

## **EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO**

### **The Health and Personal Social Services (Superannuation), Health and Care (Pension Scheme) (Amendment No.2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013**

**S.R. 2013 No. 247**

#### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1. This Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared by the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS) to accompany the Statutory Rule (details above) which is laid before the Northern Ireland Assembly.
- 1.2. The Statutory Rule is made under Articles 12(1) and (2), 14(1) of, and Schedule 3 to, the Superannuation (Northern Ireland) Order 1972, and is subject to the negative resolution procedure.

#### **2. Purpose**

- 2.1. The main purpose of the regulations is to increase the threshold of pensionable pay/earnings required to determine the level of contributions that HSC Pension Scheme members will be required to make to the HSC Pension Scheme, as a consequence of the 1% increase to pay effective from 1 April 2013.

#### **3. Background**

- 3.1. Member contribution rates in the HSC Pension Scheme are determined by reference to the members' pensionable pay/earnings in a scheme year. The proposed amendments are wholly beneficial to members as they increase the threshold of pensionable pay/earnings required to determine the level of member contributions payable. The amendments will insert new pay/earnings thresholds only; there is no increase in the percentage of contributions payable and no change to the way the member contributions are assessed.

#### **4. Consultation**

- 4.1. A targeted consultation exercise on the amending regulations began on the 30 May 2013 and ended on the 11 July 2013.
- 4.2. No responses were received

#### **5. Equality Impact**

- 5.1. The Department concluded that the new arrangements will not have a significant impact on equality of opportunity for any group referred to in section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 and therefore a full EQIA was not recommended.

#### **6. Regulatory Impact**

- 6.1. A regulatory impact assessment has not been produced for this rule as it has no impact on the costs of business, charities or the voluntary sector.

**7. Financial Implications**

7.1. None.

**8. Section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998**

8.1. Legal advice confirms that the provisions of this rule comply with section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.

**9. EU Implications**

9.1. Not appropriate

**10. Parity or Replicatory Measure**

10.1. The amendments proposed mirror provisions introduced in England, Wales and Scotland.

**11. Additional Information**

11.1. Not applicable.