

1978 No. 307

PENSIONS

The Pensions (Requisite Benefits) Order (Northern Ireland) 1978

Made 11th October 1978

Coming into operation 9th November 1978

The Department of the Civil Service(a), in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Article 61(1) of the Social Security Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 1975(b), as read with Article 60 of that Order, as the appropriate authority designated for that purpose by the Department of the Civil Service in accordance with the said provisions, hereby makes the following Order:—

INTRODUCTORY

Citation and commencement

1.—(1) This Order may be cited as the Pensions (Requisite Benefits) Order (Northern Ireland) 1978.

(2) This Order shall come into operation on 9th November 1978 and shall have effect from 6th April 1978.

Interpretation

2. In this Order, unless the context otherwise requires—

“the Order of 1975” means the Social Security Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 1975;

“final salary” has the meaning given by Article 10;

“office holder” means a person who is or has been the holder of any scheduled office;

“relevant enactment” means an enactment by virtue of which an office holder might be granted a pension in respect of any relevant service and, in the case of a person who has held more than one office, includes any enactment relating to the payment of superannuation benefits to or in respect of such a person;

“relevant service” has the meaning given by Article 5(3) and (4);

“scheduled office” means an office listed in Schedule 1;

“scheme” means, in relation to any office holder, the public service pension scheme established by a relevant enactment; and

other expressions have the same meanings as in the Order of 1975 or the Social Security (Northern Ireland) Act 1975(c).

(a) Formerly the Department of Finance: see 1973 c. 36 Sch. 5 para. 8(1) and S.R. 1976 No. 281 Art. 3(1)(a), Sch. 1 (II, p. 1339)
 (b) S.I. 1975/1503 (N.I. 15)
 (c) 1975 c. 15

GENERAL

General effect of Order

3.—(1) This Order shall apply in relation to any such office holder as is mentioned in Article 4 so as to modify, or further modify, any relevant enactment in respect of him and, accordingly, the scheme which is applicable in relation to him shall make provision for his benefit or otherwise in relation to him which accords with the following provisions of this Order.

(2) Articles 8 and 9 of this Order (which relate to guaranteed minimum pensions) shall apply in relation to any such office holder as is mentioned in Article 4 notwithstanding any other provision in any enactment, including the other provisions of this Order.

Office holders to whom Order applies

4. This Order shall have effect in relation to any office holder who was under pensionable age and who was holding a scheduled office on 6th April 1978 or who has been or is appointed to such an office when under that age on or after that date.

Ceasing to hold office and relevant service

5.—(1) An office holder does not cease to hold office for the purposes of this Order so long as he continues to hold any scheduled office or an office service in which may, under any enactment, be reckoned on any basis together with service of his in a scheduled office.

(2) An office holder does not cease to hold office for the purposes of this Order if, after ceasing to hold a scheduled office but before reaching pensionable age, he starts to hold another office, service in which may, under any relevant enactment, be reckoned on any basis together with service in the earlier office for the purpose of superannuation benefits.

(3) Subject to paragraph (4), an office holder's service in a scheduled office is relevant service for the purposes of this Order and his relevant service may include any earlier service of his which may, under any enactment, be reckoned on any basis together with service of his in a scheduled office.

(4) Service is not relevant service for the purposes of this Order if it is service before 6th April 1978.

(5) For the purposes of paragraphs (1), (2) and (3) it is immaterial—

- (a) whether the office holder has served at any time in any other office (including an office in relation to which he ceases to hold office for the purposes of this Order);
- (b) whether the earlier and the later offices are the same;
- (c) whether any election in respect of the office holder is available, or, if available, has been made; or
- (d) whether the superannuation benefits payable under the relevant enactment relating to one office would, in the circumstances of the case, be unaffected by adding the other service into the reckoning.

REQUISITE BENEFITS

Office holder's requisite benefits

6.—(1) As from his attainment of pensionable age an office holder shall be entitled for the purposes of this Order to a pension under a scheme for his life.

(2) Subject to paragraphs (3) and (4), the annual rate of the office holder's pension under paragraph (1) shall be $1\frac{1}{4}$ per cent of his final salary multiplied by the number of years of relevant service completed by him before he attained pensionable age.

(3) Paragraph (2) shall not apply in relation to an office holder—

- (a) who ceases to hold office before normal pension age; and
- (b) who has completed less than five years' qualifying service for the purposes of Schedule 3 to the Order of 1975 (preservation).

(4) Any part of the pension under paragraph (1) in excess of the office holder's guaranteed minimum pension shall be postponed for any period for which he continues in employment (whether or not employment to which the scheme relates) after attaining pensionable age.

Widow's requisite benefits

7.—(1) As from the death of an office holder (whether before or after attaining pensionable age) his widow shall be entitled for the purposes of this Order to a pension under a scheme.

(2) Subject to paragraphs (3) and (4), the annual rate of the widow's pension under paragraph (1) shall be $\frac{5}{8}$ per cent of the final salary (or last salary before death) of the office holder multiplied by the number of years of relevant service completed by him before he attained pensionable age.

(3) Paragraph (2) shall apply for any such period as is mentioned in Article 38(6) of the Order of 1975.

(4) Paragraph (2) shall not apply in relation to an office holder who dies after ceasing to hold office and who has completed less than five years' qualifying service for the purposes of Schedule 3 to the Order of 1975 (preservation).

Office holder's guaranteed minimum pension

8.—(1) As from his attainment of pensionable age any office holder who has ceased to hold office shall, subject to paragraph (3), be entitled to receive, in relation to the pension provided for him by a scheme, not less than the guaranteed minimum pension, the weekly rate of which shall be calculated in accordance with Article 37(2), (3), (4), (5) and (9) of the Order of 1975, unless his accrued rights thereto are extinguished under Article 45(7) of that Order.

(2) Where an office holder continues to serve after attaining pensionable age then—

- (a) as from the expiration of five years from the date on which he attains pensionable age; or
- (b) as from the date (if earlier) when he ceases to hold office,

he shall, subject to paragraph (3), be entitled to receive, in relation to the pension provided for him by a scheme, not less than the guaranteed minimum pension, the weekly rate of which shall be calculated in the manner provided by paragraph (1) of this Article and Article 37(6) of the Order of 1975.

(3) Entitlement to payment of a guaranteed minimum pension by virtue of paragraph (1) or (2) shall not arise in respect of any period during which the consent of the office holder under Article 35(3)(a) or (b) of the Order of 1975 is in force and not revoked, and, when the pension which has accordingly been postponed commences, paragraph (1) of this Article shall apply as if it contained a reference to Article 37(6) of the Order of 1975.

(4) Any entitlement by virtue of this Article shall continue for the life of the office holder.

Widow's guaranteed minimum pension

9.—(1) As from the death (whether before or after attaining pensionable age) of an office holder, his widow shall, subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), be entitled to receive, in relation to the pension provided for her by a scheme, a guaranteed minimum pension the weekly rate of which shall be not less than her guaranteed minimum as ascertained in accordance with Article 38(3) of the Order of 1975.

(2) Paragraph (1) shall apply for any such period as is mentioned in Article 38(6) of the Order of 1975.

(3) Paragraph (1) shall not apply—

(a) if at the date of his death the office holder's accrued rights to a guaranteed minimum pension have been extinguished under Article 45(7) of the Order of 1975; or

(b) if the widow's accrued rights are extinguished under that paragraph.

MISCELLANEOUS

Ascertainment of salary for requisite benefits

10.—(1) Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), for the purposes of this Order the final salary of an office holder (or his last salary before death) shall be the annual rate of salary which the office holder is receiving immediately before he ceases to hold office together with any sum which is reckoned as an additional part of his salary for pension purposes.

(2) Where—

(a) an office holder has two or more periods of relevant service; and

(b) an election is made by or in respect of him, pursuant to any enactment relating to the payment of superannuation benefits in respect of persons who have served continuously in more than one office, in favour of the receipt of benefits payable under the relevant enactment which relates to an office held by him other than the last,

then, for the purposes of this Order, the final salary of that office holder (or his last salary before death) shall be that which would have been arrived at under paragraph (1) if he had continued to hold the earlier office until the date when he ceased to hold office.

(3) For the purposes of Articles 6, 7 and 11(2) there shall be excluded from the salary by reference to which the annual rate of the office holder's or widow's pension is to be calculated any amount of earnings except so much (if any) as would, if expressed as a weekly rate, exceed one and a half times the lower earnings limit but would not exceed the upper earnings limit.

(4) In paragraph (3), references to the lower and upper earnings limits, in relation to any earnings, are references to those limits as in force when the earnings are paid.

Contribution in event of marriage during retirement

11.—(1) Where, on the date when he ceases to hold office, an office holder is unmarried, he may be required to undertake, in return for payment to him of a lump sum under section 5 of the Judicial Pensions Act (Northern Ireland)

1951(d), Article 6 of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration and Commissioner for Complaints (Pension) Order (Northern Ireland) 1973(e), section 2 of the Superannuation (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (Northern Ireland) 1969(f), or Article 5 of the Lands Tribunal (Salaries and Superannuation) Order (Northern Ireland) 1964(g), that he will, on his first marriage thereafter, pay a contribution in respect of benefits that may become payable to a widow of his by virtue of Articles 7 and 9.

(2) The contribution referred to in paragraph (1) shall be equal to $1\frac{7}{8}$ ths per cent of his final salary multiplied by the number of whole years of relevant service of his—

- (a) which were completed by him before he attained pensionable age; and
- (b) which were not years—
 - (i) during any part of which he was a married man; or
 - (ii) preceding a marriage of his contracted before he ceased to hold office.

Marriage shortly before death

12. Where the marriage of a woman to an office holder takes place after he has ceased to hold office and not more than six months before his death, any pension to be paid to her as his widow by virtue of this Order shall be limited to her guaranteed minimum pension.

Time of payment

13. Any pension to which there is entitlement by virtue of this Order shall be payable at intervals of not more than three months.

Relationship to other benefits

14. Any pension to which there is entitlement by virtue of this Order shall be reckoned towards and treated as part of any pension which is paid in relation to an office holder under any relevant enactment.

Savings

15.—(1) Nothing in this Order shall affect the meaning of “normal pension age”, in any relevant enactment.

(2) This Order shall not apply in relation to an office holder with respect to whose relevant service the provisions of the principal civil service pension scheme within the meaning of Article 4 of the Superannuation (Northern Ireland) Order 1972(h) and for the time being in force apply.

Modification of enactments

16. The enactments mentioned in Schedule 2 shall have effect subject to the modifications in this Order.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of the Civil Service for Northern Ireland on 11th October 1978.

(L.S.)

J. Armstrong
Assistant Secretary

- (d) 1951 c. 20 (N.I.)
- (e) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1973 No. 455 (II, p. 2677)
- (f) 1969 c. 7 (N.I.)
- (g) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1964 No. 191 (p. 867)
- (h) S.I. 1972/1073 (N.I. 10)

SCHEDULE 1

Article 2

OFFICE

Northern Ireland Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration.
Northern Ireland Commissioner for Complaints.
National Insurance Commissioner.
President of Industrial Court.
President of Industrial Tribunals.
President of Lands Tribunal.
Member of Lands Tribunal.

SCHEDULE 2.

Article 16

ENACTMENTS

- The Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration and Commissioner for Complaints (Pension) Order (Northern Ireland) 1973, Part II.
 The Social Security (Northern Ireland) Act 1975, Schedule 10.
 The Superannuation (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (Northern Ireland) 1969, Section 2.
 The Lands Tribunal (Salaries and Superannuation) Order (Northern Ireland) 1964.
 The Pensions (Preservation of Benefits) Order (Northern Ireland) 1977(i).
 The Judicial Pensions (Widows' and Children's Benefits) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1978(j).

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Order, but is intended to indicate its general purport.)

This Order modifies the occupational pension schemes for the holders of the offices in Northern Ireland listed in the Schedule to the Order so as to make the changes required to meet the contracting-out requirements laid down by the Social Security Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 1975. Articles 6 and 7 confer on an office holder and on his widow entitlement to pensions based on the final salary of the office holder and his years of service up to pensionable age (65 for men, 60 for women) and after 5th April 1978. The pensions are to be not less than the minimum guaranteed by Articles 8 and 9, and there will be occasions when the guaranteed minimum only will be payable (for example under Article 12). Article 10 provides for the ascertainment of final salary and Article 11 provides arrangements for the payment of contributions in respect of widows' pensions that may become payable where the office holder marries after retirement. The remaining Articles are explanatory and supplementary.

The Order has retrospective effect by virtue of Articles 60 and 61 of the Social Security Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 1975.

(i) S.R. 1977 No. 167

(j) S.R. 1978 No. 15