



Chair's welcome
Malcolm Eastwood

**Chair of the Firefighters' Scheme
Advisory Board (England)**

The last four years, a look back



Key Themes for progress

- Meetings
 - Fire schemes less likely to meet quarterly
 - Unwanted headlines!

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LAW & REGULATION

Half of public sector pension boards meet fewer than four times a year

By Stephanie Hawthorne | July 28, 2019

On the go: Only half of public sector schemes held four or more pension board meetings in the previous 12 months, the Pensions Regulator has found.

In its recently published commentary on its 'Public service governance and administration survey 2018', the watchdog stressed that it expects scheme governing bodies to meet at least quarterly.

TPR expressed its concern that irregular meetings may be an indicator of poorly governed schemes.

"We note that fire schemes had both infrequent meetings and were the most likely cohort to postpone meetings," the report stated, adding that the regulator expects to see an improvement in this area.

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Key Themes for progress

- Risk
 - Still less likely to have risk management processes (although also noted to have made significant improvement, having grown from 36% in 2015 to 80% in 2018)
 - Less likely to review quarterly, only 24%

Key Themes for progress

- Skills and Resources
 - Access to knowledge and skills increased from 36% in 2015 to 98% in 2018
 - 87% rated scheme manager and pension board to have sufficient time and resources to run the scheme properly.
But.....
 - Over half of boards (57%) rated lack of resources or time as one of their top three barriers!!

Key Themes for progress

- Breaches
 - Although a low proportion of active members (19%) received annual benefits statements after the statutory deadline, 89% of those missing ABS deadline did not make a breach of law report.
 - Of 17% other breach of law identified only 2% reported as material
 - Are you using the breach assessment template?

<http://www.fpsboard.org/images/LPB/Resources/Breachassessment210119.docx>