



HSC Pension Service

Provided by



Business Services Organisation

EMPLOYER TECHNICAL UPDATE

CONTENTS

1. Foreword
2. Public Service Pension Schemes Consultation -
Reminder
3. Final Pay Controls - Reminder
4. Annual Allowance & Annual Benefit Statements
5. HSC Coronavirus Life Assurance Scheme
6. Contact Us



HSC (P) 04-20-21

Sep 2020

1. Foreword

The ETU provides some timely reminders in relation to the Public Service Pension Schemes Consultation and Final Pay control Charges.

The consultation has been launched to seek views from relevant stakeholders on how to address discrimination in public service pension schemes made under the Public Service Pensions (Northern Ireland) Act 2014. The consultation is run by Department of Finance and is due to close on 18/11/2020

Final Pay Controls are a feature of the 1995 section of the HSC Pension Scheme where employers are liable for increased pension costs as the result of a retiree having increases to the pensionable pay in either of their last 3 years of pension scheme members which exceed the allowable amount. In some cases these charges can be quite high.

2020 Annual Benefit Statements (ABS) are now available for viewing on the Member Self Service (MSS) portal and Annual Allowance information will be available from 06th October.

The Department of Health has recently announced the launch of the HSC Coronavirus Life Assurance Scheme providing a life assurance lump sum cover for staff who are performing vital frontline HSC or social care work during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

2. Public Service Pension Schemes Consultation - Reminder

The Department of Finance has recently launched their consultation on proposals to remedy discrimination in the main unfunded public service pension schemes made under the Public Service Pensions (Northern Ireland) Act 2014.

A copy of the consultation is available on the DOF website and can be accessed by clicking the following link:

<https://www.finance-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-proposed-changes-transitional-arrangements-2015-schemes>

The consultation is asking for views on the choices offered to pension scheme members and will run for 12 weeks and will close at midnight on Wednesday 18 November 2020. Responses can be submitted by email to: **DoFpensionspolicy@finance-ni.gov.uk**

Alternatively, responses can be sent by post to:

Public Service Pensions, Policy and Legislation Branch
Pensions Division
Department of Finance
Waterside House
75 Duke Street
Londonderry
BT47 6FP



2. Public Service Pension Schemes Consultation - cont

Any questions or requests for further information pertaining to the consultation should be directed to Department of Finance at the address above.

Action for Employers: Please ensure that notification of the consultation has been brought to the attention of staff/scheme members and other stakeholders who will have an interest.

3. Final Pay Controls - Reminder

Final Pay Controls are only applicable to members of the 1995 Section or transitional 1995/2015 CARE Scheme members who retain the Final Salary link in relation to their 1995 Scheme benefits.

If a member receives an increase to pensionable pay that exceeds the allowable amount in any of the three years prior to their last day of service, the employing authority that awarded the excess pay will be liable for a Final Pay Control charge which can be quite considerable.

Detailed information on Final Pay Control rules can be found on the [Final Pay Control factsheet](#)

Action for Employers: Ensure all relevant Managers, HR and Finance Personnel are aware of the implications of Final Pay Control

4. Annual Allowance & Annual Benefit Statements

The 2020 Annual Benefit Statements are now available for Scheme members to view on the Members Self Service (MSS) Portal.

Annual Allowance dataviews for the year 2019/20 will be available for viewing on the MSS Portal from 06th October 2020

Members can access the MSS Portal by clicking [here](#).

Action for Employers: Inform staff of the information available.



5. HSC Coronavirus Life Assurance Scheme

The Minister for Health has announced that staff who are performing vital frontline HSC or social care work during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak may be eligible for a life assurance scheme, recognising the increased risks they are currently facing.

In the event of a staff member dying due to COVID-19 a lump sum payment of £60,000 will be made to their estate, if they meet the qualifying work-related criteria for the scheme. The scheme is non-contributory, meaning there is no cost to staff or employers.

The Health and Social Care Coronavirus Life Assurance Scheme is independent of the HSC Pension Scheme. Any lump sum or pension benefits payable to the relatives or dependents of HSC Pension Scheme members will continue to be processed and paid as before. The scheme will be administered by the HSC Pension Service Pension Liaison Team. Further details regarding the life assurance scheme, including the benefit claim form, will be made available on the HSC Pension Service website.

Action for Employers: Ensure Human Resources staff are aware of the scheme and have in place an officer/team to liaise with HSC Pension Service in the event of any claims.



6. Contact Us

By writing to us at:-

HSC Pension Service

Waterside House

75 Duke Street

Londonderry

BT47 6FP

By Telephone: 028 7131 9111

Due to COVID-19 we are operating on temporary cover

10.00 am to 12.00pm / 2.00 pm to 4.00pm - Monday to Thursday

10.00 am to 12.00pm - Friday



Find us on Twitter - @hscpensions



Find us on Facebook - HSC Pension Service

If you have any suggestions for the newsletter or would like a particular topic covered in future publications please do not hesitate in contacting us by emailing: hscpensions@hscni.net

