



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



Annual Benefit Statements

The exercise to issue Annual Benefit Statements (ABS) to members by the 31st August 2016 has been delayed. It is proposed to roll out the delivery of statements from late October 2016. It is anticipated that the exercise will be completed by December 2016.

Members will be able to access their further ABS's through the Member Self-Service facility (MSS). Details of how to access the MSS Facility will be included in the documentation accompanying your 2016 statement

An ABS will provide you with an overview of your pension benefits based on information provided to HSC Pension Service as at 31 March each year.

It will include information such as: Pension Benefits accrued, the value of any Lump sum accrued, Pensionable Service used in the calculation and Survivor Pension/Death benefits payable in the event of your death.

Choice 2 Exercise

In 2009 members of the 1995 section of the HSC Pension Scheme were given an option to move their accrued benefits to the 2008 section of the scheme, this was known as Choice. Further to the impact of Pension Reform, and in particular the increase on retirement age, this choice (Choice 2) is again being offered to active members who are affected by a change in their retirement age. Letters are due to be issued to the affected members in the Autumn and further information and guidance is available on the [Choice 2](#) section of the website.

To be eligible for Choice 2 a member must:

Have been an active member of the 1995 Section of the HSC Pension Scheme on 31 March 2015 and

Have Tapered Protection or no protection

Benefit Application

Process

If you are nearing or considering retirement you should contact your employer at least 4 months in advance of your actual retirement date.

This will allow you, your employer and Payroll Shared Services the time to ensure that all relevant documentation can be collated, completed and forwarded to HSC Pension Service in order to guarantee accurate and timely payment of your pension benefits.

Partial Retirement

Partial Retirement is a feature of the 2008 section & 2015 HSC Pension Scheme only. This facility allows active Scheme members (with the support of their employer) to claim a portion of accrued benefits whilst still continuing in pensionable employment. The member is required to have a change to their terms & conditions of their continuing employment and a reduction in pensionable earnings of at least 10%.

Further information on Partial Retirement can be found on the [Partial Retirement Factsheet](#) available on the scheme website.



Transferring in other Pension Benefits

If you have recently joined the HSC Pension Scheme you may be able to transfer in pension benefits you may have built up with a previous employer or through a private pension scheme.

There are strict deadlines on the time limits you have to transfer in other pension benefits. All transfer requests must be made in writing within one year of you joining the HSC pension scheme otherwise your request will be rejected as it is outside the statutory limits.

If you were employed by the NHS in England, Scotland or Wales any pension benefits you built up there **DO NOT** automatically transfer to HSC pension Scheme in Northern Ireland. You must apply to us in writing to initiate the transfer process.

You can find out more about transferring your pension benefits at the following link

<http://www.hscpensions.hscni.net/scheme-guides/>

Protection of Pensionable Pay

There are two provisions under which a member can protect their pensionable pay in the 1995/2008 sections of the scheme:

Protection of pay through no fault of the member (1995/2008 Sections of the Scheme), and Voluntary Protection of Pay (1995 Section only). Protection of Pay allows a member to apply to have their pension benefits calculated and protected at their higher rate of pay providing they meet the criteria which can be viewed on the [Protection of Pay & Voluntary Protection of Pay Factsheet](#).



LTA Protection

HMRC has launched a new online service for pension scheme members who wish to apply for protection from the lifetime allowance tax charge.

As outlined in HMRC's '[pension schemes newsletter 80](#)', the online service replaces the previous HMRC processes available to individuals who apply for fixed protection 2016, individual protection 2016, and individual protection 2014.

Further information, and links to the HMRC portal where scheme members can use the LTA online services, are provided in HMRC guidance: [pension schemes:protect your lifetime allowance](#):



HSC Pension Benefit Calculators

Members can access on-line calculators on our website <http://www.hscpensions.hscni.net/calculators/> to assist you with estimating pension benefits. The calculators are designed to be user friendly and allows members to calculate the value of benefits by entering a few simple figures, i.e. your pensionable pay figure and length of service for the 1995 & 2008 sections of the scheme, your salary and date of birth for the 2015 scheme. Please note, the results depend entirely on the figures you use so you need to be careful about their accuracy. Results produced are for **illustration purposes only** and under no circumstances should be taken as a guarantee of what benefits you may receive on your retirement.

Deferred Benefits

If you have deferred benefits in the HSC Pension Scheme you can access these benefits as follows:

In the 1995 section of the scheme if you left pensionable employment before 30/06/2000 you can access your benefits at age 60.

If you left pensionable employment after 30/06/2000 you can access your benefits from age 50 at a reduced rate or wait until 60 to claim them at their full value..

In the 2008 Section of the scheme you can access your full benefits at age 65 or at a reduced rate from age 55

Personal Details

Have you moved house, has your partnership status changed? If any of your details have changed, then please let your employer know as soon as possible so that they can update your records. If you are a deferred member then please contact HSC Pension Service directly with your new details. Having your correct details helps us to process your benefit application and contact you quickly should we need to.

Added Years/Additional Pension/ERRBO Contracts

If you are currently contributing to an Added Years/Additional Pension or an ERRBO contract and move between employers, you should contact Payroll Shared Services Centre to ensure the continuity of your contractual payment. If you fail to pay the additional contributions due, your benefits will be reduced accordingly and the contract may be terminated.



Workshops

HSC Pension Service will be rolling out pension awareness workshops in the coming months for members of the scheme. The workshops will be tailored to target specific membership groups including:

- Protected 1995 Scheme Members
- Protected 2008 Scheme Members
- Transitional 1995/2015 Scheme Members
- Transitional 2008/2015 Scheme Members
- Transitional 1995 MHO Status Scheme Members
- Transitional 1995 special class members.
- Members affected by HMRC Limits
- 2015 scheme members.

You will receive communication from your employer shortly advising when the workshops will be delivered, the location, and the one appropriate to you. If you wish to find out information about your Pension Scheme, its features and benefits, you should ensure you attend the appropriate workshop.

Contact Us:

By writing to us at:-

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www.hscpensions.hscni.net/

028 7131 9111

9.00am to 5.00pm – Monday to Thursday;

9.00am to 12.00pm Friday



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