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STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

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**2002 No. 352**

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

**PART III**

**OPTIONAL ADDITIONAL BENEFITS**

**CHAPTER III**

*MEMBERS' OPTIONS TO INCREASE PENSIONS*

*Purchase of added years*

**Payments to increase total membership**

**57.**—(1) An active member may elect to make additional contributions to the Scheme to increase his total membership by an additional period.

(2) That period must not exceed the maximum addition under Schedule 4.

(3) The election must be made by giving notice in writing to the Committee earlier than the member's 64th birthday.

(4) If –

(a) the Committee passes a resolution requiring a member to satisfy it that he is in good health by producing to it a report at his own expense provided by an independent registered medical practitioner approved by the Committee; and

(b) it is not so satisfied,

the election is void.

(5) The amounts of the additional contributions must be such percentage of the member's pay for the time being as is shown as appropriate in guidance issued by the Government Actuary.

(6) A member's pay for the time being is the pay received by him for the interval at the end of which the additional contribution falls to be paid.

(7) Where a member is away from work (otherwise than because of illness or injury) with reduced or no pay, for paragraph (6) he is treated as having received the pay he would have received if he had not been away (unless his contract of employment has ceased).

(8) For paragraph (6) any reduction in pay by reason of the actual or assumed enjoyment of any statutory entitlement during any period in which the member is away from work (other than a period of maternity absence) shall be disregarded.

(9) If a member continues paying the additional contributions until –

(a) his normal retirement date,

(b) or if earlier his last birthday before the date after his 60th birthday when the sum of the items referred to in sub-paragraphs (a) to (c) of regulation 33(4) is 85 years or more, the whole of the additional period may be counted as part of his total membership.

(10) Otherwise, the part of that period which may be so counted must be calculated as specified in regulation 84 (discontinuance of additional contributions).

(11) The additional contributions are payable from the member's next birthday after his election.

### **Part-time employees**

**58.**—(1) If a person in a part-time employment elects under regulation 57, the periods mentioned in that regulation must be reduced in the proportion his contractual hours bear to the number of contractual hours of a single comparable whole-time employment.

(2) But the amounts of his additional contributions must be calculated as a percentage of his actual pay (subject to paragraphs (7) and (8) of regulation 57).

(3) Where any person has made such an election, if –

- (a) his employment ceases to be part-time and becomes whole-time employment;
- (b) his employment ceases to be whole-time and becomes part-time employment; or
- (c) his contractual hours in the part-time employment alter,

his additional contributions continue to be payable at the same percentage of his pay, but the additional period counted by reason of contributions paid after the change must be calculated as if the change had occurred immediately before the election.

(4) Paragraphs (1) to (3) do not apply to old elections.

(5) But the member may elect for paragraph (2) to apply to an old election and, if he does so, the additional period counted by reason of contributions paid after that election must be calculated as if paragraphs (1) to (3) had always applied as respects his old election.

(6) A member's election under paragraph (5) must be made by giving notice in writing to the Committee not later than one year before his normal retirement date.

(7) Old elections are elections made before 1st August 2000.

### **Effect of increases under this Chapter for older members**

**59.** Regulation 56 applies as respects additional periods counted under the previous provisions of this Chapter as it applies as respects additional periods counted under Chapter II.

### *Conversion between lump sums and pensions*

#### **Election for pension in lieu of retirement grant**

**60.**—(1) Where a member, or a deferred member immediately before the commencement date, has become entitled to the immediate payment of a pension under Part II or Part D of the 2000 Regulations as the case may be, he may make an election under this regulation for the whole or part of the retirement grant or, in the case where the entitlement to pension is under regulation 29 or regulation D7 of the 2000 Regulations, of the ill-health retirement grant to be used instead by the Scheme to provide pension for him.

(2) The election must be made by notice in writing to the Committee given not more than three months before the date on which the member becomes so entitled.

(3) The election must specify the amount of the grant which the member wishes to be used for the provision of pension.

(4) Where a member makes such an election, he becomes entitled to such additional pension as is shown as appropriate in guidance issued by the Government Actuary.

(5) The additional pension is payable immediately.

(6) Where a member makes such an election, for these Regulations the amount of his pension includes the amount of any additional pension payable under this regulation.

(7) No person who has elected under regulation 61 may also elect under this regulation.

### **Election for lump sum in lieu of pension**

**61.**—(1) Where –

(a) a Class C member, including a deferred member immediately before the commencement date, has become entitled to the immediate payment of a pension under Part II or Part D of the 2000 Regulations as the case may be; and

(b) the retirement grant to which he is entitled (apart from any election made under this regulation) is less than his permitted maximum,

he may make an election under this regulation for that grant to be increased to his permitted maximum.

(2) The election must be made by notice in writing to the Committee given not more than three months before the date on which the member retires or a deferred member's pension comes into payment.

(3) Where a member or a deferred member elects under this regulation –

(a) the retirement grant to which he is entitled is increased in accordance with the election; and

(b) the retirement pension to which he is entitled and any other benefits payable to or in respect of him are to be calculated by reference to such reduced period of membership as appears to the Committee to be appropriate by virtue of that increase.

(4) That reduced period must be calculated by the Committee on the advice of an actuary appointed by it.

(5) A member's or a deferred member's permitted maximum for this regulation is the maximum lump sum to which he is entitled in accordance with Schedule 4 and (so far as relevant) any restrictions imposed under –

(a) section 8C of the Pension Schemes (Northern Ireland) Act 1993<sup>(1)</sup> (transfer, commutation etc.);

(b) section 15 of that Act (discharge of liability);

(c) section 17 of that Act (commutation, surrender and forfeiture);

(d) section 73 of that Act (assignment, surrender and commutation of benefit).

(6) No person who has elected under regulation 60 may also elect under this regulation.

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(1) 1993 c. 49 Section 8C was inserted by Article 133(5) of the Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 (S.I. 1995/3213 (N.I. 22))