



Open Report on behalf of Andrew Crookham, Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director - Resources

Report to:	LGPS Local Pensions Board
Date:	11 January 2024
Subject:	Data Quality Report

Summary:

This report updates the Board on the data quality scores for Lincolnshire Pension Fund which is reported to The Pensions Regulator each year in November.

Actions Required:

That the Board discuss the report and consider whether they wish to take any further actions.

1. Background

- 1.1 Pension schemes are required by the TPR to report their common and scheme specific data scores in the annual scheme returns in November.
- 1.2 The current Data Scores for LPF are:

Common	96.18%
Scheme Specific	87.68%

2.0 Data Issues

2.1 Missing Addresses

There are 2,488 addresses' missing for deferred members. This is an increase of 107.

WYPF have a programme of tracing lost contact members on a rolling programme but it is inevitable that as we trace some members we lose track of others.

2.2 Missing Earnings

There are 481 records with missing earnings. This is an increase of 108. The majority of cases are awaiting leaver/pensioner benefits to be calculated.

2.3 Missing CARE Benefits

There are 313 records with missing Career Average Revalued Earnings (CARE). This is a decrease of 48. These are cases where leaver forms are outstanding from the Employers or where they have been received by WYPF but benefits not yet calculated.

2.4 Start Date Inconsistency

There are 4,489 records where the start date on the record is inconsistent with start date held on other record types. This is a decrease of 75.

2.5 No National Insurance Contributions or GMP

There are 5,284 records with missing National Insurance contributions or GMP. This is a decrease of 43.

2.6 Missing Benefit Crystallisation Details (LTA pension value missing – Lump sum element)

There are 76 records with missing benefit crystallisation details. This is a decrease of 1. The records which have the missing details are historic cases which we inherited when we took over the administration. The lump sum details were not available to populate the records but have been paid to the members in accordance with the scheme regulations.

2.7 Missing Annual Allowance Calculation

There are 725 records with missing annual allowance calculation. This is an increase of 384.

2.8 No Total Exit Guaranteed Minimum Pension (GMP) (Deferred)

There are 3,955 records with missing National Insurance contributions or GMP. This is an increase of 10.

2.9 No Post 88 GMP on record

There are 3,449 records with missing National Insurance contributions or GMP. This is a decrease of 20.

Please Note (for points 2.5, 2.8 & 2.9)

These are deferred or pensioner records inherited from the previous administration. At the time there was not a requirement to input the GMP data into a separate field as there is today.

The GMP amount is held on the original paperwork that has been stored on the member's record as a scanned document. The GMP has never been populated in a separate field on the record and cannot be identified in the digital data scores.

The value of deferred pensions and the value of pensions already in payment are and have always been correct.

We are working with Norfolk Pension Fund as one of the founder members of the National LGPS Framework to procure suppliers that can advance the current data quality. This is particularly in relation to postcodes which the Pension Dashboard will use as a matching criteria for members.

The tender documents have been issued at the beginning of November 2023 for Member Data Services. Responses are due back by Monday 18th December and arrangements will then be made for moderation sessions and provider demos. These will take place in February 2024 and after the evaluation and moderation has taken place the suppliers will be chosen.

3.0 Data Improvement Plan

3.1 As a result of the data scores WYPF has devised a Data Improvement Plan (Appendix A) which identifies the issues with the data and the resolutions required to resolve those issues.

3.2 The reports to measure the data scores will be run on a half yearly basis to measure the improvements in data scores and identify any new issues.

3.3 It should be noted that TPR do not expect scores to be 100%, as long as there is a Data Improvement Plan to address the data issues. For example, as we trace members, others are identified as lost contact through returned mail. WYPF also takes every opportunity to remind members to tell us when they move house.

3.4 We continue to make improvements to the reporting and engage with technology to find the missing information on member's records:

June 2023		November 2023	
Common	96.17 %	Common	96.18%
Scheme Specific	87.91%	Scheme Specific	87.68%

4. TPR Engagement

- 4.1 WYPF recently completed an engagement process with the TPR. TPR assessed WYPF on two key areas, Management & Governance and Systems & Processes.
- 4.2 TPR and WYPF met six times to discuss aspects of the administration. Discussions between TPR and WYPF were two way, honest and useful. Information and documentation were shared with TPR who in turn gave guidance and advice, some of which WYPF was able to act upon immediately, such as appropriate updates to the WYPF website.
- 4.3 The TPR provided a report which had an overall green (good) rating for both areas with additional recommendations for WYPF to consider.

5. Conclusion

- 5.1 Data quality is important to the Fund as, as well as being a requirement of the Pensions Regulator. It may affect the employer contributions at the next valuation and can impact on the reputation of the Fund.
- 5.2 The Fund continually reviews the quality of data held throughout the year and strives to keep this as complete, accurate and up to date as possible. The Pensions Regulator requires Funds to undertake a review of data quality at least annually and this report consolidates the work undertaken in compliance with this requirement.
- 5.3 This report concludes that, whilst data quality is considered to be good within the Fund, there are improvements that can be made and as a result a data improvement plan has been developed.

6. Consultation

a) Risks and Impact Analysis

The Pension Fund has a risk register which can be obtained by contacting the Head of Pensions.

7. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Data Improvement Plan

8. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Matt Mott, who can be contacted at Matt.Mott@wypf.org.uk

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