project	Robert Gordons College	Scottish Fire and Rescue
Scottish Water	Sport Aberdeen	St Machar Parent Support Project	Visit Aberdeenshire
Xerox			

2.3 Quantity of data received (744,521)

All Scheme employers are now required to provide monthly data using I-Connect, by way of a monthly file extracted from the payroll system or by completing electronic forms for individual members.

I-Connect events processed	Total
Starters (new start and opt in)	4,425
Amendments (address, personal details, hours and absence)	21,961
Leavers (exit and opt out)	3,289
Contributions (employee, employer and additional)	239,834
Salary	239,802
Cumulative CARE Pay	230,443
Works Address	4,767

2.4 Quality of data received

The quality of data received from Scheme employers is assessed and checked by the Employer Relationship Team (ERT). Red, Amber and Green flags will be used to assess the quality of the data. The Pension Fund will seek, at the earliest opportunity, to work closely with Scheme employers in identifying areas of unsatisfactory performance and provide the necessary training and development for improvement.

Since the introduction of the requirement to provide monthly information in this format the quality of the data received through i-Connect has been of a very high standard. This allows the Fund to provide accurate and up to date information to members, meet the requirements of The Pension Regulator and improved the accuracy of the financial information held for the valuation of the Fund.

Green	I-Connect events processed and validated by ERT
Amber	I-Connect events processed however missing or incorrect data identified by ERT
Red	I-Connect events not processed
Blank	Data not provided (as at 2021)

* Employer has terminated from the fund

Employer	Submission	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Aberdeen City Council	Extract File												
Aberdeenshire Council	Extract File												
Bon Accord Care	Extract File												
Bon Accord Support	Extract File												
First Aberdeen	Extract File												
First Glasgow	Extract File												
Grampian Valuation Joint Board	Extract File												
Moray Council	Extract File												
NESTRANS	Extract File												
Police Scotland	Extract File												
Robert Gordon University	Extract File												
Moray College	Extract File												
North East Scotland College	Extract File												
Scottish Water	Extract File												
Scottish Fire and Rescue Service	Extract File												
Sport Aberdeen	Extract File												
Aberdeen Endowments Trust	Online Return												
Aberdeen Cyrenians	Online Return												

