



Monthly Report

August 2021

North Yorkshire Fire Authority



West Yorkshire Pension Fund

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Contents

1 Regulations/Fire Scheme Update.....	4
2 Member Issues	7
3 Administration Issues.....	7
4 Key performance Indicators	8
4 Work in progress.....	9
5 Member web registrations.....	10
6 Calendar of Events	11
7 Membership Numbers	12
8 Five Year Audit Plan	16
9 Overriding Disclosure Time Limits.....	17

1.0 Regulations/Fire Scheme Update

1.1 SAB Bulletin

Please take a few minutes to read the Firefighters' Pension (England) Scheme Advisory Board Bulletin (Link to Bulletin below) and take any action required.

Bulletin 47

Items to highlight:

PSP&JO Bill introduced

On 19 July 2021, HM Treasury (HMT) introduced the Public Service Pensions & Judicial Offices Bill (PSP&JO Bill) to the House of Lords.

The following documents are available from the PSP&JO Bill publications page and updated versions will be added as the Bill progresses through Parliament:

- Bill (as introduced)
- Explanatory Notes
- Delegated Powers Memorandum
- Equality Impact Assessment
- Impact Assessment
- Two documents on the Bill's first reading

The PSP&JO Bill sets out in law how the Government will remove the discrimination identified by the courts in the way that the 2015 reforms were introduced for some members (i.e., remedy).

This is the primary legislation which closes final salary schemes for accrual past 31 March 2022 and moves all remaining members into FPS 2015, while ensuring that existing transitional protections such as the final salary link and double accrual are retained.

Knowledge Hub technical forum reinstated

Readers may remember that before the introduction of www.fpsregs.org, all resources and technical advice were provided through a Knowledge Hub forum.

While we have moved away from this platform in order to provide central and consistent access to resources and formal technical guidance, the forum has been reinstated for members to share technical knowledge and best practice, in order to promote peer working and collaboration within the sector.

Forum members can raise technical queries and share experiences with colleagues; however, users must note that any information provided is on an informal basis and

should not be treated as legal advice. If a query needs to be escalated, it should be logged using the existing technical query form.

The forum is restricted to administrators and employer representatives of the FPS and can be accessed using the following link:

<https://khub.net/group/thefirefighterspensionsdiscussionforum/group-forum>

You will need to register and request to join if you are not already a member.

Readers should also note that the Firefighters' Pensions practitioners' group on Workplace will shortly be closed down as it is not being used.

TPR 2020-21 Governance and Administration survey

On 1 July 2021, the Pensions Regulator (TPR) published the results of its 2020-21 Governance and Administration survey.

The survey was conducted online between January and March 2021 and aims to track governance and administration practices among public service pension schemes. The 2020-21 survey also included new questions on response to the pandemic and pensions dashboards.

TPR measures annual progress against the following six key processes:

- have a documented policy to manage board members' conflicts of interest
- have access to the knowledge, understanding and skills needed to properly run the scheme
- have documented procedures for assessing and managing risk
- have processes to monitor records for accuracy and completeness
- have a process for resolving contribution payment issues
- have procedures to identify, assess and report breaches of the law.

Three quarters (74 per cent) of Firefighters' schemes who responded to the survey had all six processes in place. This is a significant increase from 55 per cent in 2019.

The report is being considered by the Local Pension Board (LPB) effectiveness committee ("the Committee") to make recommendations to the Scheme Advisory Board (SAB) on any actions needed.

The TPR six key processes factsheet will be updated in due course to reflect the latest performance and give further guidance to FRAs in order to achieve a higher rate of understanding and compliance ahead of future surveys.

In the short-term, the Committee recommends that LPBs can use the survey results to carry out an annual evaluation.

Template FPS Administration Strategy published

In FPS Bulletin 34 – June 2020 we launched a consultation on a template pension

administration strategy for the FPS, which was developed following a recommendation in AON's 2019 review of the administration and management of the scheme.

The initial consultation response was published with FPS Bulletin 37 – September 2020.

All feedback has now been considered and we are pleased to include tracked versions of the updated consultation response and the revised template strategy as appendices to the bulletin. The final strategy is available from the guides and sample documents page of www.fpsregs.org as a Word document for FRAs to download and adapt to suit their individual requirements.

TPR reported in section 4.3 of the latest governance and administration survey results that just under half of Firefighters' schemes had an administration strategy, compared to almost three-quarters of schemes across the public sector. We hope that publication of the template will help schemes to put an administration strategy in place and increase this outcome for the 2021-22 survey.

SAB response to pensions dashboards staging call for input

We confirmed in FPS Bulletin 46 – June 2021 that the SAB would respond to the Pensions Dashboards Programme (PDP) call for input on dashboard staging, which proposed that public service schemes join the dashboard within a two-year period starting from April 2023.

In summary, the Board's response to the call for input was that staging for the Firefighters' Pension Scheme should be only after the age discrimination remedy has been implemented and the first set of annual benefit statements issued successfully in Autumn 2024.

Pension Scheme Pays reporting: information and notice deadlines

On 20 July 2021, HMRC published a policy paper and draft regulations proposing to extend the mandatory scheme pays deadline for members whose pension input amount is retrospectively changed.

The proposal has been made because of the age discrimination remedy, where a member's annual allowance position for a previous tax year may be changed retrospectively. However, HMRC has confirmed that the proposal will not be restricted to just these cases.

The proposal will extend the scheme pays deadline where –

- the administrator gives information to the member about a change to the pension input amount on or after 2 May in the year following that in which the relevant tax year ends and before the end of the six-year period beginning with the end of the tax year, and

- as a result of the change, the member qualifies to elect for mandatory scheme pays.

In these cases, it is proposed that the member must give the scheme pays election within three months from being given the information about the change or, if earlier, before the end of the six-year period beginning with the end of the relevant tax year. In other cases, the deadline remains 31 July in the year following that in which the tax year ends.

Consequently, the draft regulations also propose amending the deadline by which the administrator must report and pay the charge to HMRC. It is proposed that administrators will need to report the charge on the Accounting for Tax return for the quarterly period following that in which the administrator receives the scheme pays election (though schemes will continue to be able to include the charge on a return for an earlier period). This proposal will apply to all scheme pays elections (not just those resulting from a retrospective change).

The Government signified its intention to make these changes on Tax Day in March. See FPS Bulletin 43 – March 2021 for more information.

It is intended that the changes will commence on 6 April 2022 with retrospective effect to 6 April 2016

2.0 Member Issues

None

3.0 Administration Update

3.1 Remote working

WYPF staff continue to provide a full service both to FA's and Member's during the current Covid-19 crisis. All staff are enabled to work from home with occasional visits to the office as and when necessary.

3.2 Keep in Touch

To help keep you up to date with the latest scheme and administration news make sure you follow our client blog, Hot Topics at:

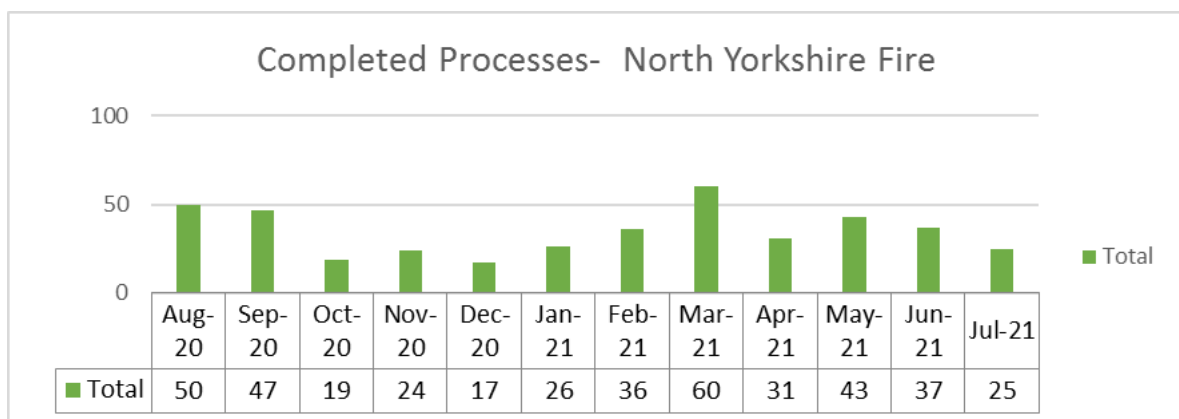
www.wypfpensionmattersfire.wordpress.com/

To follow the blog, click follow and put in your work email address. You'll then be notified every time we add something to it.

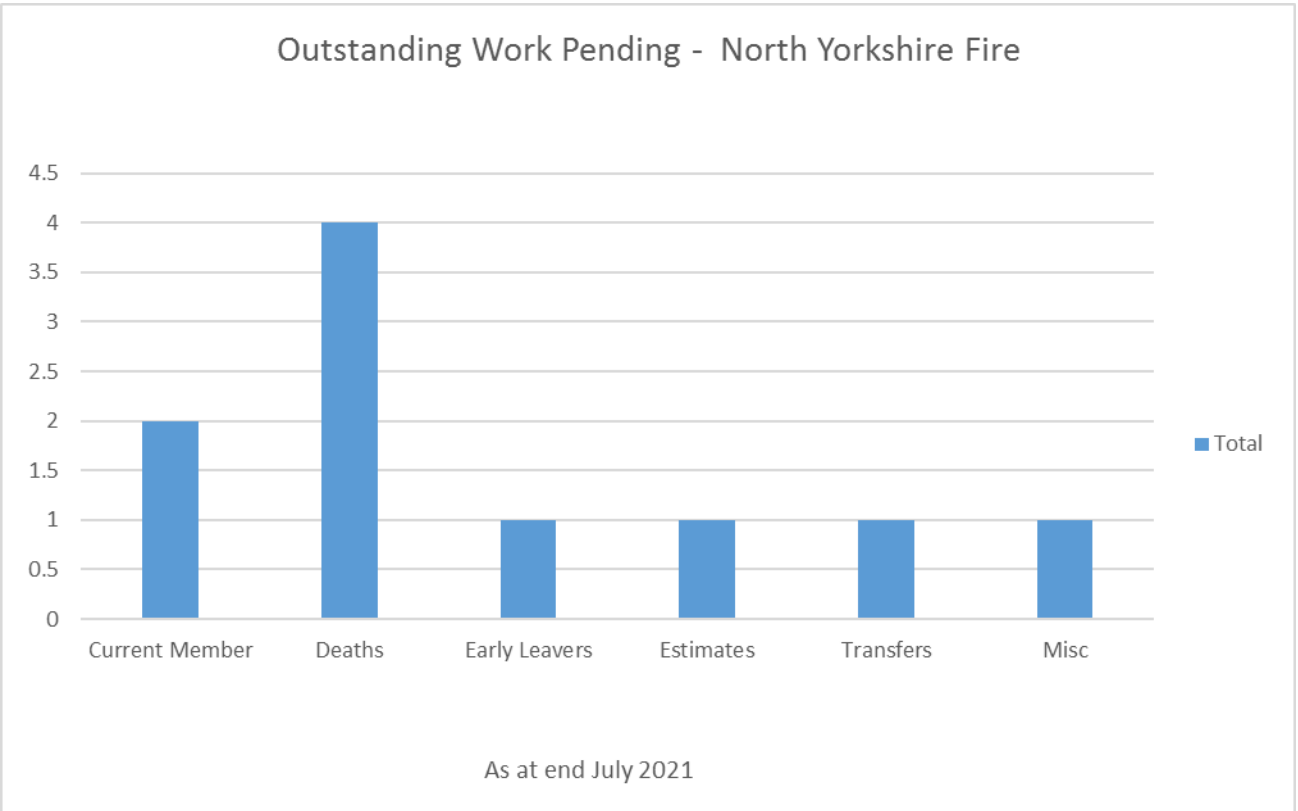
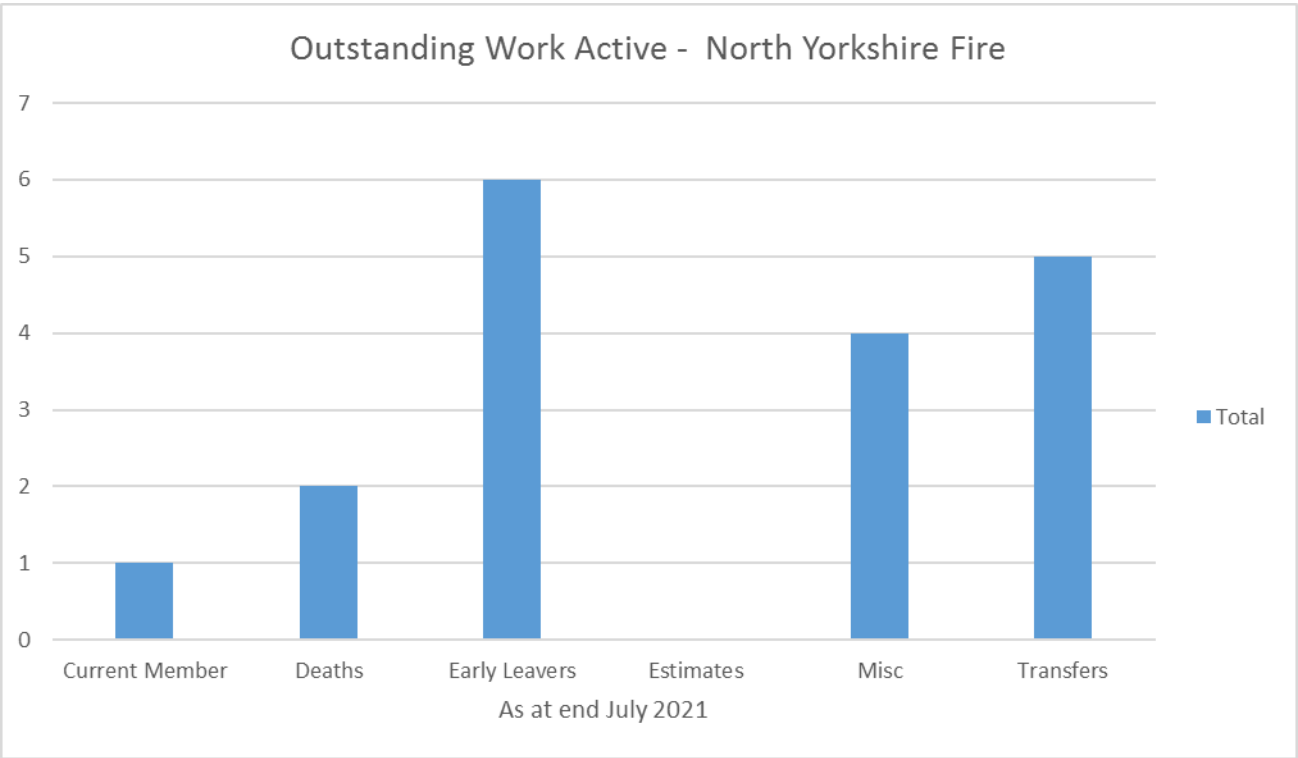
4.0 Key Performance Indicators

4.1 Completed processes

North Yorkshire Fire (1 to 31 July 2021)						
Work Type	Total Cases	Target days for each case	Target met cases	Minimum Target Met	Target met percent	Average time taken
Transfer In Quote	1	10	1	85	100	3
Divorce Settlement /Pension Sharing order Implemented	1	80	1	100	100	39
Deferred Benefits Set Up on Leaving	1	10	0	85	0	28
Pension Estimate	1	10	1	85	100	2
Pension Set Up / Payment of Lump Sum	1	3	1	85	100	1
Retirement Actual	1	10	1	85	100	1
Change of Address	2	20	2	85	100	1
Change of Bank Details	1	20	1	85	100	1
General Payroll Changes	1	20	1	85	100	1
Age 55 Increase to Pension	1	20	1	85	100	14
NI adjustment to Pension at State Pension Age	2	20	2	85	100	18
Spouse Potential	1	20	1	85	100	2
Initial letter Death in Retirement	2	5	2	85	100	1.5
Death in Retirement	2	5	2	85	100	1.5
Update Member Details	6	20	6	100	100	1
Injury Review	1	20	1	100	100	1
Monthly Pension	630	Pay date	630	100	100	



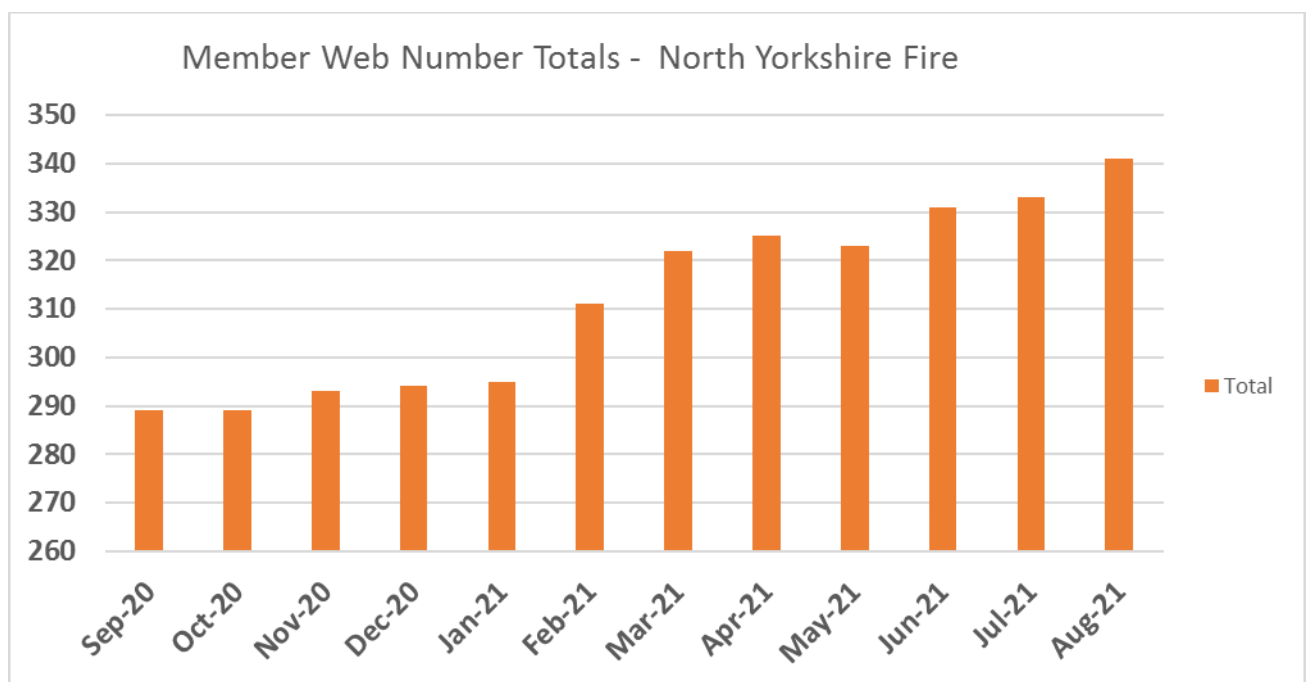
4.2 Work in Progress



5.0 Member Web Registrations

The number of members registered for My pension are:

Status	Number
Active	164
Pensioner	121
Pensioner Ex Spouse	0
Beneficiary Pensioner	6
Deferred Ex Spouse	0
Deferred	50

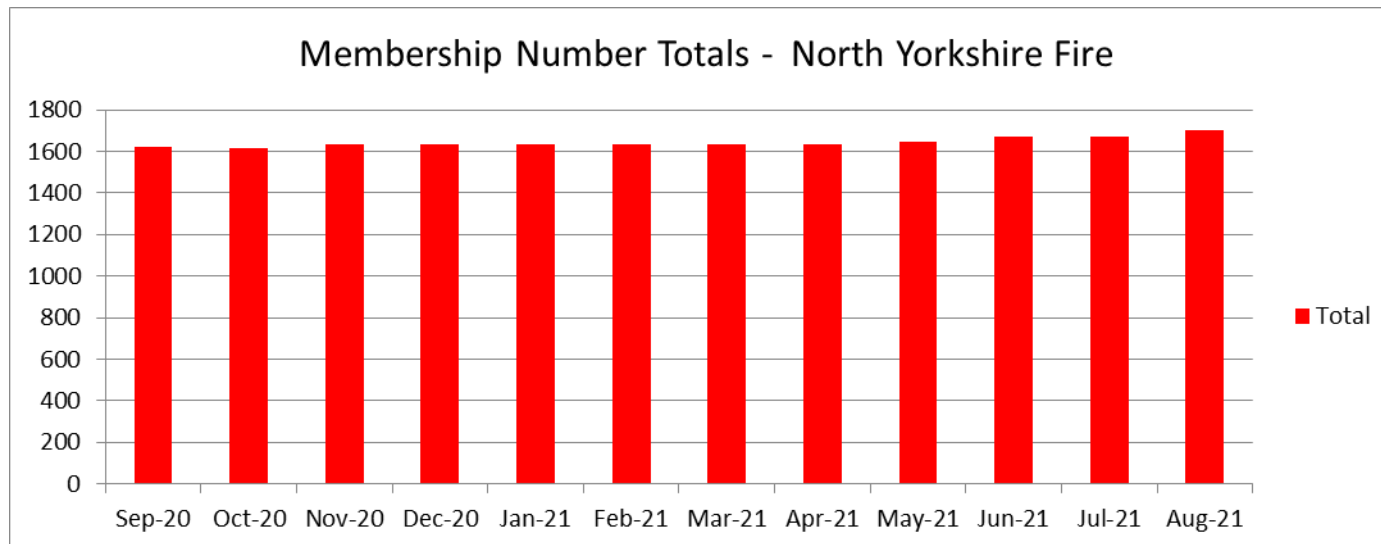


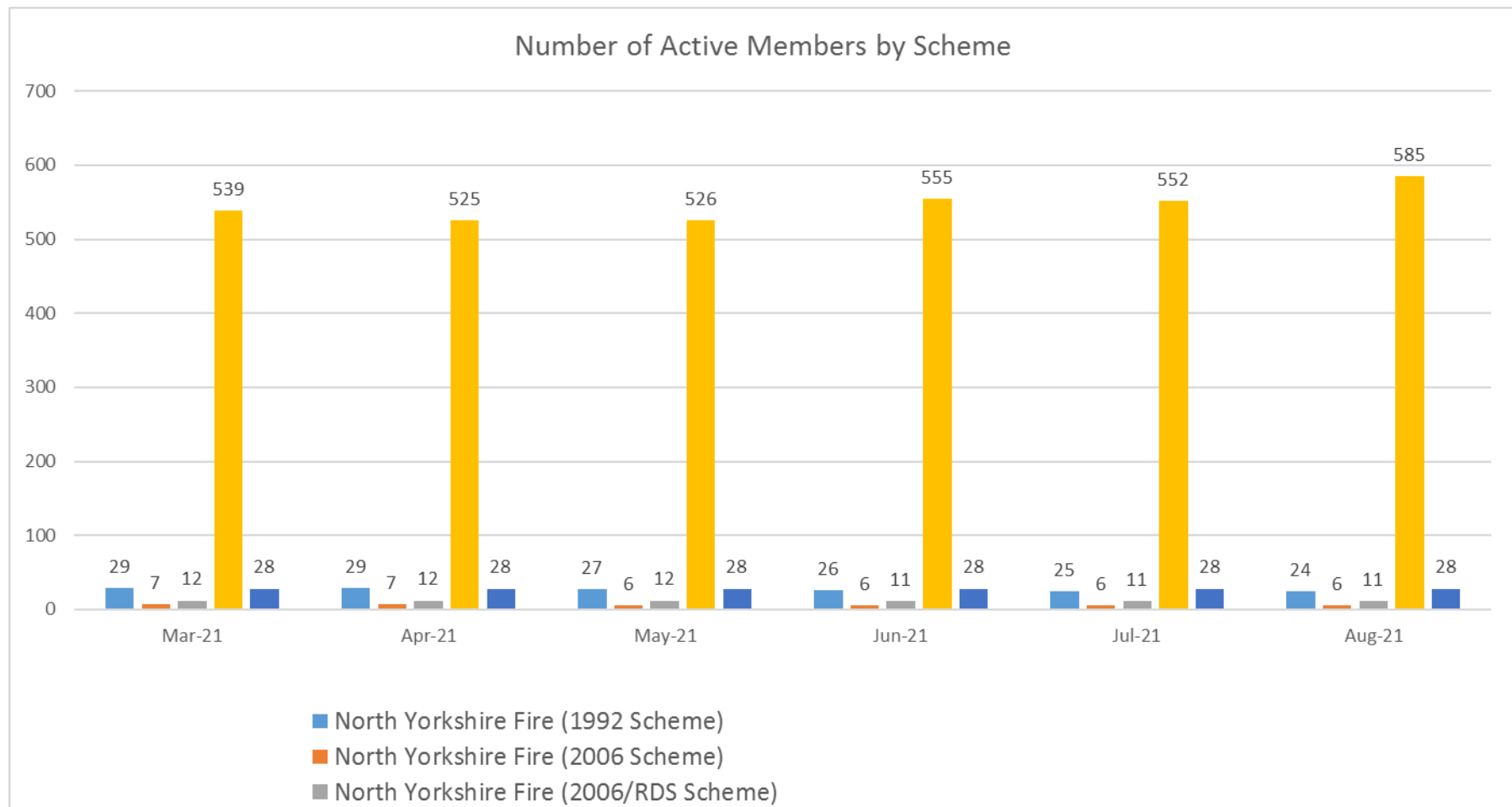
6.0 Calendar of Events

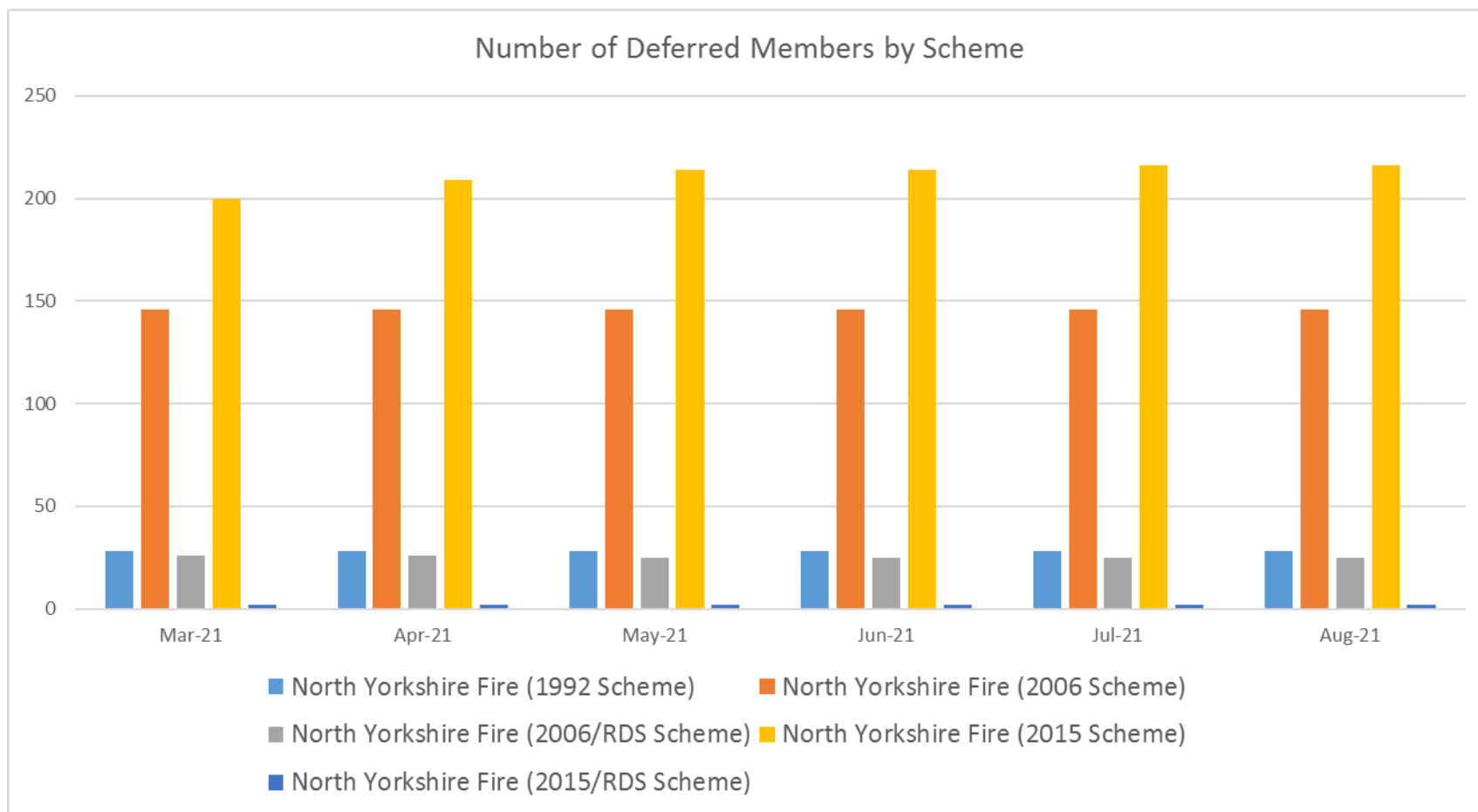
January	February	March	April
Life Certificates HMRC Event Reporting Payment of Unauthorised Lump Sum and Scheme Sanction Charge to HMRC	Life Certificates Review of DWP benefits for Injury cases GAD Data Collection Spreadsheet?	Life Certificates	Apply Pensions Increase Apply Care Revaluation Issue P60's Life Certificates Pensioner Newsletter
May	June	July	August
Roll out of Monthly Postings Life Certificates	Active Newsletter Life Certificates Issue Deferred Annual Benefits Statements	Life Certificates Issue Deferred Annual Benefits Statements Issue active Annual Benefits Statements	Issue active Annual Benefits Statements Life Certificates
September	October	November	December
Pension Estimates Assumption Exercise Life Certificates Pension Savings Statement	Life Certificates Participate in NFI tPR Scheme Returns	tPR Annual Survey Life Certificates	IAS19 Data capture exercise for Actuaries Life Certificates

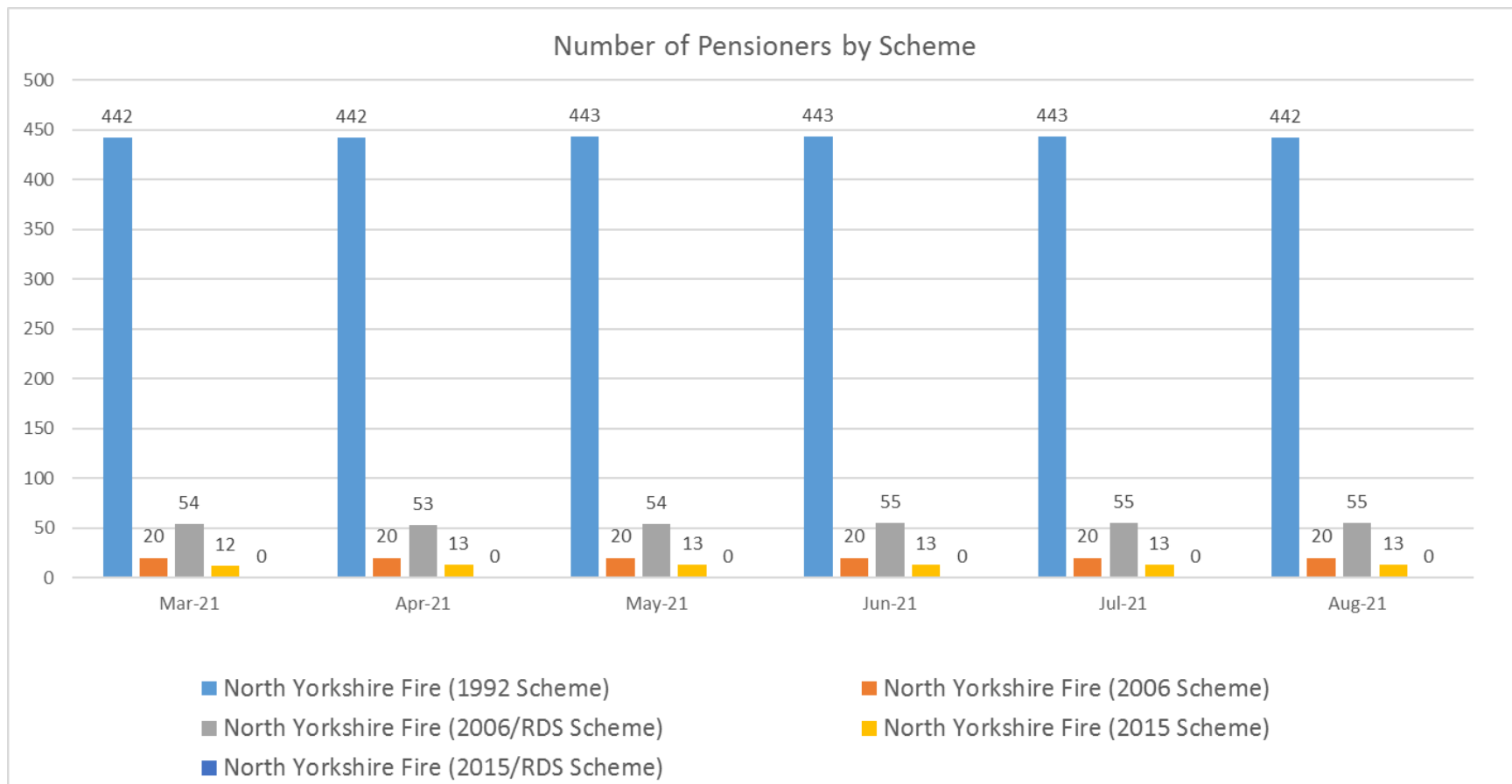
7.0 Membership Numbers

Scheme Name	Active Members	Deferred Members	Pensioners	Beneficiaries	Preserved Refund	Leavers Options Pending
North Yorkshire Fire (1992 Scheme)	24	28	442	84	0	0
North Yorkshire Fire (2006 Scheme)	6	146	20	2	1	0
North Yorkshire Fire (2006/RDS Scheme)	11	25	55	2	0	0
North Yorkshire Fire (2015 Scheme)	585	216	13	3	10	1
North Yorkshire Fire (2015/RDS Scheme)	28	2	0	0	0	0









8.0 Five Year Audit Plan 2019 – 2024

West Yorkshire Pension Fund Five Year Audit Plan 2019 - 2024	Frequency	Last Audit	Recommendations	Days	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	Total
Annual Accounts Verification	Annual	Jul 18	1	10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Audits Per Year					1	1	1	1	1	5
Benefits										
Local Government Scheme Contributions	2 Yearly	Nov 18	0	20			✓		✓	
New Pensions and Lump Sums - WYPF										
- Normal and Early Retirements	5 Yearly	Mar 15	0	25	✓					
- Death in Service, Post Retirement Widow and Dependent Benefits	5 Yearly	Mar 17	0	20			✓			
- Ill Health Pensions	5 Yearly	Oct 13	2	20					✓	
- Flexible Retirements	5 Yearly	Apr 16	1	20		✓				
- Deferred Pensions	5 Yearly	Mar 18	0	20				✓		
Transfers Out	3 Yearly	Nov 17	0	20		✓				
Transfers In	3 Yearly	Sep 16	2	20	✓		✓			
Reimbursement of Agency Payments	5 Yearly	Mar 18	2	15				✓		
Life Certificates	5 Yearly	Oct 15	0	15		✓				
AVC Arrangements	5 Yearly	Sep 17	0	15				✓		
Admission of New Bodies	5 Yearly	Jan 15	0	20	✓					
Pensioners Payroll	2.5 years	Mar 16	3	20		✓			✓	
Purchase of Additional Pension	5 Yearly	Mar 17	1	15			✓			
Annual Benefits Statements	2.5 years	Oct 16	0	20	✓			✓		
New Pensions and Lump Sums - Fire Service	3 Yearly	Jul 18	1	15		✓			✓	
Audits Per Year					4	5	4	4	4	21

9.0 Overriding Disclosure Time Limits

Disclosure Requirement	Time Limit	Number of breaches in month
Material alterations to basic scheme information	Within 3 months of the change taking effect	0
Transfer Credits (quote)	Within 2 months	0
Annual Benefit Statements	By 31 August each year	0
Annual Benefit Statement (upon request)	Within 2 months of request, if not already provided within previous 12 months	0
Deferred Benefit Statements	By 31 August each year	0
Deferred Benefit Statement (upon request)	Within 2 months of request, if not already provided within previous 12 months	0
Pension Savings Statements	By 6 October each year	0
Cash Equivalent Transfer Value Out	Within 3 months of request	0
Accessing Benefits before Normal Pension Age	2 month of benefits becoming payable	0
Accessing Benefits on or after Normal Pension Age	1 month of benefits becoming payable	0
Notification of Deferred Benefit entitlement	2 months of being notified of leaver	0

Divorce Time limits

Type of request	Time limit	Number of breaches in month
Request for divorce information only.	3 months from receipt of the request.	0
Request for divorce information where you are notified that the information is required in connection with divorce proceedings that have already commenced.	6 weeks from receipt of the request.	0
Request for divorce information where a Court Order imposes a deadline.	Within the deadline specified by the Court.	0
Request for divorce information where you are notified that a Pension Sharing Order may be issued.	Within 21 days of receiving notification that a Pension Sharing Order may be issued or a date outside 21 days as specified by the Court.	0
Where the request is for information which does not include a Cash Equivalent Transfer Value.	1 month from receipt of the request.	0
Pension Sharing Order received but some information* and/or charges are still outstanding.	A letter to both parties needs to be sent out within 21 days of receiving the Order to explain the Order cannot be implemented and request the missing information and/or charges.	0
Pension Sharing Order received including all relevant information* and charges.	A letter** must be sent to both parties within 21 days of the start of the implementation period notifying them of the deadline.	0
Pension Sharing Order Received including all relevant information and charges.	4 months to implement the Order of the date of receipt of the final information which allows calculation	0
PSO has been implemented.	A letter* must be sent to both parties within 21 days of implementing the PSO to notify both parties their entitlement.	0

