



HSC Pension Service

Provided by



Business Services Organisation

EMPLOYER NEWSLETTER

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Sep 2021

1. Coronavirus Act 2020 - Change to Legislation

Following the introduction of the Coronavirus Act 2020 a number of temporary suspensions were made to the HSC Pension Scheme Regulations. These suspensions are listed and summarised below.

- 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from working any more than 16 hours per week in HSC Employment in the first month following their retirement is no longer applicable.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.

These amended regulations remain in place until notice is given by the Government. HSC Pension Service will inform employers once any changes are to be made.

2. Public Sector Pension Scheme Consultation (McCloud)

Following the publication by the Department of Finance to the recent Public Sector Pension Schemes Consultation, HSC Pension Service has distributed information and FAQ's which will help employers and scheme members better understand the outcomes of the consultation. This document can be found [here](#)

HSC Pension Service staff are now delivering information sessions to all HSC Pension Scheme Members to provide information on the recent Public Sector Pension Scheme Consultation and the changes to the HSC Pension Scheme which will be introduced from 01st April 2022.

If you receive any questions or queries from scheme members regarding the outcome of the consultation and/or what changes are proposed from 01/04/2022 please refer them to the relevant section of the scheme website at the link above.

3. Bank/Casual Employments (3 month rule)

Both Employers and scheme members should be aware of the rules surrounding membership of the scheme for Bank/Casual employees.

The pensionable start date of any bank post is the first day the member actually performs any duties and pays contributions, not the date they joined the bank. A bank employee's pension record may remain open, even if they do not work, for up to a period of three months only.

If the break exceeds three months, the pensionable employment must be closed down on the last day the member actually worked, the employee will then not be eligible for certain 'in scheme' benefits such as Death in Service Lump Sum Payment.



4. Annual Benefit Statements 2021

We are happy to say that, even with the current limitations in place due to COVID-19, HSC Pensions Annual Benefit Statements for 31st March 2021 are now available on the Member Self-Service (MSS). These statements are not posted out to members and must be accessed online.

We would ask that Employers encourage all members who have not yet registered for MSS to do so as soon as possible. To register go to <https://mypension.hscni.net/>

5. Annual Allowance for 5th April 2021

Annual Allowance details for 5th April 2021 will be available to view on the Member Self Service (MSS) portal by 6th October 2021 and we will have contacted those who have breached the standard £40,000 allowance only i.e. we will not take into account tapered allowance.

If you are approaching retirement and wish to use Scheme Pays for a tax charge we must receive the Scheme Pays Election form prior to your retirement date.

If you fall into the category below please contact aaqueries@hscni.net.
If you are;

- Retiring before October AND
- Will most likely have a breach of Annual Allowance AND
- Wish to avail of Scheme Pays

6. HSC Pension Board Annual Report & Business Plan

The HSC Pension Board (HSCPb) which was established under The Public Service Pensions (Northern Ireland) Act 2014 have now published their 5th Annual Report. From the 1 April 2015 the HSCPb had the responsibility for “assisting the Scheme Manager” in securing compliance with all relevant pensions law, regulations and directions in respect of the Health and Social Care Pension Scheme, as well as with the Pension Regulator’s Codes of Practice No.14 - for Public Sector Schemes.

The [Annual Report for 2020/21](#) and the [Business Plan for 2021/22](#) can be viewed on our Scheme website.



7. 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

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

