

Special Classes Factsheet – 1995 Section only

1995 section

Certain groups of staff who were members of the Scheme before 1 April 1995 are known as the special classes. They are:

Nurses, physiotherapists, midwives, and health visitors

Student nurses and occupational health nurses are included in the above but nursery nurses and physiotherapy helpers are not included

Female members of the special classes are entitled to retire with benefits from age 55, provided that their last 5 years membership prior to retirement is in one of these jobs.

Men in any of these jobs can retire from age 55 provided that their last 5 years membership prior to retirement is in one of these jobs, but their benefits will only be based on their membership from 17 May 1990. Benefits for membership before that date will not be paid until age 60 unless the member applies to take a reduction in these benefits.

Mental Health Officers (MHOs)

Mental health officers means a person, male or female, who:

- is working in an approved place used for the treatment of patients suffering from mental disorders, and
- is employed for the whole or almost the whole of their time in the direct treatment of care of those patients.

A MHO with at least 20 years MHO membership may:

- retire with benefits from age 55 provided they are still in a MHO job, and
- count each year of MHO membership over 20 years as 2 years for benefit purposes.

These special rights only apply to Scheme members who were in any of these jobs before 1 April 1995, and who:

- have not had a break of 5 or more years in any pensionable NHS employment, and
- satisfy the special class or MHO conditions.

Special class status will not apply to anyone who starts working in one of these jobs for the first time on or after 1 April 1995.