
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1997 No. 1612

The Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 1997

PART IV

ADMINISTRATION

CHAPTER IV

DETERMINATIONS, INFORMATION AND RECORDS

Resolution of disputes

Appointment of persons to resolve disputes

99.—(1) Each administering authority must appoint a panel of persons they consider to be suitably qualified for the purpose of resolving disagreements in respect of which an application is made under regulation 100 in cases where they are the appropriate administering authority.

(2) For this Chapter an administering authority are the appropriate administering authority as respects such a disagreement if—

- (a) where the person making the application is a member or prospective member, they are or were his last appropriate administering authority for the other purposes of these Regulations, and
- (b) where the person making the application is the widow, widower or surviving dependant of a deceased member, they were his appropriate administering authority.

(2) For this Chapter the persons appointed under paragraph (1) are “appointed persons”.

(3) An application under regulation 100 may be decided by one or more appointed persons (and references to “the appropriate appointed person”, in relation to any application, are to the appointed person or persons to whom the application in question is referred).

(4) An application must not be referred to a person who has previously been involved in the subject matter of the disagreement.

(5) An appointed person shall hold and vacate office under the terms of his appointment.

(6) But he may resign by notice in writing to the administering authority.

(7) Each administering authority shall determine—

- (a) the procedure to be followed by the persons appointed by them when exercising their functions as appointed persons, and
- (b) the manner in which those functions are to be exercised.

Right to apply for an appointed person to decide a disagreement

100.—(1) Where there is a disagreement about a matter in relation to the Scheme between a member or an alternative applicant and a Scheme employer, the member or, as the case may be, the alternative applicant (“the complainant”) may—

- (a) apply directly to the appropriate appointed person to decide the disagreement, or
- (b) apply to the appropriate administering authority for them to refer the disagreement to an appointed person for decision.

(2) These persons are alternative applicants—

- (a) a widow, widower or surviving dependant of a deceased member or any other person to whom benefits in respect of him may be paid;
- (b) a prospective member;
- (c) a person who ceased to be a member or to fall within sub-paragraph (a) or (b) during the period of six months ending with the date of the application; and
- (d) in the case of a disagreement relating to the question whether a person claiming to be a member or to fall within sub-paragraph (a), (b) or (c) does so, the claimant.

(3) The application for a decision must set out particulars of the disagreement, including a statement as to its nature with sufficient details to show why the applicant is aggrieved.

(4) An application by—

- (a) a member or prospective member,
- (b) a person who ceased to be such a person during the period of six months ending with the date of the application, or
- (c) a person claiming to be a person within paragraph (a) or (b),

must set out his full name, address, date of birth, his national insurance number (if any) and the name of his employing authority.

(5) An application by any other person must set out—

- (a) his full name, address and date of birth,
- (b) his relationship to the member, and
- (c) the member's full name, address, date of birth and national insurance number and the name of his employing authority.

(6) The application must be signed by or on behalf of the applicant.

(7) The application must be accompanied by a copy of any written notification issued under regulation 98.

(8) The application must be made before the end of the period of six months beginning with the relevant date or such further period as the appropriate appointed person considers reasonable (but see regulation 105(6)).

(9) Where the disagreement relates to a decision under regulation 97, the relevant date is the date notification of it is given under regulation 98.

(10) Otherwise, the relevant date is the date of the act or omission which is the cause of the disagreement or, if there is more than one, the last of them.

Notice of decisions by appointed persons under regulation 100

101.—(1) A decision on the matters raised by an application under regulation 100 must be issued by the appropriate appointed person—

- (a) to the applicant,

(b) to the Scheme employer, and
(c) if the Scheme employer is not the appropriate administering authority, to that authority, by notice in writing before the expiry of the period of two months beginning with the date the application was received.

(2) But, if no such notice is issued before the expiry of that period, an interim reply must immediately be sent to those persons, setting out the reasons for the delay and an expected date for issuing the decision.

(3) A notice under paragraph (1) must include—

- (a) a statement of the decision;
- (b) a reference to any legislation or provisions of the Scheme relied upon;
- (c) in a case where the disagreement relates to the exercise of a discretion, a reference to the provisions of the Scheme conferring the discretion; and
- (d) a reference to the rights of the applicant and the Scheme employer's right to refer the disagreement for reconsideration by the Secretary of State under regulation 102, specifying the time within which they may do so.

Reference of disagreement to the Secretary of State

102.—(1) Where an application about a disagreement has been made under regulation 100, an application may be made to the Secretary of State to reconsider the disagreement by the person who applied under regulation 100 or the Scheme employer in question.

(2) The application must set out particulars of the grounds on which it is made, including a statement that the applicant under this regulation wishes the disagreement to be reconsidered by the Secretary of State.

(3) An application made by the person who applied under regulation 100 must set out the matters required by paragraph (4) or, as the case may be, paragraph (5) of that regulation to be included in his application.

(4) The application must be accompanied by a copy of any written notification issued under regulation 98.

(5) Where notice of a decision on the application under regulation 100 has been issued, the application under this regulation must state why the applicant is dissatisfied with that decision and be accompanied by a copy of that notice.

(6) The application must be signed by or on behalf of the person making it.

(7) An application for reconsideration may only be made before the expiry of the period of six months beginning with the relevant date.

(8) Where notice of a decision on the matters raised by the application under regulation 100 has been issued, the relevant date is the date of that notice.

(9) Where—

- (a) an interim reply has been sent under regulation 101(2), but
- (b) no notice of decision has been issued before the expiry of the period of one month beginning with the date specified in the reply as the expected date for issuing the decision,

the relevant date is the date with which that period expires.

(10) Where no notice of decision has been issued or interim reply has been sent before the expiry of the period of three months beginning with the date the application under regulation 100 was made, the relevant date is the date with which that period expires.

Notice of decisions by the Secretary of State under regulation 102

103.—(1) The Secretary of State must issue his decision on the matters raised by an application under regulation 102 to the parties to the disagreement by notice in writing before the expiry of the period of two months beginning with the date the application was received (but see paragraph (2)).

(2) If no such notice is issued before the expiry of that period, an interim reply must be sent immediately to those parties, setting out the reasons for the delay and an expected date for issuing the decision.

(3) A notice under paragraph (1) must include—

- (a) a statement of the decision;
- (b) in a case where there has been a decision made under section 100, an explanation as to whether and, if so, to what extent that decision is confirmed or replaced;
- (c) a reference to any legislation or provisions of the Scheme relied upon;
- (d) in a case where the disagreement relates to the exercise of a discretion, a reference to the provisions of the Scheme conferring the discretion;
- (e) a statement that OPAS (the Pensions Advisory Service) is available to assist members and beneficiaries of the Scheme in connection with difficulties which they have failed to resolve with the Secretary of State and of the address at which it may be contacted; and
- (f) a statement that the Pensions Ombudsman may investigate and determine any complaint or dispute of fact or law in relation to the Scheme made or referred in accordance with the Pension Schemes Act 1993(1) and of the address at which he may be contacted.

Rights of representation

104.—(1) An application under regulation 100 or 102 may be made or continued on behalf of the applicant by a representative nominated by him.

(2) Where a person who has the right to make or has made such an application dies, the application may be made or continued on his behalf by his personal representative.

(3) Where such a person is a minor or is or becomes otherwise incapable of acting for himself, the application may be made or continued on his behalf by a member of his family or some other person suitable to represent him.

(4) Where a representative is nominated before an application is made, the application must specify his full name and address and whether that is to be used for service on the applicant of any documents in connection with the application.

(5) Where a representative's address is not to be so used, he must be sent a copy of a notification under 101(1) or 103(1) or an interim reply under 101(2) or 103(2).

Appeals by administering authorities

105.—(1) Where—

- (a) a Scheme employer has decided or failed to decide any question falling to be decided by that employer under regulation 97 (otherwise than in the exercise of a discretion), and
- (b) the Scheme employer is not an administering authority,

the administering authority maintaining the pension fund to which the Scheme employer pays contributions may appeal to the Secretary of State to decide that question.

(2) Such an appeal must be made by notice in writing given before the end of the period of six months beginning with the relevant date or such further period as the Secretary of State considers reasonable.

(3) Where the appeal relates to a decision notified under regulation 98(1), the relevant date is the date of the notification of that decision.

(4) Where the appeal relates to a failure to decide any question, the relevant date is the date of that failure.

(5) For paragraph (4) an employer is to be taken to have failed to decide a question at the expiry of the period of three months beginning with the date on which the administering authority have requested a decision by notice in writing.

(6) Where an appeal has been made under paragraph (1), the period within which an application may be made under regulation 100 may not be extended under regulation 100(8).

(7) The Secretary of State must issue his decision on the appeal by notice in writing to the appellant authority and to any other persons appearing to him to be affected by it.

(8) Where an appeal is made by an authority under this regulation and any other person—

- (a) has made an application under regulation 100 or regulation 102 which has not been determined in respect of any of the matters which are the subject of the appeal, or
- (b) makes such an application contemporaneously with the appeal or after it and before the appeal is determined,

the appeal shall be stayed pending notification of a decision under regulation 100 or, as the case may be, regulation 102 or until the application is withdrawn.