
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2005 No. 255

The Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 2005

PART II

THE PENSIONS REGULATOR

Gathering information

Provision of information

67.—(1) The Regulator may, by notice in writing, require any person to whom paragraph (2) applies to produce any document, or provide any other information, which is—

- (a) of a description specified in the notice, and
- (b) relevant to the exercise of the Regulator's functions.

^{F1F2}(1A)

^{F3}(1B)

(2) This paragraph applies to—

- (a) a trustee or manager of an occupational or personal pension scheme,
- [^{F4}(aa) a member of the pension board of a public service pension scheme,]
- (b) a professional adviser in relation to an occupational pension scheme,
- (c) the employer in relation to—
 - (i) an occupational pension scheme, or
 - (ii) a personal pension scheme where direct payment arrangements exist in respect of one or more members of the scheme who are employees, and
- (d) any other person appearing to the Regulator to be a person who holds, or is likely to hold, information relevant to the exercise of the Regulator's functions.

(3) Where the production of a document, or the provision of information, is required by a notice given under paragraph (1), the document must be produced, or information must be provided, in such a manner, at such a place and within such a period as may be specified in the notice.

F1 Art. 67(1A) omitted (1.10.2021) by virtue of Pension Schemes Act 2021 (c. 1), s. 131(2)(b), **Sch. 8 para. 9(2)**; S.R. 2021/271, art. 2(5)(b) (with art. 9)

F2 Words in art. 67(1A) inserted (10.8.2021 for specified purposes, 16.3.2022 for specified purposes) by Pension Schemes Act (Northern Ireland) 2021 (c. 6), s. 44(1)(a)(v), **Sch. 3 para. 9** (with transitional provisions in S.R. 2021/234, art. 3); S.R. 2022/110, art. 2(a)

F3 Art. 67(1B) omitted (1.10.2021) by virtue of Pension Schemes Act 2021 (c. 1), s. 131(2)(b), **Sch. 8 para. 9(2)**; S.R. 2021/271, art. 2(5)(b) (with art. 9)

F4 Art. 67(2)(aa) inserted (1.4.2015) by Public Service Pensions Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 (c. 2), s. 37(2), **Sch. 4 para. 9**; S.R. 2015/3, art. 4(1)(b) (with art. 4(2))

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Changes to legislation: The Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 2005, Cross Heading: Gathering information is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 30 June 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)

[^{F5}Interviews

67A.—(1) The Regulator may, by notice in writing, require any person to whom Article 67(2) applies to attend before the Regulator, at a time and place specified in the notice, to answer questions and provide explanations on one or more matters specified in the notice that are relevant to the exercise of any of the Regulator's functions.

(2) A notice under paragraph (1) must contain such other information as may be prescribed.]

F5 Art. 67A inserted (1.9.2021 for specified purposes, 1.10.2021 in so far as not already in operation) by Pension Schemes Act 2021 (c. 1), s. 131(2)(b), **Sch. 8 para. 9(1)**; S.R. 2021/240, art. 2(1)(e); S.R. 2021/271, art. 2(5)(b) (with art. 9)

Inspection of premises

68.—(1) An inspector may, for the purposes of investigating whether, in the case of any occupational pension scheme, the occupational scheme provisions are being, or have been, complied with, at any reasonable time enter premises liable to inspection.

(2) In paragraph (1), the “occupational scheme provisions” means provisions contained in or made by virtue of—

(a) any of the following provisions of this Order—

Part I (introductory);

this Part;

Part IV (scheme funding);

Articles 218 to 220 (member-nominated trustees and directors);

Articles 224 to 226 (requirement for knowledge and understanding);

Article 229 (UK-based scheme to be trust with effective rules);

Article 230 ([^{F6}non-UK] scheme to be trust with UK resident trustee);

Article 232 (activities of occupational pension schemes);

Article 233 (no indemnification for fines or civil penalties);

Articles 236 and 238 (consultation by employers);

^{F7} ...

Part IX (miscellaneous and supplementary);

(b) either of the following provisions of the 1999 Order—

Article 30 (time for discharge of pension credit liability);

Article 42 (information);

(c) any of the provisions of Part II of the 1995 Order (occupational pension schemes), other than—

(i) Articles 51 to 54 (indexation), and

(ii) Articles 62 to 65 (equal treatment);

(d) any of the following provisions of the Pension Schemes Act—

[^{F8}Chapter 1 of Part 4ZA] (transfer values);

[^{F9}Chapter 2 of Part 4ZA] (early leavers: cash transfer sums and contribution refunds);

Chapter 2 of Part IVA (pension credit transfer values);

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section 109 (information);

section 170 (levy);

[^{F10}(da) section 16 of the Public Service Pensions Act (Northern Ireland) 2014;]

[^{F11}(dc) the Pension Schemes Act (Northern Ireland) 2021;]

(e) [^{F12}the Pension Schemes Act 2017 and] any provisions in force in Great Britain corresponding to any provisions within sub-paragraphs (a) to [^{F13}(da)].

[^{F14}(2A) An inspector may, for the purposes of investigating whether the Regulator has grounds in the case of an occupational pension scheme for issuing—

(a) a contribution notice under Article 34 (contribution notices where avoidance of employer debt),

(b) a financial support direction under Article 39 (financial support directions),

(c) a contribution notice under Article 43 (contribution notices where non-compliance with financial support direction),

(d) a restoration order under Article 48 (restoration orders where transactions at an undervalue),

(e) a contribution notice under Article 51 (contribution notice where failure to comply with restoration order), or

(f) a notice, direction or order under any corresponding provision in force in Great Britain, at any reasonable time enter premises liable to inspection.]

(3) An inspector may, for the purposes of investigating whether, in the case of a stakeholder scheme—

(a) Articles 3 and 4(4) of the 1999 Order (stakeholder pension schemes: registration etc.), or

(b) any corresponding provisions in force in Great Britain,

are being, or have been, complied with, at any reasonable time enter premises liable to inspection.

(4) An inspector may, for the purposes of investigating whether, in the case of any trust-based personal stakeholder scheme, the trust-based scheme provisions are being, or have been, complied with, at any reasonable time enter premises liable to inspection.

(5) In paragraph (4)—

“trust-based personal stakeholder scheme” means a personal pension scheme which—

(a) is a stakeholder scheme, and

(b) is established under a trust;

the “trust-based scheme provisions” means any provisions contained in or made by virtue of—

(a) any provision which applies in relation to trust-based personal stakeholder schemes by virtue of paragraph 1 of Schedule 1 to the 1999 Order, as the provision applies by virtue of that paragraph, or

(b) any corresponding provision in force in Great Britain.

[^{F15}(5A) An inspector may, for the purposes of investigating whether the relevant provisions are being, or have been, complied with in the case of a scheme, at any reasonable time enter premises liable to inspection.

(5B) In paragraph (5A), “the relevant provisions” means provisions contained in or made by virtue of—

(a) such provisions of the pensions legislation as may be prescribed;

(b) any provisions in force in Great Britain, corresponding to the provisions so prescribed.]

Status: Point in time view as at 16/03/2022.

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(6) Premises are liable to inspection for the purposes of this Article if the inspector has reasonable grounds to believe that—

- (a) members of the scheme are employed there,
- (b) documents relevant to the administration of the scheme are being kept there, ^{F16}...
- (c) the administration of the scheme, or work connected with that administration, is being carried out there.
- [^{F17}(d) documents relevant to the administration of the business of the employer in relation to the scheme are being kept there,
- (e) the administration of the business of the employer in relation to the scheme, or work connected with that administration, is being carried out there, or
- (f) in the case of an occupational pension scheme other than a money purchase scheme, a prescribed scheme or a scheme of a prescribed description, documents relevant to a change in the ownership of the employer or of a significant asset of the employer are being kept there.]

[^{F18}(6A) In the application of this Article in relation to a provision mentioned in paragraph (1), (2A), (3), (4) or (5A), references in this Article to “employer” are to be read as having the meaning that it has for the purposes of the provision in question.

(6B) In this Article a reference to an employer in relation to an occupational pension scheme includes a reference to a person who has been the employer in relation to the scheme.]

(7) In [^{F19}this Article— “the pensions legislation” means any statutory provision contained in or made by virtue of—

- (a) the Pension Schemes Act,
- (b) Part 2 or Article 30 or 42 of the 1999 Order,
- (c) this Order,
- (d) Schedule 18 to the Pensions Act (Northern Ireland) 2015, or
- (e) section 51 or 52 of the Pension Schemes Act 2015;]

“stakeholder scheme” means an occupational pension scheme or a personal pension scheme which is or has been registered under—

- (a) Article 4 of the 1999 Order (register of stakeholder schemes), or
- (b) any corresponding provision in force in Great Britain.

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| F6 | Words in art. 68(2)(a) substituted (31.12.2020) by The Occupational and Personal Pension Schemes (Amendment etc.) (Northern Ireland) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/193) , regs. 1, 5(2)(a) ; 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1) |
| F7 | Words in art. 68(2)(a) omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of The Occupational and Personal Pension Schemes (Amendment etc.) (Northern Ireland) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/193) , regs. 1, 5(2)(b) ; 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1) |
| F8 | Words in art. 68(2)(d) substituted (6.4.2015) by Pension Schemes Act 2015 (c. 8) , s. 89(3)(b), Sch. 4 para. 84(a) (with s. 87) |
| F9 | Words in art. 68(2)(d) substituted (6.4.2015) by Pension Schemes Act 2015 (c. 8) , s. 89(3)(b), Sch. 4 para. 84(b) (with s. 87) |
| F10 | Art. 68(2)(da) inserted (1.4.2015) by Public Service Pensions Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 (c. 2) , s. 37(2), Sch. 4 para. 10(a) ; S.R. 2015/3, art. 4(1)(b) (with art. 4(2)) |
| F11 | Art. 68(2)(dc) inserted (16.3.2022 for specified purposes) by Pension Schemes Act (Northern Ireland) 2021 (c. 6) , s. 44(2), Sch. 3 para. 10 ; S.R. 2022/110, art. 2(a) |
| F12 | Words in art. 68(2)(e) inserted (1.10.2021) by Pension Schemes Act 2021 (c. 1) , s. 131(2)(b), Sch. 8 para. 10(2)(b)(i) ; S.R. 2021/271, art. 2(3)(f) |

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- F13** Word in art. 68(2)(e) substituted (1.4.2015) by Public Service Pensions Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 (c. 2), s. 37(2), **Sch. 4 para. 10(b)**; S.R. 2015/3, art. 4(1)(b) (with art. 4(2))
- F14** Art. 68(2A) inserted (1.10.2021) by Pension Schemes Act 2021 (c. 1), s. 131(2)(b), **Sch. 8 para. 10(3)**; S.R. 2021/271, art. 2(3)(f)
- F15** Art. 68(5A)(5B) inserted (1.10.2021) by Pension Schemes Act 2021 (c. 1), s. 131(2)(b), **Sch. 8 para. 10(4)**; S.R. 2021/271, art. 2(3)(f)
- F16** Word in art. 68(6)(b) omitted (1.10.2021) by virtue of Pension Schemes Act 2021 (c. 1), s. 131(2)(b), **Sch. 8 para. 10(5)(a)**; S.R. 2021/271, art. 2(3)(f)
- F17** Art. 68(6)(d)-(f) inserted (1.10.2021) by Pension Schemes Act 2021 (c. 1), s. 131(2)(b), **Sch. 8 para. 10(5)(b)**; S.R. 2021/271, art. 2(3)(f)
- F18** Art. 68(6A)(6B) inserted (1.10.2021) by Pension Schemes Act 2021 (c. 1), s. 131(2)(b), **Sch. 8 para. 10(6)**; S.R. 2021/271, art. 2(3)(f)
- F19** Words in art. 68(7) substituted (1.10.2021) by Pension Schemes Act 2021 (c. 1), s. 131(2)(b), **Sch. 8 para. 10(7)**; S.R. 2021/271, art. 2(3)(f)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** Art. 68(6)(d)-(f) modified (1.10.2021) by The Pensions Regulator (Information Gathering Powers and Modification) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2021 (S.R. 2021/243), regs. 1, 4

Inspection of premises in respect of employers' obligations

69.—^{F20}(A1) An inspector may, for the purposes of investigating whether an employer is contravening, or has contravened—

- (a) any provision of, or of regulations under, Chapter 1 of Part 1, or section 50 or 54, of the Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, or
- (b) any corresponding provision in force in Great Britain,

at any reasonable time enter premises liable to inspection.

(B1) Premises are liable to inspection for the purposes of paragraph (A1) if the inspector has reasonable grounds to believe that—

- (a) the employer employs workers there,
- (b) documents relevant to any of the following are being kept there—
 - (i) the administration of the employer's business,
 - (ii) the duties of the employer under Chapter 1 of Part 1 of the Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 or any corresponding provision in force in Great Britain,
 - (iii) the administration of a pension scheme that is relevant to the discharge of those duties, or
- (c) the administration of the employer's business, or work connected with that administration, is being carried out there.

(C1) In paragraphs (A1) and (B1) “employer” and “worker” have the meaning given by section 70 of the Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

(D1) In the application of paragraphs (A1) and (B1) in relation to any provision mentioned in paragraph (A1)(b) (a “corresponding GB provision”), references in those paragraphs to “employer” or “worker” are to be read as having the meaning that they have for the purposes of the corresponding GB provision.]

(1) An inspector may, for the purposes of investigating whether an employer is complying, or has complied, with the requirements under—

- (a) Article 5 of the 1999 Order (duty of employers to facilitate access to stakeholder pension schemes), or

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- (b) any corresponding provision in force in Great Britain,
at any reasonable time enter premises liable to inspection.
- (2) Premises are liable to inspection for the purposes of paragraph (1) if the inspector has reasonable grounds to believe that—
- (a) employees of the employer are employed there,
 - (b) documents relevant to the administration of the employer's business are being kept there, or
 - (c) the administration of the employer's business, or work connected with that administration, is being carried out there.
- (3) In paragraphs (1) and (2), “employer” has the meaning given in Article 5(9) of the 1999 Order (or, where paragraph (1)(b) applies, in any corresponding provision in force in Great Britain).
- (4) An inspector may, for the purposes of investigating whether, in the case of any direct payment arrangements relating to a personal pension scheme, any of the following provisions—
- (a) regulations made by virtue of Articles 237 and 238 (consultation by employers),
 - (b) section 107A of the Pension Schemes Act (monitoring of employers' payments to personal pension schemes), or
 - (c) any corresponding provision in force in Great Britain,
- is being, or has been, complied with, at any reasonable time enter premises liable to inspection.
- (5) Premises are liable to inspection for the purposes of paragraph (4) if the inspector has reasonable grounds to believe that—
- (a) employees of the employer are employed there,
 - (b) documents relevant to the administration of—
 - (i) the employer's business,
 - (ii) the direct payment arrangements, or
 - (iii) the scheme to which those arrangements relate,
 are being kept there, or
 - (c) either of the following is being carried out there—
 - (i) the administration of the employer's business, the arrangements or the scheme;
 - (ii) work connected with that administration.
- (6) In the application of paragraphs (4) and (5) in relation to any provision mentioned in paragraph (4)(c) (a “corresponding Great Britain provision”), references in those paragraphs to—
- direct payment arrangements,
 - a personal pension scheme,
 - the employer, or
 - employees of the employer,
- are to be read as having the meanings that they have for the purposes of the corresponding Great Britain provision.

F20 Art. 69(A1)-(D1) inserted (30.6.2012) by [Pensions \(No. 2\) Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2008 \(c. 13\)](#), **ss. 60(3)**, 118(1) (with s. 73); S.R. 2012/266, art. 2(b), Sch. Pt. 2

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Inspection of premises: powers of inspectors

70.—(1) Paragraph (2) applies where, for a purpose mentioned in paragraph (1), [^{F21}(2A),]^{F22}(3), (4) or (5A)] of Article 68 or paragraph [^{F23}(A1),] (1) or (4) of Article 69, an inspector enters premises which are liable to inspection for the purposes of that provision.

(2) While there, the inspector—

- (a) may make such examination and inquiry as may be necessary for the purpose for which he entered the premises,
- (b) may require any person on the premises to produce, or secure the production of, any document relevant to compliance with the regulatory provisions for his inspection,
- (c) may take copies of any such document,
- (d) may take possession of any document appearing to be a document relevant to compliance with the regulatory provisions or take in relation to any such document any other steps which appear necessary for preserving it or preventing interference with it,
- (e) may, in the case of any such document which consists of information which is stored in electronic form and is on, or accessible from, the premises, require the information to be produced in a form—
 - (i) in which it can be taken away, and
 - (ii) in which it is legible or from which it can readily be produced in a legible form, and
- (f) may, as to any matter relevant to compliance with the regulatory provisions, examine, or require to be examined, either alone or in the presence of another person, any person on the premises whom he has reasonable cause to believe to be able to give information relevant to that matter.

F21 Word in art. 70(1) inserted (1.10.2021) by Pension Schemes Act 2021 (c. 1), s. 131(2)(b), **Sch. 8 para. 18(a)**; S.R. 2021/271, art. 2(4)(c)

F22 Words in art. 70(1) substituted (1.10.2021) by Pension Schemes Act 2021 (c. 1), s. 131(2)(b), **Sch. 8 para. 18(b)**; S.R. 2021/271, art. 2(4)(c)

F23 Word in art. 70(1) inserted (30.6.2012) by Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (c. 13), **ss. 60(4), 118(1)** (with s. 73); S.R. 2012/266, art. 2(b), Sch. Pt. 2

Inspection of premises: supplementary

71.—(1) This Article applies for the purposes of Articles 68 to 70.

(2) Premises which are a private dwelling-house not used by, or by permission of, the occupier for the purposes of a trade or business are not liable to inspection.

(3) Any question whether—

- (a) anything is being or has been done or omitted which might by virtue of any of the regulatory provisions give rise to a liability for a civil penalty under or by virtue of [^{F24}Article 72A, 72B or 83A of this Order,] Article 10 of the 1995 Order or section 164(4) of the Pension Schemes Act (or under or by virtue of any provision in force in Great Britain corresponding to [^{F25}any of those provisions]), or
- (b) an offence is being or has been committed under any of the regulatory provisions,

is to be treated as a question whether the regulatory provision is being, or has been, complied with.

(4) An inspector applying for admission to any premises for the purposes of Article 68 or 69 must, if so required, produce his certificate of appointment.

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(5) When exercising a power under Article 68, 69 or 70 an inspector may be accompanied by such persons as he considers appropriate.

(6) Any document of which possession is taken under Article 70 may be retained—

- (a) if the document is relevant to proceedings against any person for any offence which are commenced before the end of the retention period, until the conclusion of those proceedings, and
- (b) otherwise, until the end of the retention period.

(7) In paragraph (6), “the retention period” means the period comprising—

- (a) the period of 12 months beginning with the date on which possession was taken of the document, and
- (b) any extension of that period under paragraph (8).

(8) The Regulator may, by a direction made before the end of the retention period (including any extension of it under this paragraph), extend it by such period not exceeding 12 months as the Regulator considers appropriate.

(9) “The regulatory provisions”, in relation to an inspection under paragraph (1), [F26(2A)], [F27(3), (4) or (5A)] of Article 68 or paragraph [F28(A1),] (1) or (4) of Article 69, means any provision referred to in that paragraph.

F24 Words in art. 71(3)(a) inserted (1.10.2021) by Pension Schemes Act 2021 (c. 1), s. 131(2)(b), **Sch. 8 para. 19(2)(a)**; S.R. 2021/271, art. 2(4)(c)

F25 Words in art. 71(3)(a) substituted (1.10.2021) by Pension Schemes Act 2021 (c. 1), s. 131(2)(b), **Sch. 8 para. 19(2)(b)**; S.R. 2021/271, art. 2(4)(c)

F26 Word in art. 71(9) inserted (1.10.2021) by Pension Schemes Act 2021 (c. 1), s. 131(2)(b), **Sch. 8 para. 19(3)(a)**; S.R. 2021/271, art. 2(4)(c)

F27 Words in art. 71(9) substituted (1.10.2021) by Pension Schemes Act 2021 (c. 1), s. 131(2)(b), **Sch. 8 para. 19(3)(b)**; S.R. 2021/271, art. 2(4)(c)

F28 Word in art. 71(9) inserted (30.6.2012) by Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (c. 13), **ss. 60(5), 118(1)** (with s. 73); S.R. 2012/266, art. 2(b), Sch. Pt. 2

Penalties relating to Articles 67 to 70

72.—(1) A person who, without reasonable excuse, neglects or refuses to provide information or produce a document when required to do so under Article 67 is guilty of an offence.

[F29(1A) A person who, without reasonable excuse, neglects or refuses—

- (a) to attend before the Regulator as required under Article 67A(1), or
- (b) to answer a question or provide an explanation on a matter specified in the notice under Article 67A(1), when so attending before the Regulator,

is guilty of an offence.]

(2) A person who without reasonable excuse—

- (a) intentionally delays or obstructs an inspector exercising any power under Article 68, 69 or 70,
- (b) neglects or refuses to produce, or secure the production of, any document when required to do so under Article 70, or
- (c) neglects or refuses to answer a question or to provide information when so required,

is guilty of an offence.

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(3) A person guilty of an offence under paragraph (1)^{F30}, (1A)] or (2) is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale.

(4) An offence under paragraph (1)^{F31}, (1A)] or (2)(b) or (c) may be charged by reference to any day or longer period of time; and a person may be convicted of a second or subsequent offence by reference to any period of time following the preceding conviction of the offence.

(5) Any person who intentionally and without reasonable excuse alters, suppresses, conceals or destroys any document which he is or is liable to be required to produce under Article 67 or 70 is guilty of an offence.

(6) Any person guilty of an offence under paragraph (5) is liable—

- (a) on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum;
- (b) on conviction on indictment, to a fine or imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years, or both.

F29 Art. 72(1A) inserted (1.10.2021) by Pension Schemes Act 2021 (c. 1), s. 131(2)(b), **Sch. 8 para. 9(3)(a)**; S.R. 2021/271, art. 2(5)(b) (with art. 9)

F30 Word in art. 72(3) inserted (1.10.2021) by Pension Schemes Act 2021 (c. 1), s. 131(2)(b), **Sch. 8 para. 9(3)(b)**; S.R. 2021/271, art. 2(5)(b) (with art. 9)

F31 Word in art. 72(4) inserted (1.10.2021) by Pension Schemes Act 2021 (c. 1), s. 131(2)(b), **Sch. 8 para. 9(3)(c)**; S.R. 2021/271, art. 2(5)(b) (with art. 9)

^{F32}Fixed penalty notices

72A.—(1) The Regulator may issue a fixed penalty notice to a person if it considers that the person—

- (a) has failed to comply with a notice under Article 67 or 67A,
- (b) has failed to comply with a requirement under Article 70, or
- (c) has prevented or hindered an inspector exercising any power under Article 68, 69 or 70.

(2) A fixed penalty notice is a notice requiring the person to whom it is issued to pay a penalty within the period specified in the notice.

(3) The penalty—

- (a) is to be determined in accordance with regulations, and
- (b) must not exceed £50,000.

(4) A fixed penalty notice must—

- (a) state the amount of the penalty;
- (b) state the date by which the penalty must be paid, which must be at least 28 days after the date on which the notice is issued;
- (c) state the period to which the penalty relates;
- (d) specify the failure or conduct to which the penalty relates;
- (e) state that the Regulator may issue an escalating penalty notice under Article 72B if the person fails to comply with a notice under Article 67 or 67A;
- (f) notify the person to whom the notice is issued of the review process under section 43 of the Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and the right of referral to a tribunal under section 44 of that Act (as applied by paragraph (5)).

(5) The following sections of the Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 apply to a penalty notice under this Article as they apply to a penalty notice under section 40 of that Act—

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- (a) section 42 (penalty notices: recovery);
 - (b) section 43 (review of penalty notices);
 - (c) section 44 (references to First-tier Tribunal or Upper Tribunal).
- (6) This Article does not apply in a case where section 40 of the Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 [^{F33}or section 17 of the Pension Schemes Act (Northern Ireland) 2021] applies.]

- F32** Arts. 72A, 72B inserted (1.9.2021 for specified purposes, 1.10.2021 in so far as not already in operation) by Pension Schemes Act 2021 (c. 1), s. 131(2)(b), **Sch. 8 para. 11**; S.R. 2021/240, art. 2(1)(f); S.R. 2021/271, art. 2(5)(c) (with art. 5)
- F33** Words in art. 72A(6) inserted (16.3.2022 for specified purposes) by Pension Schemes Act (Northern Ireland) 2021 (c. 6), s. 44(2), **Sch. 3 para. 11**; S.R. 2022/110, art. 2(a)

[^{F32}Escalating penalty notices

72B.—(1) The Regulator may issue an escalating penalty notice to a person if it considers that the person has failed to comply with a notice under Article 67 or 67A.

- (2) But the Regulator may not issue an escalating penalty notice to a person if—
- (a) the person has exercised the right of referral to a tribunal under section 44 of the Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (as applied by Article 72A(5)) in respect of a fixed penalty notice issued under Article 72A in relation to that notice under Article 67 or 67A, and
 - (b) the reference has not been determined.
- (3) An escalating penalty notice is a notice requiring a person to pay an escalating penalty if the person fails to comply with a notice under Article 67 or 67A before a specified date.
- (4) An escalating penalty is a penalty which is calculated by reference to a daily rate.
- (5) The daily rate—
- (a) is to be determined in accordance with regulations, and
 - (b) must not exceed £10,000.
- (6) An escalating penalty notice must—
- (a) specify the failure to which the penalty relates;
 - (b) state that, if the person fails to comply with the notice under Article 67 or 67A before a specified date, the person will be liable to pay an escalating penalty;
 - (c) state the daily rate of the escalating penalty and the way in which the penalty is calculated;
 - (d) state the date from which the escalating penalty will be payable, which must not be earlier than the date specified in the fixed penalty notice under Article 72A(4)(b);
 - (e) state that the escalating penalty will continue to be payable at the daily rate until the date on which the person complies with the notice under Article 67 or 67A or such earlier date as the Regulator may determine;
 - (f) notify the person to whom the notice is issued of the review process under section 43 of the Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and the right of referral to a tribunal under section 44 of that Act (as applied by paragraph (7)).

(7) The following sections of the Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 apply to an escalating penalty notice under this Article as they apply to an escalating penalty notice under section 41 of that Act—

- (a) section 42 (penalty notices: recovery);

Changes to legislation: The Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 2005, Cross Heading: Gathering information is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 30 June 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)

- (b) section 43 (review of penalty notices);
- (c) section 44 (references to First-tier Tribunal or Upper Tribunal).

(8) This Article does not apply in a case where section 41 of the Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 [^{F34}or section 18 of the Pension Schemes Act (Northern Ireland) 2021] applies.]

- F32** Arts. 72A, 72B inserted (1.9.2021 for specified purposes, 1.10.2021 in so far as not already in operation) by Pension Schemes Act 2021 (c. 1), s. 131(2)(b), **Sch. 8 para. 11**; S.R. 2021/240, art. 2(1)(f); S.R. 2021/271, art. 2(5)(c) (with art. 5)
- F34** Words in art. 72B(8) inserted (16.3.2022 for specified purposes) by Pension Schemes Act (Northern Ireland) 2021 (c. 6), s. 44(2), **Sch. 3 para. 12**; S.R. 2022/110, art. 2(a)

Warrants

73.—(1) A justice of the peace may issue a warrant under this Article if satisfied on complaint on oath given by or on behalf of the Regulator that there are reasonable grounds for believing—

- (a) that there is on, or accessible from, any premises any document—
 - (i) whose production has been required under Article 67 or 70, or any corresponding provision in force in Great Britain, and
 - (ii) which has not been produced in compliance with that requirement,
- (b) that there is on, or accessible from, any premises any document whose production could be so required and, if its production were so required, the document—
 - (i) would not be produced, but
 - (ii) would be removed, or made inaccessible, from the premises, hidden, tampered with or destroyed, or
- (c) that—
 - (i) an offence has been committed,
 - (ii) a person will do any act which constitutes a misuse or misappropriation of the assets of an occupational pension scheme or a personal pension scheme,
 - (iii) a person is liable to pay a penalty under or by virtue of [^{F35}Article 72A, 72B or 83A of this Order,] Article 10 of the 1995 Order (civil penalties) or section 164(4) of the Pension Schemes Act (civil penalties for breach of regulations), or under or by virtue of any provision in force in Great Britain corresponding to [^{F36}any of those provisions], or
 - (iv) a person is liable to be prohibited from being a trustee of an occupational or personal pension scheme under Article 3 of the 1995 Order (prohibition orders), including that Article as it applies by virtue of paragraph 1 of Schedule 1 to the 1999 Order (stakeholder schemes), or under or by virtue of any corresponding provisions in force in Great Britain,

and that there is on, or accessible from, any premises any document which relates to whether the offence has been committed, whether the act will be done or whether the person is so liable, and whose production could be required under Article 67 or 70 or any corresponding provision in force in Great Britain.

- (2) A warrant under this Article shall authorise an inspector—
- (a) to enter the premises specified in the complaint, using such force as is reasonably necessary for the purpose,
 - (b) to search the premises and—

Status: Point in time view as at 16/03/2022.

Changes to legislation: The Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 2005, Cross Heading: Gathering information is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 30 June 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)

- (i) take possession of any document appearing to be such a document as is mentioned in paragraph (1), or
- (ii) take in relation to such a document any other steps which appear necessary for preserving it or preventing interference with it,
- (c) to take copies of any such document,
- (d) to require any person named in the warrant to provide an explanation of any such document or to state where it may be found or how access to it may be obtained, and
- (e) in the case of any such document which consists of information which is stored in electronic form and is on, or accessible from, the premises, to require the information to be produced in a form—
 - (i) in which it can be taken away, and
 - (ii) in which it is legible or from which it can readily be produced in a legible form.
- (3) In paragraph (1), any reference in sub-paragraph (a) or (b) to a document does not include any document which is relevant to whether a person has complied with—
 - (a) paragraph (3) of Article 215 (information and advice to employees) or regulations under paragraph (4) of that Article, or
 - (b) any provision in force in Great Britain which corresponds to that paragraph (3) or is made under provision corresponding to that paragraph (4),
 and is not relevant to the exercise of the Regulator's functions for any other reason.
- (4) For the purposes of paragraph (1)(c)(iii), any liability to pay a penalty under—
 - (a) Article 10 of the 1995 Order, or
 - (b) any corresponding provision in force in Great Britain,
 which might arise out of a failure to comply with any provision within paragraph (3)(a) or (b) is to be disregarded.
- (5) References in paragraph (2) to such a document as is mentioned in paragraph (1) are to be read in accordance with paragraphs (3) and (4).
- (6) When executing a warrant under this Article, an inspector may be accompanied by such persons as he considers appropriate.
- (7) A warrant under this Article continues in force until the end of the period of one month beginning with the day on which it is issued.
- (8) Any document of which possession is taken under this Article may be retained—
 - (a) if the document is relevant to proceedings against any person for any offence which are commenced before the end of the retention period, until the conclusion of those proceedings, and
 - (b) otherwise, until the end of the retention period.
- (9) In paragraph (8), “the retention period” means the period comprising—
 - (a) the period of 12 months beginning with the date on which possession was taken of the document, and
 - (b) any extension of that period under paragraph (10).
- (10) The Regulator may, by a direction made before the end of the retention period (including any extension of it under this paragraph), extend it by such period not exceeding 12 months as the Regulator considers appropriate.

Changes to legislation: The Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 2005, Cross Heading: Gathering information is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 30 June 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)

- F35** Words in art. 73(1)(c)(iii) inserted (1.10.2021) by Pension Schemes Act 2021 (c. 1), s. 131(2)(b), **Sch. 8 para. 20(a)**; S.R. 2021/271, art. 2(4)(c)
- F36** Words in art. 73(1)(c)(iii) substituted (1.10.2021) by Pension Schemes Act 2021 (c. 1), s. 131(2)(b), **Sch. 8 para. 20(b)**; S.R. 2021/271, art. 2(4)(c)

Articles 67 to 73: interpretation

74.—(1) This Article applies for the purposes of Articles 67 to 73.

(2) “Document” includes information recorded in any form, and any reference to production of a document, in relation to information recorded otherwise than in a legible form, is to producing a copy of the information—

- (a) in a legible form, or
 - (b) in a form from which it can readily be produced in a legible form.
- (3) “Inspector” means a person appointed by the Regulator as an inspector.

Status:

Point in time view as at 16/03/2022.

Changes to legislation:

The Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 2005, Cross Heading: Gathering information is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 30 June 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.