



Finance Act 2004

2004 CHAPTER 12

PART 4

PENSION SCHEMES ETC

CHAPTER 7

COMPLIANCE

Information

250 Registered pension scheme return

- (1) The Inland Revenue may, in relation to any tax year, by notice require the scheme administrator of a registered pension scheme—
 - (a) to make and deliver to the Inland Revenue a return containing any information reasonably required by the notice, and
 - (b) to deliver with the return any accounts, statements or other documents relating to information contained in the return which may reasonably be required by the notice.
- (2) The information that may be required to be included in the return is any information relating to—
 - (a) contributions made under the pension scheme,
 - (b) transfers of sums or assets held for the purposes of, or representing accrued rights under, another pension scheme so as to become held for the purposes of, or to represent rights under, the pension scheme,
 - (c) income and gains derived from investments or deposits held for the purposes of the pension scheme,
 - (d) other receipts of the pension scheme,
 - (e) the sums and other assets held for the purposes of the pension scheme,
 - (f) the liabilities of the pension scheme,

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- (g) the provision of benefits by the pension scheme,
 - (h) transfers of sums or assets held for the purposes of, or representing accrued rights under, the pension scheme so as to become held for the purposes of, or to represent rights under, another pension scheme,
 - (i) other expenditure of the pension scheme,
 - (j) the membership of the pension scheme, or
 - (k) any other matter relating to the administration of the pension scheme.
- (3) The information that may be required to be included in the return may be limited to information concerning any particular arrangement or arrangements under the pension scheme.
- (4) The notice must specify the period to be covered by the return.
- (5) The period may be—
- (a) the whole or any specified part of the tax year, or
 - (b) if audited accounts of the pension scheme have been prepared for any period or periods ending in the tax year, the period or periods covered by the accounts.
- (6) “Audited accounts” means accounts audited by a person of a description specified in regulations made by the Board of Inland Revenue.
- (7) A return relating to the whole or part of, or to a period or periods ending in, a tax year must be delivered—
- (a) where the notice requiring the return is given after the 31st October in the next tax year, before the end of the period of three months beginning with the day on which the notice is given, and
 - (b) otherwise, not later than the 31st January in the next tax year (but subject as follows).
- (8) If, in a case within paragraph (b) of subsection (7), the winding-up of the pension scheme has been completed before 31st October in the next tax year, the return must be delivered before the end of the period of three months beginning with the day on which the winding-up is completed.
- (9) But subsection (8) does not apply if the end of that period is before the end of the period of three months beginning with the day on which the notice is given; and in that case the return must be delivered before the end of that period.

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C1 S. 250(1) modified (6.4.2006) by [The Registered Pension Schemes \(Splitting of Schemes\) Regulations 2006 \(S.I. 2006/569\)](#), regs. 1(1), 3(1)(2), **Sch. 3 Pt. 1**

Commencement Information

II Ss. 160-274, 281, Schs. 30-35 in force at 6.4.2006 but any power to make an order or regulations under those provisions may be exercised at any time after Royal Assent, see s. 284

251 Information: general requirements

- (1) The Board of Inland Revenue may by regulations make provision requiring persons of a prescribed description—

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- (a) to provide to the Inland Revenue, in a form specified by the Board of Inland Revenue, information of a prescribed description relating to any of the matters mentioned in subsection (2), and
 - (b) to preserve for a prescribed period any documents relating to such information.
- (2) Those matters are—
- (a) any matter relating to a registered pension scheme,
 - (b) any matter relating to a pension scheme which has ceased to be a registered pension scheme,
 - (c) any matter relating to a pension scheme in relation to which an application for registration has been made,
 - (d) any matter relating to an annuity purchased with sums or assets held for the purposes of a registered pension scheme,
 - (e) the coming into operation of an employer-financed retirement benefits scheme, and
 - (f) the provision of relevant benefits under an employer-financed retirement benefits scheme.
- (3) In subsection (2)—
- “employer-financed retirement benefits scheme”, and
 - “relevant benefits”,
- have the same meaning as in Chapter 2 of Part 6 of ITEPA 2003 (see sections 393A and 393B of that Act).
- (4) The Board of Inland Revenue may by regulations make provision—
- (a) requiring scheme administrators of registered pension schemes or other persons of a prescribed description to provide information of a prescribed description to persons of such of the descriptions mentioned in subsection (5) as are prescribed [^{F1}or to the scheme administrators of other registered pension schemes], ^{F2}...
 - (b) requiring persons of such of the descriptions specified in subsection (5) as are prescribed to provide information of a prescribed description to the scheme administrators of registered pension schemes,
 - [^{F3}(ba) requiring, in a case where a payment (“the onwars payment”) is made directly or indirectly out of a sum on whose payment tax has been charged under section 206, the person making the onwars payment to provide information of a prescribed description to the person to whom the onwars payment is made,]
 - [^{F4}(c) requiring scheme administrators of registered pension schemes to provide information of a prescribed description to scheme managers of qualifying recognised overseas pension schemes, or
 - (d) requiring members or former members of a relevant non-UK pension scheme to provide information to the scheme administrators, or scheme managers, of registered pension schemes or other relevant non-UK pension schemes.]
- (5) Those persons are—
- (a) members of a registered pension scheme,
 - [^{F5}(aa) employers of members of a registered pension scheme,]
 - (b) persons who have ceased to be members of a registered pension scheme,

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- (c) persons to whom benefits under a registered pension scheme are being, or have been, provided,
- (d) the personal representatives of any person within paragraphs (a) to (c), and
- (e) insurance companies who pay annuities purchased with sums or assets held for the purposes of registered pension schemes.

[^{F6}(5A) Regulations under this section may make different provision for different cases.]

- (6) “Prescribed”, in relation to regulations, means prescribed by the regulations[^{F7}; and “relevant non-UK scheme” has the meaning given by paragraph 1 of Schedule 34].

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 251(4)(a) inserted (6.4.2006) by [Finance Act 2005 \(c. 7\)](#), **Sch. 10 paras. 47, 64(1)**
- F2** Word in s. 251(4)(a) omitted (17.12.2014) by virtue of [Taxation of Pensions Act 2014 \(c. 30\)](#), **Sch. 1 para. 93(2)(a)**
- F3** [S. 251\(4\)\(ba\)](#) inserted (with effect in accordance with s. 21(10) of the amending Act) by [Finance \(No. 2\) Act 2015 \(c. 33\)](#), **s. 21(6)**
- F4** [S. 251\(4\)\(c\)\(d\)](#) inserted (17.12.2014) by [Taxation of Pensions Act 2014 \(c. 30\)](#), **Sch. 1 para. 93(2)(b)**
- F5** [S. 251\(5\)\(aa\)](#) inserted (8.4.2010) by [Finance Act 2010 \(c. 13\)](#), **s. 49**
- F6** [S. 251\(5A\)](#) inserted (11.7.2023) by [Finance \(No. 2\) Act 2023 \(c. 30\)](#), **s. 348(1)(b)(3)**
- F7** Words in s. 251(6) inserted (17.12.2014) by [Taxation of Pensions Act 2014 \(c. 30\)](#), **Sch. 1 para. 93(3)**

Commencement Information

- I2** Ss. 160-274, 281, Schs. 30-35 in force at 6.4.2006 but any power to make an order or regulations under those provisions may be exercised at any time after Royal Assent, see [s. 284](#)

^{F8}252 Notices requiring documents or particulars

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Textual Amendments

- F8** [S. 252](#) omitted (1.4.2010) by virtue of [The Finance Act 2009, Section 96 and Schedule 48 \(Appointed Day, Savings and Consequential Amendments\) Order 2009 \(S.I. 2009/3054\)](#), art. 1, **Sch. para. 13** (with art. 8)

^{F9}253 Appeal against notices

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Textual Amendments

- F9** [S. 253](#) omitted (1.4.2010) by virtue of [The Finance Act 2009, Section 96 and Schedule 48 \(Appointed Day, Savings and Consequential Amendments\) Order 2009 \(S.I. 2009/3054\)](#), art. 1, **Sch. para. 13** (with art. 8)

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 236ZA inserted by [S.I. 2024/357 art. 2\(2\)](#)