

SCHEDULE C3

Regulation C24

**Additional voluntary contributions**

**Making and variation of elections**

- 1.—(1) An election by a member to pay contributions under regulation C24 shall specify—
  - (a) the amount of the additional contributions which he wishes to pay (expressed either as a percentage of his remuneration or as a sum payable at the times mentioned in paragraph 4); and
  - (b) the proportion (if any) of the contributions which he wishes to be used to provide benefits payable in the event of death.
- (2) A member who has made an election under regulation C24 may at any time elect—
  - (a) to vary the amount of his contributions or the proportion of them that he is to continue to pay which are to be used to provide benefits payable on death; or
  - (b) to discontinue those contributions.
- (3) An election by a member under regulation C24 or this paragraph shall be made by notice given in writing to the member's employing authority.

**Payment and amount of AVCs**

- 2.—(1) The Committee may require, before any contributions are first made pursuant to the election, that the amount of the contributions payable under regulation C24 in any tax year shall be not less than the amount specified in regulation 2(8) of the Pension Schemes (Voluntary Contributions Requirements and Voluntary and Compulsory Membership) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1987(1).
- (2) The amount of the contributions payable in any tax year is limited in accordance with paragraph 5 of Schedule C4.
3. No contributions shall be payable under regulation C24 with respect to any period—
  - (a) during which the person contributing is not a member, or
  - (b) subject to paragraph 4, after the time when he ceases to be employed by the employing authority to which notice was given under paragraph 1.
4. Contributions under regulation C24 shall normally be payable on the member's usual pay day.

**Functions of employing authorities and the Committee**

- 5.—(1) As soon as an employing authority receives a notice under paragraph 1 it shall forward it to the Committee.
- (2) The Committee shall give effect to a notice under paragraph 1 as soon as reasonably practicable, and in any event—
  - (a) in the case of a notice under paragraph 1(1), so that the member may begin to pay his contributions under paragraph 4 before the expiry of the period of six months beginning with the date on which he gives notice, and
  - (b) in the case of a notice under paragraph 1(2), so that the member may pay his contribution at the varied amount or in the varied proportions, or, as the case may be, cease to pay his contributions, before the expiry of the period of three months beginning with that date.

6.—(1) Where a notice under paragraph 1 specifies that all or part of the contributions are to be used to provide benefits payable in the event of death, the Committee shall make arrangements for the provision of those benefits under a pension policy.

(2) The pension policy shall provide that the Committee is to make payments to the insurance company with which the policy is entered into of the same amounts as the contributions to be used as mentioned in sub-paragraph (1) within one month of the day on which they are payable by the member under paragraph 4.

(3) The policy shall—

- (a) be subject to the conditions mentioned in paragraphs 2 and 3 of this Schedule;
- (b) allow the member to vary his election under paragraph 1(2);
- (c) make provision for the arrangements mentioned in paragraphs 10 to 14 and 21 in the event of a change of employment by the member or, as the case may be, potential overpayment.

(4) Where—

- (a) a person to whom regulation C8 applies was before the commencement of his relevant service (as defined in that regulation) paying contributions to be used to provide benefits payable in the event of death, and
- (b) he has not elected to discontinue those contributions,

the Committee shall continue to make the appropriate payments in respect of him during the period of his relevant service in accordance with the arrangements made under this paragraph.

7.—(1) The Committee shall invest with a relevant body any contributions which are not to be used to provide benefits payable in the event of death.

(2) Subject to sub-paragraph (3) and paragraphs 10 to 16, on the member ceasing to be a member of the Scheme the Committee shall as soon as reasonably practicable apply the accumulated value of the contributions invested as mentioned in sub-paragraph (1) to the provision of additional pension benefits under a pension policy.

(3) If the member dies before such a policy is entered into, the accumulated value shall be payable to his personal representatives.

(4) The contributions invested in accordance with sub-paragraph (1) shall not be used to provide benefits in the form of a lump sum unless—

- (a) the aggregate of the pension benefits provided under Parts D to G and the additional pension benefits provided by the pension policy mentioned in sub-paragraph (2) do not exceed the annual rate or amount referred to in regulation H5; and
- (b) the pension benefits provided under those Parts are being compounded in accordance with that regulation.

8. The benefits under a pension policy entered into under paragraph 6 or 7 shall be money purchase benefits the value of which is reasonable having regard to the amount of the contributions paid.

9. The Committee—

- (a) shall consult the member before entering into a pension policy under paragraph 6 or 7; and
- (b) shall give effect, so far as is practicable and subject to paragraph 8, to his wishes with respect to the benefits to be provided under it.

### **Changes of employment in which membership is continued**

10.—(1) If a member—

- (a) ceases to be employed by the employing authority to which notice was given under paragraph 1(1);
- (b) was making payments of additional contributions up to the date of cessation, and
- (c) before the expiry of the period of one month and one day beginning with that date enters a new employment in which he is also a member;

he may elect that his election to pay contributions under regulation C24 should continue to have effect.

(2) An election under sub-paragraph (1) shall be made by notice given in writing to the member's new employing authority before the expiry of the period of one month beginning with the date on which the new employment begins.

11. As soon as the new employing authority receives a notice of election under paragraph 10 it shall forward it to the Committee.

12.—(1) Subject to sub-paragraph (2), the member shall, with effect from the next pay day after the day on which notice was given under paragraph 10, make payments of contributions under regulation C24 in his new employment under his notice under paragraph 1(1) (as it has effect for the time being).

(2) No payment of contributions under regulation C24 shall be made with respect to the period (if any) between the two employments mentioned in paragraph 10.

13. The Committee shall in respect of contributions made under regulation C24 by the member in his new employment—

- (a) apply any continuing contributions, which are specified to be used to provide benefits payable in the event of death, towards the pension policy mentioned in paragraph 6; and
- (b) continue to invest all contributions paid by him and not specified to be so used in the manner mentioned in paragraph 7.

14. Paragraphs 7(2) and 10 to 16 shall have effect in relation to a cessation of the new employment as if the new employment were the one in relation to which notice was given under paragraph 1(1).

### **Cessation of membership or employment**

15.—(1) Where a person who has given notice under paragraph 1(1) of an election under regulation C24 to his employing authority—

- (a) has ceased to be employed by that authority; or
- (b) has ceased to be a member without ceasing to be so employed,

he may elect to have the accumulated value of the invested additional contributions mentioned in paragraph 7(2), used—

- (i) in the case mentioned in paragraph (a), in one or more of the ways mentioned in sub-paragraph (2); and
- (ii) in the case mentioned in paragraph (b) in one or both of the ways mentioned in paragraphs (b) and (e) of that sub-paragraph.

(2) The ways referred to in sub-paragraph (1) are—

- (a) to subscribe to an occupational pension scheme;
- (b) to subscribe to a personal pension scheme;
- (c) to subscribe to a self-employed pension arrangement;
- (d) to purchase an appropriate policy from one or more insurance companies; or

(e) to subscribe to an additional voluntary contributions scheme.

16. Where a person receives a refund under regulation C21 as a consequence of ceasing—

- (a) to be employed by an employing authority; or
- (b) to be a member,

he must receive immediate payment of the accumulated value of the invested additional contributions mentioned in paragraph 7(2).

17. Paragraph 3 shall not preclude a member who has again become employed by a LGPS employer (and has not elected under paragraph 10) making a fresh election under regulation C24 by notice under paragraph 1 in relation to his new employment.

#### **Separate treatment of AVCs from other contributions**

18. Regulations C21 and C23 (return of contributions) and paragraphs 3 and 4 of Schedule C4 (limitations on contributions) do not apply to contributions payable under (or interest on late payments which relate to contributions under) regulation C24.

19. The making of contributions under regulations C24, and any rights or liabilities arising under a pension policy entered into under paragraphs 6 or 7, shall be left out of account in calculating the amount of a transfer value payable under Part K; and regulations H4 (forfeiture etc.) and L9 (recovery or retention) and Part J (decisions and appeals) do not apply in relation to benefits under such a policy.

#### **Inward transfer of AVC rights**

20.—(1) A member may, when giving a notice under regulation K14(1), also give written notice to the Committee that he wishes it to accept a transfer value relating to some or all of the rights to benefits arising out of an additional voluntary contributions provision or an additional voluntary contributions scheme to be used to provide money purchase benefits as specified in paragraphs 6, 7 and 8.

(2) Where such a notice is given the transfer value shall be accepted and so used by the Committee, and paragraphs 6 to 9, 18 and 19 shall apply in relation to the transfer value as they apply to contributions, except that for references to a notice under paragraph 1(1) or (2) there shall be substituted a reference to the notice under sub-paragraph (1).

#### **Over-provision: calculation and return of surplus funds**

21.—(1) The Committee shall comply—

- (a) with the requirements of regulation 5 of the Retirement Benefits Schemes (Restriction on Discretion to Approve) (Additional Voluntary Contributions) Regulations 1993(2), and
- (b) if the Scheme is the leading scheme in relation to a member, with the requirements of regulation 6 of those regulations, so far as they concern main schemes.

(2) Where any surplus funds fall to be repaid in accordance with regulation 6 of those regulations, the Committee shall make the repayment to the member (or, if he has died, to his personal representatives)—

- (a) where the over-provision relates to the benefit payable in the event of death, out of the accumulated value of the payments made by the Committee with respect to the pension policy under paragraph 6, and

- (b) where any other benefit is abated, out of the accumulated value of the additional contributions mentioned in paragraph 7(2).
- (3) In this paragraph—
  - “leading scheme” and “main schemes” have the meanings given in regulation 2 of those regulations; and
  - “surplus funds” has the meaning given in regulation 6 of those regulations.

## Supplemental

- 23. In this Schedule—
  - “insurance company” means—
    - (a) a body authorised under section 3 or 4 of the Insurance Companies Act 1982<sup>(3)</sup> to carry on long term business and acting through a branch or agency in the United Kingdom;
    - (b) an EC company which is lawfully carrying on long term business, or providing long term insurance, in the United Kingdom; or
    - (c) friendly society within the meaning of the Friendly Societies Act 1992<sup>(4)</sup> (including any society which is to be treated as a registered friendly society by virtue of section 96(2) of that Act),and expressions used in paragraph (a) or (b) have the meanings given in the Insurance Companies Act 1982;
  - “money purchase benefits” has the same meaning as in the Pension Schemes (Northern Ireland) Order 1993<sup>(5)</sup>;
  - “pension policy” means a contract entered into on behalf of the member by the Committee with an insurance company for the payment by the company of pension benefits to the intended recipients of those benefits which are in addition to those payable under Parts D to G; and
  - “relevant body” means—
    - (a) a person within the meaning of section 612 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988<sup>(6)</sup> for the time being operating a scheme which is an approved scheme for the purposes of Chapter I of Part XIV of that Act and provides benefits in relation to persons who have paid contributions to it which are in addition to those provided in relation to those persons under an occupational pension scheme, or
    - (b) building society within the meaning of the Building Societies Act 1986<sup>(7)</sup>.

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(3) 1982 c. 50

(4) 1992 c. 40

(5) 1993 c. 49

(6) 1988 c. 1; section 612 was amended by the Finance Act 1994 (c. 9), Section 103(2), Schedule 26, Part V

(7) 1986 c. 53