

South West Regional Police Pensions Board

Thursday 30 October 2025 at 10.00am

Via Microsoft Teams

Attendance

Ian Pollitt (Independent Chair)

Danielle Pearce (Minute taker)

Member Representatives

Richard Wand (National Association of Retired Police Officers)

Trina Phillips (Police Federation) (Avon and Somerset)

Adam Williams (Police Federation) (rep for Ian White)

Employer Representatives

David Wilkin (Director of Finance and Resources) (Devon and Cornwall)

Neal Butterworth (Chief Financial Officer) (Dorset)

Robert Thomas (Director of Finance) (Wiltshire)

Emma Snailham (Avon and Somerset) (rep for Nick Adams)

Alix Garfath – Cox (Finance Department) (rep for Matthew Ulyatt)

Rhiannon Jackson (Pension Manager) (Wiltshire Police)

Apologies

Nick Adams (Director of Finance) (Avon and Somerset)

Matthew Ulyatt (Chief Financial Officer) (Gloucestershire)

Robin Wheeler (Professional Advisor – Pension Lead) (Dorset)

Ian Thompson (Superintendents' Association) (rep for Antony Hart)

John Derryman (Chief Police Officers Staff Association)

Ian White (Police Federation) (Gloucestershire)

Guests

Kevin Sheil (XPS Pensions) (for minute reference 04/25/52 only)

Natalie Bevan (XPS) (for minute reference 04/25/52 only)

Matt Dodd (XPS) (for minute reference 04/25/52 only)

Gareth Shackler (Peninsula) (for minute reference 04/25/55 only)

04/25/46 Introductions and Apologies, Declarations for Conflict of Interests [FOIA Open]

Ian Pollitt as Chair welcomed members and noted apologies. The meeting was quorate, and there were no declarations of conflict of interest. Anthony Hart (Superintendents' Association) has resigned at the completion of his tenure and the Chair has sent Anthony a note of gratitude for his contribution to the Board

04/25/47 Minutes from previous meeting 31 July 2025 [FOIA Open]

The minutes of the meeting held on 31 July 2025 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

04/25/48 Action and Decision Log [FOIA Open unless exemptions specified below]

- a. **Action 268 XPS – external information (previous minute reference 03/25/36)**
Activity was completed.
Action closed.
- b. **Action 269 XPS - Dashboard (previous minute reference 03/25/36)**
Activity was completed.
Action closed.
- c. **Action 270 XPS – Opt Out (previous minute reference 03/25/36)**
Kevin Sheil would provide a national update to Ian Pollitt, which would be supplemented with individual updates. A communication strategy would be populated and shared with individual forces. An update would be provided at the 29 January 2026 South West Pension Board.
Action to remain open.
- d. **Action 271 XPS – Late Payments (previous minute reference 03/25/36)**
Work was ongoing. An update would be provided at the 29 January 2026 South West Pension Board.
Action to remain open.
- e. **Action 272 Peninsula – External Information (previous minute reference 03/25/38)**
Discussed at minute reference 04/25/55.
Action closed.
- f. **Action 273 Peninsula – Over Target Figure (previous minute reference 03/25/38) [FOIA Closed s.22]**
[This action has been redacted under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 s.22]
- g. **Action 274 Peninsula – Opt Out (previous minute reference 03/25/38)**
Discussed at minute reference 04/25/55.
Action closed.
- h. **Action 275 Peninsula – XPS Widow Communications (previous minute reference 03/25/38)**
Activity was completed.
Action closed.
- i. **Action 276 Peninsula – Widow Communication Response (previous minute reference 03/25/38)**
Activity was completed.
Action closed.
- j. **Action 278 Board Members – Training/Knowledge of Board Constitution Acronyms (previous minute reference 03/25/40) (previous minute reference 03/25/40)**
Activity was completed.
Action closed.
- k. **Action 279 Board Members – Training/Knowledge of Board Constitution Acronyms (previous minute reference 03/25/40)**

Official

Activity was completed.

Action closed.

I. Action 280 Terms of Reference – Links to Minutes (previous minute reference 03/25/43)

Ian Pollitt would provide a further update to the 29 January 2026 South West Pension Board.

Action to remain open.

m. Action 281 Review of Risk Register (previous minute reference 03/25/44)

Activity completed.

Action closed.

n. Action 282 Review of Risk Register - Aurora (previous minute reference 03/25/44)

[This action has been redacted under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 s.43]

Members noted that the appointment of the Chief Financial Officer (CFO), Neal Butterworth, had been extended for three years.

04/25/49 Scheme Sanction Charge [FOIA Open]

The Board were advised that Wiltshire had outstanding payments. Robert Thomas would investigate and update the Board at the next meeting in January. For context as at July 2025, 26 cases were outstanding in Wiltshire which were pending information required from external providers and affected members had been contacted.

04/25/50 Pension Remedy - Overview [FOIA Open]

The Board discussed the progress of Remedy, noting that XPS had included statistics and pension savings statements within their update. Members noted that approximately 2% of statements were unlikely to be produced in the coming months due to external factors eg lack of data from Third Parties. Frequent meetings with XPS representatives had taken place to resolve outstanding issues.

04/25/51 Formal Complaints [FOIA Open]

There were no pending Formal Complaints i.e. complaints to the Pensions Ombudsman or cases submitted through the Internal Dispute Resolution Process (IDRP)

04/25/52 Board Members – Training / Knowledge [FOIA Open]

The Board discussed the completion of Public Service Pensions training for new members. The Chair advised that he had reviewed the online Pensions Regulator training and that he saw no need for members to complete the module 'Maintaining Member Contributions' as this was not an issue for Police Forces. All other modules were recommended.

Official

Natalie Bevan, Kevin Shiel and Matt Dodds joined the meeting.

04/25/53 XPS [FOIA Open unless exemptions specified below]

Natalie Bevan presented the XPS Consolidated Pension Board Report (CPBR) (available from Specialist Support Hub at Devon and Cornwall Police) which provided an update on Performance Delivery (PD). During discussion the following key points were raised:

- 98% of XPS statements had been produced and distributed to members.
- XPS would ensure that outstanding pension statements were processed, following the receipt of data.
- Since April 2025, XPS had connected 55 schemes to the Pensions Dashboard in line with the 'connect by' dates set out in the CPBR guidance.
- Prior to accessing the Pensions Dashboard, six months' notice would be provided by DWP to members and the wider public.
- XPS would continue to support the progress of deferred pension statements.
- The Remedy app work continued with a conclusion anticipated in early November 2025.

During discussion, the following actions were created:

1. Natalie Bevan would formulate and provide Board members with a breakdown of acronyms listed within the CPBR.

For action by: **Natalie Bevan**

2. Kevin Sheil would provide an update relating to the national opt out figures to the Chair.

For action by: **Kevin Sheil**

3. Kevin Sheil would investigate late payment issues, and an update would be brought to the 29 January 2026 South West Pension Board.

For action by: **Kevin Sheil**

Natalie Bevan, Kevin Sheil and Matt Dodd were thanked for their updates and left the meeting.

04/25/54 The Pensions Regulator [FOIA Open]

The Board noted that no updates had been received from the Pensions Regulator. Ian Pollitt would provide a further update to the 29 January 2026 South West Pension Board.

04/25/55 Review of Risk Register [FOIA Open]

The Board reviewed the Risk Register, noting the progress in producing Remedy and the Annual Benefits Statements and Pension Saving Statements. The Board agreed to reduce Risks No 9 – Remedy & 9a – Remedy Statements from Red to Amber. It was expected the risks would continue to reduce as the project progressed.

A brief discussion was held regarding the potential risk of XPS migrating to Aurora.

Official

Gareth Shackler joined the meeting.

04/25/56 Peninsula [FOIA Open unless exemptions specified below]

Gareth Shackler presented the Peninsula Pensions Performance Report (available from Specialist Support Hub at Devon and Cornwall Police) which provided an update on Business as Usual (BAU) activity. During discussion the following key points were raised:

- Members noted the breakdown of administration performance relating to Quarter 2 (Q2) from 1 July 2025 to 30 September 2025, against the Statutory Disclosure Regulations.
- Opt out data had been inaccessible at the time of the meeting; the data would be sent to Ian Pollitt when available.
- Work continued on the Immediate Choice III Health Underpin Cases identified through McCloud.
- Peninsula Pensions continued working with Avon and Somerset Police colleagues for the benefit of all scheme members, in line with the Police Pension Scheme (PPS), associated regulations and guidance.
- **[This point has been redacted under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 s.43]**

During discussion, the following action was created:

Gareth Shackler would provide an auto enrollment breakdown plan, including actions and timescales. An update would be presented at the 29 January 2026 Pension Board.

For action by: **Gareth Shackler**

The Board thanked Gareth Shackler for his update, and he left the meeting.

04/25/57 Update from Chair and Summary of Actions [FOIA Open]

Ian Pollitt would contact the Chair of the Police Pensions Scheme Advisory Board to discuss key elements relating to opt outs and auto-enrollment for 2026. Members were encouraged to keep abreast of the news following the Budget.

The location of the 29 January 2026 South West Pension Board would be arranged by the Specialist Support Hub and members would be notified.

During discussion, the following action was created:

A new version of the auto-enrollment 2026 correspondence would be drafted by Ian Pollitt and brought to the 29 January 2026 Pension Board for consideration by members.

For action by: **Ian Pollitt**

Members were thanked for their attendance and Danielle Pearce provided members with a summary of the actions from the meeting.

Date, Time, and Location of Next Meeting

Official

There being no further items for discussion, the meeting closed at 11.47am. The next Board meeting will be held on Thursday 29 January 2026 commencing at 10.00am, in person location to be confirmed.