

Civil Partnership

The Civil Partnership Act came into effect on 5 December 2005. It allows same-sex couples to register a Civil Partnership, giving legal recognition of their relationship, and rights and obligations similar to those of married couples.

The survivor pension for a registered civil partner is half the member's pension based on membership from 6 April 1988 only. Any member of the 1995 Section of the HSC Pension Scheme with membership before 6 April 1988 has a time limited opportunity to buy an increased survivor pension for their registered civil partner. This option is available until 30 June 2009 and more information can be found in the Increased Survivor Pension Cover Factsheet.

In the event of an HSC pensioner forming a registered civil partnership after they have claimed their HSC benefits, they are requested to write and inform HSC Pension Service, enclosing their original civil partnership certificate. We will then confirm the potential survivor pension due to their civil partner.

If the scheme member retired before 1 April 2008, a survivor pension will be withdrawn if they:

- Re-marry;
- Live in partnership with someone else in a relationship either akin to marriage or a civil partnership; or
- They form a new civil partnership.

For retirements after 1 April 2008, the survivor pension is paid for life regardless of the civil partner's living arrangements.