

Refund of Contributions – Member FAQ's

Q. Can I have a refund for my current employment, which is less than 2 years, if I already have over 2 year's pensionable membership in previous HSC employment?

A. No. If you are a member of the 1995 Section where all HSC pensionable employments are counted when assessing whether a member is entitled to a refund. Once you have reached a total of 2 years qualifying membership a refund is no longer available. If you are a member of the 2008 Section and your previous pensionable membership is deferred in the 1995 Section then it may be possible to have a refund of the contributions you have made in the 2008 Section.

Q. Can I rejoin the Scheme after I have had a refund?

A. Yes, you can rejoin the Scheme after a 24-hour break. If you rejoin within a month this can have an effect on subsequent refund requests.

Q. Can I have another refund even though I have previously had membership refunded?

A. If you have less than 2 years membership refunded it is possible to have later membership that is less than 2 years, refunded as well. If the break in membership is less than 1 month, then the previous refunded membership is calculated with the new membership and may result in total membership of over 2 years.

Example:-

Date of First Employment:

01/01/2005 to 31/12/2005 – this period of membership is 1 year and is refundable.

Date of Second Employment:

05/01/2006 to 05/07/2007 – this period of employment is 1 year 6 months but the member returned to pensionable employment within

1 month. Even though they have had a refund of their first period of membership a further refund is not possible because both periods must be counted and are over 2 years in total.

Q Do I get my employers contributions as well?

A. No. You will receive normally between a half and two thirds of your contributions paid.

Q. Why do I not get all of my contributions returned?

A. When contributions are paid to the Scheme they are deducted from a member's salary BEFORE any deductions are made (ie Tax and National Insurance). When the refund is paid we must make deductions for Tax and National Insurance.

Q. Can I still pay into the scheme with one employer and claim a refund back from another?

A. No. A refund can only be made if a member has opted out of or left all pensionable HSC employments. The exception to this is when a person has jobs that equate to more than whole time and in this case an employer locally refunds the amount exceeding whole time.

Q. How long does a refund take to pay?

A. Once an employer has submitted the form HSC Pension Service will make payment to your bank account within 10 working days. However, if it is necessary to contact your employer for more details needed for the refund calculation, it can extend the procedure by several weeks.

Q. Are the Employers Contributions refundable?

A. Employer's pension contributions are not refunded. The balance of the Scheme's funding is dependent on the employers' contributions remaining in the Scheme.