

*These notes refer to the Public Service Pensions Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 (c.2) which received Royal Assent on 11 March 2014*

# Public Service Pensions Act (Northern Ireland) 2014

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## **EXPLANATORY NOTES**

### **COMMENTARY ON SECTIONS**

#### *Public body pension schemes*

##### *Section 33: Existing public body pension schemes: pension age*

This section allows an existing public body pension scheme to reform itself by including a provision that the normal pension age and deferred pension age of members of those schemes is to be the same as their state pension age (subsection (1)(a)). The link may only apply to benefits accrued under the scheme after the provision to establish that link took effect.

Subsection (1)(b) allows any changes to normal or deferred pension age that occur as a result of a change in state pension age to apply to the calculation and payment of all benefits earned in a scheme; including, as set out in subsection (2), benefits accrued after the creation of the link but before the relevant change in state pension age.

The effect of this section is to allow existing public body pension schemes to include a provision to link normal and deferred pension ages, so they change in line with any change to state pension age. If state pension age increases by one year, the normal and deferred pension ages would automatically increase by one year, and the increase would apply to all benefits earned in the scheme from the point at which the link to state pension age was created.