

*Status: This version of this part contains provisions that are prospective.*

*Changes to legislation: Pensions Act (Northern Ireland) 2015, Paragraph 13 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 02 April 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

## SCHEDULES

### SCHEDULE 17

#### AUTOMATIC TRANSFER OF PENSION BENEFITS ETC.

PROSPECTIVE

### PART 2

#### MERGER OF PENSION ACCOUNTS

**13.—**(1) The Department may by regulations make provision for the purposes of requiring dormant pension accounts of a qualifying member of an automatic transfer scheme to be merged into a current pension account of the member.

(2) The regulations may not require a dormant pension account to be merged unless the accrued rights to benefits to which the account relates would be transferable benefits of the member if—

- (a) all other accrued rights to benefits of the member, and any relevant contributions, were ignored, and
- (b) any other prescribed matter were ignored.

(3) The regulations may in particular—

- (a) make provision for determining into which current pension account (if the member has more than one) a dormant pension account is to be merged;
- (b) provide that the rules of the scheme that are to apply to a merged pension account are those that apply to the current pension account into which a dormant pension account is being merged;
- (c) require the trustees or managers of the scheme to make a transfer of assets representing the accrued rights to benefits to which a dormant pension account relates;
- (d) include provision corresponding or similar to any provision which may be made by regulations under Part 1.

(4) In this paragraph “pension account”, in relation to a member of a scheme, means an account relating to the member's accrued rights to benefits in respect of a particular period of employment; and a pension account—

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- (a) is “dormant” if relevant contributions in relation to the period of employment to which the account relates have ceased; and
  - (b) is “current” if such contributions have not ceased.
- (5) In this paragraph—
- (a) references to “accrued rights to benefits”, in relation to a member of a scheme, are to accrued rights to benefits under the applicable rules (within the meaning given by paragraph 1(6));
  - (b) “employment” has the prescribed meaning;
  - (c) “relevant contributions”, in relation to a member of a scheme, means contributions to the scheme by, or on behalf or in respect of, the member.

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**Changes and effects yet to be applied to :**

- specified provision(s) transitional provisions for effects of commencing S.I. 2017/297, art. 2 by [S.R. 2017/58](#) Order