

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors of The Skipton Fund Limited held at 15:00 on 28 March 2017 at Alliance House, 12 Caxton Street, London, SW1H 0QS

Present:	Mr P Stevens Professor G Dusheiko Mr P Spellman Professor H Thomas	Chairman Director Director Director (present via telephone link)
In attendance:	Mr N Fish	Scheme Administrator

B1.17 Apologies for absence
There were no absentees.

B2.17 Minutes of the previous meeting
The minutes of the meeting held on 8 March 2016 were signed as a correct record.

B3.17 Matters arising
B13.16 – The Scheme Administrator reported that no further correspondence had been received regarding Arm's Length Bodies Off Payroll Compliance.
B14.16 – The Scheme Administrator reported that the Finance Manager had carried out the necessary work and that the Company was now de-registered for VAT.

B4.17 Payment statistics and forecast (for March) to 31 March 2017
The payment statistics and March forecast were noted. These did not include the new payments that had been made which would be included in the final accounts.

B5.17 Department of Health consultation: Infected blood: Government Response to Consultation on Reform of Financial and Other Support. Published 13 July 2016.
The Board discussed the new payments that had been introduced following the Government's consultation response and asked the Scheme Administrator how many of each type of payment had been made. The Scheme Administrator reported on the approximate number of payments that had been made in each category and that the office had been extremely busy since November as a result. The Board expressed their thanks to the Scheme Administrator and Company staff for processing the large volume of additional payments with seemingly little impact on existing work. The Scheme Administrator reported that announcements had been made in Wales and Northern

Ireland introducing the same payments as in England and that the majority of these had also now been paid.

B6.17 Contaminated Blood: Financial Support: Conclusions and Recommendations (Scotland)

The Board noted the new payments announced by the Scottish Government and that many of these had now been processed through the Company. The Scheme Administrator reported that the new scheme in Scotland had been established and that payments to those infected in Scotland were due to be made by the new scheme from 1 April 2017. Consents to share data had been sent to all those whose contact details had been verified and relevant data had been passed to the Scottish scheme in all cases where an applicant had provided their consent.

B7.17 Department of Health consultation - Infected blood: Consultation on Special Category Mechanism and financial and other support in England. Published 6 March 2017.

The Board noted the main points of the Department of Health's latest consultation. A discussion ensued about the possible addition of Membranoproliferative glomerulonephritis (MPGN) to the qualifying criteria for the additional payment. Professor Thomas felt that the number of new applications as a result of this condition would be small. The Scheme Administrator reported that there had been no enquiries about this condition since joining the Company in 2004.

The Board expressed their concerns about the Special Category Mechanism (SCM) policy and how difficult it would be to administer due to the subjective nature of the qualifying criteria. They felt that some sort of grading system would be helpful but that a budgetary ceiling and unknown number of likely applicants would add to the difficulty.

The Board expressed their surprise and disappointment that the NHS Business Services Authority had been announced as the successor to the Company from 1 October 2017. At this stage there was little detail known about the transition to the new scheme but it was agreed that further board meetings in the coming months would likely be necessary. The Board made reference to the ongoing legal challenges that were being brought against the Secretary of State for Health and felt that there may yet be further developments.

B8.17 Management Costs Budget for the year commencing 1 April 2017

The Board noted that a management costs budget for the year commencing 1 April 2017 would be circulated by email in due course. Following the discussions during the previous agenda item, the budget would be for six months only.

B9.17

Appeals Panel

The Board noted the Appeals Panel statistics. The Scheme Administrator reported that the appeal success rate continued to be low following the appointment of medical directors to the Company and that no stage 2 deferrals had been overturned to date. The final meeting of the Appeals Panel in its current form would take place on 24 July 2017.

B10.17

Any other business

The Chairman notified the Board that a draft of the Director's report would be sent in due course and that it would include reference to all the additional work that had been carried out as a result of the Departmental changes to the scheme.

Mr P Spellman asked that if a funding shortfall were to materialise towards the end of the final quarter whether the Company would cease making payments or invoice the Department of Health for further funds. The Chairman confirmed that an invoice for additional funds would be submitted.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 16:00