
STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

2002 No. 352

**Local Government Pension Scheme
Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2002**

PART II

PRIMARY PROVISIONS

CHAPTER IV

BENEFITS

Retirement benefits

Normal retirement

26.—(1) If a member who has attained his normal retirement age retires from a local government employment, he is entitled to a pension and retirement grant which are payable immediately.

(2) The normal retirement date of a member is his 65th birthday.

(3) But the normal retirement date of a member who was a member immediately before the commencement date is –

(a) his 60th birthday if on the day before that day he has total membership of at least 25 years;
or

(b) the day after the date on which he first has such total membership if that date is on or after his 60th birthday but before his 65th birthday.

(4) A member's normal retirement age is his age on his normal retirement date.

Retirement after the normal retirement date

27. A member who with the consent of his employing authority remains in service after his 65th birthday is entitled to the immediate payment of a pension and retirement grant when he retires from service.

Redundancy etc.

28.—(1) If –

(a) a member who is aged 50 or more retires from a local government employment; and

(b) his employing authority certifies the reason for his retirement was his redundancy,

he is entitled to a pension and retirement grant which are payable immediately.

(2) In paragraph (1) “redundancy” includes retirement in the interests of efficiency, or because the member held a joint appointment which has been ended because the other holder has left it.

Ill-health

29.—(1) Where a member leaves a local government employment by reason of being permanently incapable of discharging efficiently the duties of that employment or any other comparable employment with his employing authority because of ill-health or infirmity of mind or body, he is entitled to an ill-health pension and grant which are payable immediately.

(2) A member –

(a) whose total membership is at least one year, but less than two years;

and

(b) to whom no transfer value is credited,

is entitled to an ill-health grant (but not a pension), unless paragraph (3) applies to him.

(3) This paragraph applies to a member if –

(a) he is entitled to any payment out of the fund; or

(b) he would receive at least as much as the grant if his contributions were returned to him.

(4) In paragraph (1), “comparable employment” means employment in which, when compared with the member’s employment –

(a) the contractual provisions as to capacity either are the same or differ only to an extent that is reasonable given the nature of the member’s ill-health or infirmity of mind or body; and

(b) the contractual provisions as to place, remuneration, hours of work, holiday entitlement, sickness or injury entitlement and other material terms do not differ substantially from those of the member’s employment.

Amounts of ill-health pension and grant

30.—(1) Where the member’s total membership is at least 5 years, the multiplier for an ill-health pension or grant is by reference to the member’s enhanced membership period instead of his total membership.

(2) A member’s enhanced membership period is –

(a) if his total membership is less than 10 years, twice his total membership;

(b) if his total membership is at least 10 years, but not more than 13 122/365 years, 20 years; and

(c) otherwise, his total membership plus 6 243/365 years.

(3) But the enhanced membership period must not exceed 40 years or the total membership the member would have had if he had continued as an active member until he was 65, whichever is the shorter.

(4) If the member became entitled to ill-health benefits under the Scheme before he was in the employment from which he has retired, his enhanced membership period must be calculated –

(a) by including in his total membership his total in the previous employment; and

(b) deducting from his total membership the period by which his membership period for that employment was increased for calculating those benefits.

(5) The maximum period which may be added to a member’s total membership period to calculate his enhanced membership period in respect of all his local government employments is 10 years.

(6) Where membership includes membership in part-time employment, the enhanced membership period allowed under paragraph (2) must be calculated by first working out what it would be if the employment were all whole-time, and then reducing the resulting period by multiplying it by the appropriate fraction (but see paragraphs (7) and (10)).

(7) The member's enhanced membership period must not be reduced below that which is calculated by reference to his membership in whole-time employment, disregarding his membership in part-time employment.

(8) The appropriate fraction is the fraction of which the numerator is the member's total membership and the denominator is the period which would be his total membership if his employment had all been whole-time.

(9) In the case of a member in part-time employment with non-cyclical fluctuating contractual hours, that fraction must be determined by making separate calculations for each period over which averaging of the member's hours occurs in calculating his contractual hours.

(10) If the member's total membership includes a period of at least 13 122/365 years in whole-time employment, paragraph (6) does not apply.

(11) If a member is entitled under regulation 29(2) to an ill-health grant (but not a pension), the multiplier for the grant is –

the member's total membership

12

Re-employed pensioners

31.—(1) Where a member is entitled to two retirement pensions because of having been a member in two employments which were not concurrent, he may elect for a single new pension.

(2) If he so elects, he becomes entitled to a single retirement pension and retirement grant, each calculated by reference to the augmented period (but see paragraph (7)).

(3) The augmented period is the member's total membership in the later employment, increased by the period which would have been aggregated if he had made an election under regulation 34(1) as respects his earlier employment when he became an active member in his later employment.

(4) But if the retirement pension from the earlier employment was calculated using a longer period of membership than the period which is the augmented period under paragraph (3), the longer period is the augmented period for paragraph (2).

(5) No election may be made if the pension for the earlier employment –

- (a) is paid under regulation 33 and subject to a reduction, or
- (b) is an equivalent pension benefit pension.

(6) The member must set off any retirement grant he received because of his membership in the earlier employment ("the first grant") against the retirement grant under this regulation and, if it was greater, repay the difference between the grants to the Committee.

(7) Any additional period which did not count in the calculation of the first grant because of regulation 56(3), does not count in calculating the retirement grant under this regulation either.

(8) Any surrender of the pension from the earlier employment operates to the same extent on the single pension.

(9) Where the later retirement is one to which regulation 29 (ill-health) applies and the member does not become entitled to a single pension if his earlier pension is not payable under that regulation, the membership enhancement period is 6 243/365 years more than his total membership.

Further provisions about elections under regulation 31

32.—(1) An election under regulation 31 must be made by giving notice in writing to the Committee.

(2) The election must be made before the expiry of the period of three months beginning with the date the member becomes entitled to the pension for the later employment and has effect from that date.

(3) If a member does not repay any amount due under paragraph (6) of regulation 31 before the expiry of the period of three months beginning with the date he elects, his election is void (and so he is not entitled to the single pension).

Other early leavers: deferred retirement benefits and elections for early payment

33.—(1) If a member leaves a local government employment (or is treated for these Regulations as if he had done so) before he is entitled to the immediate payment of retirement benefits (apart from this regulation), once he is aged 50 or more he may elect to receive payment of them immediately.

(2) An election made by a member aged less than 60 is ineffective without the consent of his employing authority or former employing authority (but see paragraph (6)).

(3) If the member elects, he is entitled to a pension and retirement grant payable immediately.

(4) If the sum –

- (a) of the member's age in whole years on the date his local government employment ends or the date he elects, if later;
- (b) of his total membership in whole years; and
- (c) in a case where he elects after his local government employment ends, of the period beginning with the end of that employment and ending with the date he elects,

is less than 85 years, his retirement pension and grant must be reduced by the amounts shown as appropriate in guidance issued by the Government Actuary (but see paragraphs (5) and (6) and regulation 39(5)) (Guaranteed Minimum Pensions).

(5) A member's employing authority may determine on compassionate grounds that his retirement pension and grant should not be reduced under paragraph (4).

(6) If a member who has left a local government employment before he is entitled to the immediate payment of retirement benefits (apart from this regulation) becomes permanently incapable as certified in accordance with regulation 98(4) of discharging efficiently the duties of that employment because of ill-health or infirmity of mind or body –

- (a) he may elect to receive payment of the retirement benefits immediately, whatever his age; and
- (b) paragraphs (2) and (4) do not apply.

(7) If a member does not elect for immediate payment under this regulation, he is entitled to receive a pension and grant without reduction payable from his normal retirement date or from such earlier date on or after his 60th birthday as the member elects on which the sum of the items referred to in sub-paragraphs (a) to (c) of paragraph (4) is 85 years or more.

(8) An election under paragraph (1) must be made by notice in writing to the member's Scheme employer.

Re-employed and rejoining deferred members

34.—(1) Where a deferred member becomes an active member again before becoming entitled to the immediate payment of retirement benefits in respect of his former membership, he may elect to have his former membership aggregated with his membership on or after the date he becomes an active member again.

(2) But an election may only be made by a Class B member as respects former Class B membership or Class C membership and an election may only be made by a Class C member as respects former Class C membership.

(3) Where a member elects under paragraph (1) –

- (a) he ceases to be entitled to rights under the Scheme in respect of his former membership (except in so far as he is entitled by virtue of having become an active member again to rights in respect of the aggregated total membership); and
- (b) he ceases to count as a deferred member for these Regulations as respects his former membership (unless he becomes a deferred member again after ceasing to be an active member).

(4) Where an election under paragraph (1) is made by a member who has ceased to be an active member more than once, the election may be made as respects his total membership at each of the times he so ceased or only as respects such of those periods of membership as are specified in the election.

(5) Where a member who may elect under paragraph (1) does not do so or does not elect as respects all periods of his membership –

- (a) in applying regulations 19(2) and (3), 30(2), 31 and 33(4) as respects any later membership, his total membership excludes unaggregated periods;
- (b) for the purpose only of calculating whether the member has the necessary total membership –
 - (i) referred to in regulation 18 (1) (a) to be entitled to benefits under this Chapter,
 - (ii) referred to in regulation 29 (2) (a) to be entitled to an ill-health grant, or
 - (iii) referred to in regulation 30 (1),the unaggregated periods of membership shall be taken into account; and
- (c) as respects each unaggregated period of his former membership –
 - (i) paragraph (3) does not apply,
 - (ii) he shall continue to be treated as a deferred member or, as the case may be, as a pensioner member (and not as an active member), and
 - (iii) he shall be entitled to the same rights as if he were not also an active member (but subject to regulation 37 and, in the case of a pensioner member, to regulation 31).

(6) For this regulation a period of membership is an unaggregated period if –

- (a) no previous election has been made under this regulation for its aggregation; and
- (b) in the case of a period as respects which the member was entitled to elect under regulation D12(1)(c) of the 2000 Regulations (elections to remain entitled to preserved benefits) or any previous corresponding provision of the Scheme, such an election was made.

(7) An election under paragraph (1) must be made by notice in writing to the Committee.

(8) References in this regulation to former membership include all membership which the member was entitled to count as total membership immediately before he ceased his former active membership.

(9) Where a person ceases to be an active member in one employment and immediately becomes an active member in another employment, for paragraph (1) of this regulation he shall be treated as if he were a deferred member as respects the first employment, despite never having ceased to be an active member of the Scheme.

(10) In the case of a member who first becomes a member on or after 2nd April 2001 any period of membership in the employment of a non-associated admission body (as defined in regulation 4(16)

(c) shall not be aggregated with any other periods of membership for the purpose of calculating his retirement grant.

Concurrent employments

35.—(1) Where a person –

- (a) ceases to be an active member in one employment (“the first employment”); and
- (b) continues as an active member in another employment he held concurrently with the first employment,

he may elect to have his former membership in respect of the first employment aggregated with his membership in that other employment.

(2) If he so elects, the provisions of regulation 34 shall apply as if references to –

- (a) his former membership or former active membership were references to his membership from his first employment;
- (b) the new employment were references to his concurrent employment; and
- (c) the employment in which he becomes an active member again were references to that concurrent employment.

(3) In the case of a person to whom this regulation applies, the period of membership which will be aggregated with his membership from the concurrent employment will be equal to his membership from his first employment, as reduced under regulation 10(4) if the first employment was part-time, multiplied by the fraction –

$$\frac{\text{whole-time rate of pay in the first employment}}{\text{whole-time rate of pay in concurrent employment}}$$

where

the rate of pay in each case is the annual rate of pay on the last day of the first employment.

Surrenders of pension

36.—(1) A member may apply to the Committee to surrender part of the retirement pension which is or may become payable to him, so that, if he is survived by his spouse or any dependant of his (“the beneficiary”), the equivalent value of that part is paid instead to the beneficiary under this regulation.

(2) The application must be made in the period of one month ending with or one month beginning with the date on which the member retires.

(3) The Committee must allow the application if it is satisfied that the member is in good health.

(4) The Committee may require the member to produce, at his own expense, sufficient medical evidence to satisfy it in accordance with paragraph (3).

(5) The surrender must not result in a pension being paid to the beneficiary of less than such amount as is specified in guidance issued for this paragraph by the Government Actuary.

(6) The aggregate amount surrendered must not –

- (a) result in the reduction of the retirement pension to less than the pension which would become payable to the beneficiary; or
- (b) exceed one third of the retirement pension.

(7) On the death of the member the beneficiary becomes entitled to a pension at a rate equivalent to the value of the surrender in the beneficiary’s favour at the time when the surrender was made.

(8) The equivalent rate is such rate as is indicated in guidance issued by the Government Actuary.

(9) If the surrender is allowed, it has effect from the date on which the member retires from his employment.

(10) But it does not take effect if the beneficiary or member dies before that date, and it ceases to have effect if the beneficiary dies before the member.

No double entitlement

37.—(1) Where (apart from this regulation) any member would be entitled to a pension or retirement grant under two or more regulations by reason of the same period of membership –

(a) he may elect under which provision he is to be paid those benefits;

and

(b) if he does not elect, the employing authority may notify him in writing of the provision.

(2) An election by a member must be by notice in writing, given to the employing authority before the expiry of the period of three months beginning with the day on which he becomes entitled to elect.

(3) Paragraph (1) does not affect the member's rights under the Pension Schemes (Northern Ireland) Act 1993⁽¹⁾.

Requirements as to time of payment

38.—(1) Retirement benefits under this Chapter may not be paid to a person before he has retired from the employment in which he was a member.

(2) But they must begin to be paid not later than the member's 75th birthday even if he has not retired (and see also regulation 39(3)).

Guaranteed minimum pensions etc.

39.—(1) Where a member's local government employment is contracted-out employment and he has a guaranteed minimum in relation to service before 6th April 1997, from the date he attains state pensionable age he is entitled to a pension at a weekly rate equal to not less than that guaranteed minimum.

(2) But if the member attains state pensionable age while in local government employment, he is not so entitled until he leaves that employment, unless paragraph (3) applies.

(3) If the member –

(a) continues in the same employment for a further period of five years after attaining state pensionable age; and

(b) does not then leave it,

he is entitled from the end of that period to so much of his retirement pension as equals that guaranteed minimum (unless he consents to a postponement of the entitlement).

(4) For paragraph (1), a person has a guaranteed minimum if he has such a minimum under section 10 of the Pension Schemes (Northern Ireland) Act 1993 in relation to benefits under these Regulations.

(5) A person's retirement pension is not to be reduced under regulation 33(4) to less than the aggregate of –

(a) any minimum rate of equivalent pension benefits applicable under the Insurance Act; and

(1) 1993 c. 49

(b) one eightieth of his final pay (expressed as an annual rate), multiplied by the length in years of the whole period of his membership in contracted-out employment during the period beginning with the relevant date and ending with 30th April 1995.

(6) In paragraph (5) “the relevant date” means –

- (a) in the case of a man, 17th May 1990; and
- (b) in the case of a woman, 6th April 1978.

(7) Where a person’s local government employment is or was contracted-out employment, a surrender under regulation 36 (together with any previous surrenders) must not result in the annual rate of the retirement pension being less than one eightieth of his final pay multiplied by the length in years of the whole period of his membership in contracted-out employment beginning with the relevant date and ending with 30th April 1995.

(8) Where a person making a surrender under regulation 36 has a guaranteed minimum, the surrender (together with any previous surrenders) must not result in the weekly rate of the retirement pension being less than the guaranteed minimum.

(9) Where a person making a surrender under regulation 36 –

- (a) is in local government employment;
- (b) has attained normal retirement age; and
- (c) has total membership of at least two years or a transfer value credited to him,

references in paragraphs (7) and (8) to the retirement pension are references to the retirement pension which would become payable if he ceased to hold his employment on the day the surrender takes effect.

(10) This regulation overrides any provision in these Regulations to the extent to which it conflicts with it, except –

- (a) regulation 51 (commutation);
- (b) regulation 113 (application of abatement policy in individual cases);
- (c) regulation 114 (forfeiture); and
- (d) regulation 115 (interim payments directions).

Revaluation of guaranteed minimum

40.—(1) Where the guaranteed minimum of a person who has ceased to be an active member is appropriately secured, his earnings factors for the purposes of section 10(2) of the Pension Schemes (Northern Ireland) Act 1993 must be determined –

- (a) by reference to the last order under Article 23 of the Social Security Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 1975⁽²⁾ or section 130 of the Social Security Administration (Northern Ireland) Act 1992⁽³⁾ (revaluation orders) to come into force before the end of the tax year in which he ceased to be an active member; and
- (b) without reference to the last such order to come into force before the end of the final relevant year.

(2) For such a person the weekly equivalent mentioned in section 10(2) of the Pension Schemes (Northern Ireland) Act 1993 is to be increased –

- (a) by at least the prescribed percentage for each relevant year after the end of the tax year in which he ceased to be an active member, and

(2) [S.I. 1975/1503 \(N.I. 15\)](#) Article 23 was repealed by the Social Security (Consequential Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Act 1992 (c. 9)

(3) [1992 c. 8](#)

- (b) in accordance with such additional requirements as may be prescribed for the purposes of section 12(3) of the Pension Schemes (Northern Ireland) Act 1993.
- (3) In this regulation –
- “appropriately secured” has the meaning given in section 15(3) of the Pension Schemes (Northern Ireland) Act 1993;
 - “final relevant year” has the meaning given in section 12(5) of that Act;
 - “relevant year” has the meaning given in section 10(8) of that Act; and
 - “prescribed percentage” has the meaning given in regulation 62 of the Occupational Pension Schemes (Contracting-out) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1996⁽⁴⁾.

(4) S.R. 1996 No. 493