



HSC Pension Service

Provided by



Business Services Organisation

EMPLOYER NEWSLETTER

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HSC (P) 03-20

Sep 2020

1. Submission of AW6 - at least 3 months in advance

All Pension benefit applications i.e. AW6 forms should be submitted to HSC Pension Service by the Employer no less than 3 months prior to the planned retirement date.

If you are assisting a member of staff through the retirement process, HSC Pension Service would appreciate it if you could inform them that the AW6 should be submitted to HR 4 months in advance of the proposed retirement date

This allows ample time for the AW6 to go through the various stages e.g. HR/PPT and minimises the risk of pension benefits not being paid on time.

Members sometimes wrongly assume that they need to have a One to One with HSC Pensions prior to submitting their AW6. HR should reiterate that this is not a requirement for retirement.

2. New Joiner Questionnaire

Employers must ensure that if you have a new member of staff or a member who changes jobs and subsequently is allocated a new staff/payroll number that those members complete a New Joiner Questionnaire or Re-Joiner form. This is particularly important for rotational doctors who can change employers on a regular basis.

The New Joiner Questionnaire/Re-joiner Form captures important information pertaining to their membership of the HSC Pension Scheme, for example, was the member contributing to an added years, additional pension or ERRBO contract. If a member moves jobs and starts up a new employment with a new staff number, Payroll Shared Services will not be aware of any additional pensionable contracts which were set up in a previous employment and which may be running alongside standard pension contributions.

HSC Pension Service has recently been contacted by a number of Scheme members who were unaware that payment of additional contributions they had been making in purchasing added years had ceased as a result of their moving jobs. This has resulted in a significant build-up of arrears owing to the scheme.



3. Final Pay Control

Final Pay Controls are only applicable to members of the 1995 Section and 1995/2015 Transitional Scheme members who retain their Final Salary link in relation to their 1995 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.

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

It is important that the senior Finance staff are aware of this rule as some charges will be quite significant.

4. Coronavirus Act 2020 - Change to Pension Legislation

A number of employers have recently contacted HSC Pension Service to enquire about the suspension of some scheme regulations as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic.

These suspensions are still in place and will remain in place until further notice is provided by the Government. HSC Pension Service will inform employers once any changes are to be made.

The said regulations which are temporarily suspended are as follows:

Omission of Regulation 84 of The Health and Personal Social Services (Superannuation) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 and equivalent in 2008 & 2015 Schemes

The omission of this regulation broadly means that the rule restricting recent retirees from working any more than 16 hours per week in HSC Employment in the first month following their retirement is no longer applicable.

Amendment of Regulation 85 of The Health and Personal Social Services (Superannuation) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995

The amendment of this regulation broadly means that members of the HSC Pension Scheme who retired whilst holding Special Class Status will temporarily have the restriction on their earnings allowed on re-employment with the HSC removed.



5. HSC Pension Service Workshops & One to Ones

HSC Pension Service has relaunched the delivery of pension workshops for scheme members.

Given that the COVID 19 pandemic is still with us, we will have to approach these in a different manner. The new workshops will be both face to face with a much smaller audience (possibly up to a maximum of 10 if the room can facilitate) and using Zoom to an audience of up to 30.

We would ask you to review the dates we have agreed with you for your organisation and possibly source a room which is able to hold up to 12 people including myself and one colleague adhering to social distancing measures. We will restrict numbers further if rooms cannot facilitate.

At this point we would ask you to contact the Pension Liaison Team, Erin.mcnamara@hscni.net or john.coyle@hscni.net for further information and arrangements.



6. 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: 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



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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: hscpensions@hscni.net

