



HSC Pension Service

*Provided by ....*



Business Services Organisation

# EMPLOYER TECHNICAL UPDATE

## CONTENTS

- 1. Executive Summary**
- 2. COVID - 19 - HSC Pension Scheme Changes**
- 3. Contact Us**



HSC (P) 05-20

March 2020

# 1. Executive Summary

This ETU provides HSC Employers with details of the temporary change in HSC Pension Scheme legislation to allow recently retired staff to return to HSC Employment with immediate effect without the need to adhere to the 16 hours per week rule and to temporarily suspend the abatement rules for Special Class Members of the 1995 section of the Scheme to help cope with the COVID-19 pandemic.

# 2. COVID - 19 - HSC Pension Scheme Changes

The Government is currently proposing emergency powers to help deal with the COVID-19 pandemic.

The UK Government's Coronavirus Action Plan, published 3<sup>rd</sup> March, set out measures to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. The plan also envisaged that changes to legislation might be necessary in order to give public bodies across the UK the tools and powers they need to carry out an effective response to this emergency.

A key area of this legislation enables action to increase the available HSC workforce by removing barriers to allow recently retired HSC staff to come back to work and tackle the outbreak.

The legislation announced on 17<sup>th</sup> March temporarily suspends the 16-hour rule which currently prevents staff who return to work after retirement from the HSC Pension Scheme from working more than 16 hours per week in the first four weeks after retirement.

It will also temporarily suspend abatement for special class status holders in the 1995 section of the Scheme, as well as the requirement for staff in the 2008 Section and 2015 HSC Pension Scheme to reduce their pensionable pay by 10% if they elect to 'draw down' a portion of their benefits and continue working.

These measures will allow skilled and experienced staff who have recently retired from the HSC to return to work, and they will also allow retired staff who have already returned to work to increase their commitments if required, without having their pension benefits abated. This will provide valuable capacity to the HSC should it be needed.

## Action for Employers

1. Inform relevant staff within your organisation responsible for recruitment of staff of this temporary change in legislation.
2. Keep detailed records of all recently retired staff returning to work to assist with the containment of COVID-19 who are affected by this change in legislation. This record should be shared with HSC Pension Service.



## 2. COVID - 19 - HSC Pension Scheme Changes - cont

3. Keep detailed records of all Special Class members of the 1995 section of the Scheme normally affected by abatement who are increasing their hours of work to assist with the containment of COVID-19 who are affected by this change in legislation.
4. Inform Payroll Shared Services immediately of the names of recently retired staff returning to work to assist with the containment of COVID-19.

Please find links for Coronavirus Action Plan

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-action-plan>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-bill-what-it-will-do/what-the-coronavirus-bill-will-do>



### 3. 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](mailto:hscpensions@hscni.net)

**By Telephone:** 028 7131 9111 (9.00am to 4.00pm – Monday to Thursday; 9.00am 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](mailto:hscpensions@hscni.net)

