



HSC Pension Service

Business Services Organisation

Provided by

HSC Pension Service

**Welcome to the
HSC Pension Service
Member Newsletter**



This newsletter is for all active and deferred members of the HSC Pension Schemes and contains important information about your HSC Pension Scheme Benefits

Dec 2023



Department of Health Consultation

The Department of Health is consulting on amendments to the Regulations that provide the rules for the HSC Pension Schemes. The Consultation will run from 14th November 2023 until 5pm on 22nd January 2024.

In summary, the proposals amend the HSC Pension Scheme Regulations as follows:

- Changes to the member contribution structure from 1 April 2024
- Changes to the employer contribution rate from 1 April 2024
- Changes to abatement provisions for special class status (SCS) members
- Changes to scheme access policy

The Department would welcome views on the proposals set out in the document. Details of how to respond can be found in the Consultation document linked below.

[doh-hscp-bp2-consultation-document.pdf \(health-ni.gov.uk\)](https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/doh-hscp-bp2-consultation-document.pdf)

Annual Allowance 2022-23

HSC Pension Service usually inform members by the 6th of October each year if the total pension input from their HSC Pension Scheme benefits exceeds the Standard Annual Allowance. However, due to the McCloud Remedy the 2022/23 Annual Allowance information will not be calculated by this date for all of our members. For those members not impacted by the McCloud Remedy, HSC Pension Service have calculated their 2022/23 Annual Allowance and published this to their Member Self Service (MSS) account and informed them if they had exceeded the Standard Annual Allowance by the 6th October 2023.

For those members impacted by McCloud, HSC Pension Service will not be calculating or issuing 2022/23 Annual Allowance information for the 6th October 2023. HMRC have extended this deadline from 6th October 2023 to 6th October 2024 to allow Schemes time to recalculate and issue Remedial Pension Savings Statements for the Remedy period and then calculate the 2022/23 Annual Allowance Pension Savings Statements.

A member will be impacted by the McCloud Remedy if they were a member of a public service pension scheme on or before 31st March 2012 and still a member on or after 1st April 2015 with continuous pensionable service.

For those members impacted by the McCloud Remedy and therefore will not receive their 2022/23 Annual Allowance figures by the 6th October 2023, HMRC have confirmed that members will not need to report any Annual Allowance charge for 2022/23 on their Self-Assessment Tax Return by the 31st January 2024 deadline but members must still complete and submit a Self-Assessment Return to report and pay any other tax charge they may be liable for by 31st January 2024.

If you have any queries please contact the Annual Allowance Team by emailing:

AAQueries@hscni.net



Proposed Pension Flexibilities

HSC Pension Service are receiving a high volume of enquiries requesting information on the proposed flexibilities including partial retirement which was consulted on by the Department of Health (DoH).

At present we are waiting on the DoH to publish the outcome of the consultation and to provide us with details if and when the proposed flexibilities may be introduced. When confirmation is received from DoH, HSC Pension Service will update members through the Member Newsletters and the Scheme Website.

Until such information becomes available we must continue to apply the scheme regulations as is, which means that Partial Retirement is not yet available under the 1995 Section of the Scheme.

Lump Sum Choice at Retirement

If you are considering converting a proportion of your pension to increase the value of your Tax Free Lump Sum you should access the [Pension Calculators](#) available on the Scheme Website which will provide you with quotations.

You will make your choice at Part 6 of the AW6 pension application form. This should be completed in full prior to the submission of your application to avoid any delays in the payment of your benefits.

If you are in any doubt regarding your options you should seek the assistance of an Independent Financial Adviser.

Important: HSC Pensions Service will not be able to amend your decision regarding the commutation of pension to take a tax free lump sum once the benefit has been paid.

Please note that final pension calculations cannot be processed until the month that they are due and you will not receive your final award letter until this has been completed e.g. if your last day of service is 31/03/2024 your pension is due from 01/04/2024 and will be processed in April.





Contact Us:

By writing to us at:-

HSC Pension Service
Waterside House
75 Duke Street
Londonderry
BT47 6FP

Via e- mail at:- hscpensions@hscni.net

By Telephone: 02871319111

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

10.00 am to 12.00pm - Friday

Please note there will be no telephone service from Mon 25th Dec until Wed 27th Dec 2023 or Mon 1st Jan 2024



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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: john.coyle@hscni.net

