**Public Service Pensions - Consultation:**

* The Department of Finance is currently consulting on proposals to fix age related discrimination identified in the transitional arrangements of the 2015 public service pensions’ reforms.

* This consultation will come to an end on 18 November and you are encouraged to have your say.
* **Individuals do not need to make any decisions on their own pension arrangements at this point**, DoF is simply seeking your views on the best way to remove the discrimination.

**What does it say?**

* The consultation explains that under **both proposals** affected individuals **will receive a choice** of which pension scheme they would prefer to be in for the period in which the discrimination took place; this is between 1 April 2015 and 31 March 2022.
* The consultation is seeking views on **when** members should be given that choice.
* The proposals set out that this will either be **shortly after implementation (i.e. from 2022 onwards)** **or** **when individuals reach retirement**. Further details of both options including the advantages and disadvantages of both are set out in the consultation.
* After 2022, **all** members will automatically be moved into the reformed schemes regardless of their age.

**Who is affected?**

* Anyone can respond to the consultation, but DoF especially encourages those who are affected to share their views.
* To help individuals understand whether they are affected by these changes, the diagram below sets out the criteria.

Were you in service as a member of a public service pension scheme on or before 31 March 2012 and on or after 1 April 2015?

**No**

**Yes**

You are not affected (unless you held a right to return within 5 years to your previous scheme on 31 March 2012).

Have you retired or are you planning to retire (including partially) before 1 April 2022?

**Yes**

**No**

You will receive a choice between old and new scheme benefits for service between 2015 and your retirement date.

You will receive a choice between old and new scheme benefits for service over the period 2015-22.

**What happens next?**

* Once the consultation closes on the **18 November**, DoF will consider all responses and **publish its response** in due course.
* Please be assured that if you are a member who is already being affected by this, i.e. retired, part retired, or suffering ill-health, your case will be prioritised. HSC Pension Service will be in contact as soon as they are able to process cases.