

2019 No. 206

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

**The Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment)
Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019**

Made - - - - - *23rd October 2019*

Coming into operation - *18th November 2019*

The Department for Communities(a), with the consent of the Department of Finance(b), makes these Regulations in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 1, 3 and 25 of, and Schedule 3 to, the Public Service Pensions Act (Northern Ireland) 2014(c).

In accordance with section 21 of that Act, the Department has consulted with such persons or representatives of such persons as appear to the Department likely to be affected by these Regulations.

The retrospective provisions contained in these Regulations do not appear to the Department to have significant adverse effects in relation to the pension payable to or in respect of members of the scheme established by The Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014(d) or the schemes preserved by the Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment and Transitional Provisions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014(e), nor in any other way in relation to members of those schemes. Accordingly, the procedures set out in section 23 of that Act are not applicable in respect of these Regulations.

Citation, commencement, interpretation and retrospection

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as The Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019 and except as provided for by paragraph (2), shall come into operation on 18th November 2019.

(2) These Regulations shall come into effect as follows—

- (a) regulations 2, 3, 5 to 20, 53 and 54 from 1st April 2009;
- (b) regulation 4 from 31st December 2009;
- (c) regulations 21 to 34, 69(b), 82(a) and 87 from 1st April 2015;
- (d) regulations 35 and 36 from 19th February 1990;

(a) Formerly known as the Department for Social Development; *see* the Departments Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 c.5 (N.I.). Article 8 of and Schedule 5 to the Departments (Transfer of Functions) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016 (S.R. 2016 No. 76) transferred functions to the Department for Communities which were previously exercisable by the Department of the Environment.

(b) Formerly known as the Department of Finance and Personnel; *see* the Departments Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 c.5 (N.I.).

(c) 2014 c. 2 (N.I.).

(d) S.R. 2014 No. 188 as amended by S.R. 2015 No. 77, S.R. 2015 No. 162 and S.R. 2016 No. 128.

(e) S.R. 2014 No. 189 as amended by S.R. 2015 No. 162, S.R. 2016 No. 128 and S.R. 2016 No. 329.

- (e) regulations 37 and 38 from 1st March 1993;
- (f) regulations 39 and 40(a) from 1st August 2000;
- (g) regulation 40(b) from 2nd April 2001;
- (h) regulations 44 and 45(a) from 1st February 2003;
- (i) regulation 45(b) from 1st May 2005;
- (j) regulation 62 from 1st January 2020;
- (k) regulation 65 from 10th February 2016; and
- (l) regulation 77 from 17th August 2018.

(3) In these Regulations—

“the 1981 Regulations” means the Local Government (Superannuation) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1981(a);

“the 1992 Regulations” means the Local Government (Superannuation) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1992(b);

“the 2000 Regulations” means the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2000(c);

“the 2002 Regulations” means the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2002(d);

“the Benefits Regulations” means the Local Government Pension Scheme (Benefits, Membership and Contributions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009(e);

“the Administration Regulations” means the Local Government Pension Scheme (Administration) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009(f);

“the 2009 Transitional Regulations” means the Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment and Transitional Provisions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009(g);

“the Principal Regulations” means The Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014; and

“the 2014 Transitional Regulations” means The Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment and Transitional Provisions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014.

PART 1

Survivor Benefits Amendments

Amendment of the Benefits Regulations

2.—(1) Regulations 3 to 8 have effect in relation to the Benefits Regulations to the extent that they continue in operation by virtue of the 2014 Transitional Regulations.

(2) The Benefits Regulations are amended in accordance with regulations 3 to 8.

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- (a) S.R. 1981 No. 96 as amended by S.R. 1982 No. 58, S.R. 1984 No. 175, S.R. 1984 No. 355, S.R. 1985 No. 315, S.R. 1986 No. 294, S.R. 1989 No. 345, S.R. 1991 No. 19, S.R. 1991 No. 418 and S.R. 1991 No. 492.
 - (b) S.R. 1992 No. 547 as amended by S.R. 1998 No. 41, S.R. 1998 No. 133, S.R. 1998 No. 337, S.R. 1999 No. 218 and S.R. 2000 No. 23.
 - (c) S.R. 2000 No. 177 as amended by S.R. 2001 No. 61, S.R. 2001 No. 63, S.R. 2001 No. 64, S.R. 2002 No. 115, S.R. 2002 No. 353, S.R. 2009 No. 34, S.R. 2014 No. 189 and S.R. 2016 No. 128.
 - (d) S.R. 2002 No. 352 as amended by S.R. 2002 No. 353, S.R. 2004 No. 139, S.R. 2005 No. 206, S.R. 2005 No. 274, S.R. 2006 No. 6, S.R. 2006 No. 112, S.R. 2007 No. 152, S.R. 2007 No. 448, S.R. 2007 No. 479, S.R. 2009 No. 34, S.R. 2016 No. 128 and S.R. 2016 No. 329.
 - (e) S.R. 2009 No. 32 as amended by S.R. 2010 No. 164, S.I. 2010/234, S.R. 2010 No. 410, S.R. 2011 No. 117, S.R. 2012 No. 85, S.R. 2012 No. 183, S.R. 2013 No. 71, S.R. 2014 No. 189, S.R. 2016 No. 128 and S.R. 2016 No. 329.
 - (f) S.R. 2009 No. 33 as amended by S.R. 2010 No. 164, S.R. 2010 No. 410, S.R. 2011 No. 117, S.R. 2012 No. 183, S.R. 2014 No. 189, S.R. 2016 No. 128 and S.R. 2016 No. 329.
 - (g) S.R. 2009 No. 34 as amended by S.R. 2010 No. 410, S.R. 2013 No. 71 and S.R. 2014 No. 189.

- 3.** In regulation 1(2) (citation, commencement and interpretation)—
- (a) after the definition of “admission agreement fund” insert—
 - ““cohabiting partner” means a person whom the Committee is satisfied fulfils the following condition—
 - (a) the person (P) has fulfilled the condition in paragraph (b) for a continuous period of at least two years on the date the member (M) died;
 - (b) the condition is that—
 - (i) M is able to marry, or form a civil partnership with, P;
 - (ii) M and P are living together as if they were a married couple or as if they were civil partners;
 - (iii) neither M nor P is living with a third person as if they were a married couple or as if they were civil partners; and
 - (iv) either P is financially dependent on M, or M and P are financially interdependent; and
 - (c) in this definition “member” means an active member or a former active member who has become a deferred or pensioner member in accordance with these Regulations or the Administration Regulations.”; and
 - (b) omit the definition of “nominated cohabiting partner”.
- 4.** In regulation 14A(a) (election to pay additional contributions: survivor benefits)—
- (a) in paragraph (1) for “nominated cohabiting partner (within the meaning of regulation 25)” substitute “cohabiting partner”;
 - (b) omit paragraph (2);
 - (c) in paragraph (3) for “ASBCs” substitute “Additional survivor benefits contributions “ASBCs””; and
 - (d) in paragraph (5) omit “nominated”.
- 5.** In regulation 24(1) (survivor benefits: active members) omit “nominated”.
- 6.** Omit regulation 25 (meaning of nominated cohabiting partner).
- 7.** In regulation 33(1) (survivor benefits: deferred members) omit “nominated”.
- 8.** In regulation 36(1) (survivor benefits: pensioner members) omit “nominated”.

Amendment of the Administration Regulations

- 9.**—(1) Regulations 10 to 16 have effect in relation to the Administration Regulations to the extent that they continue in operation by virtue of the 2014 Transitional Regulations.
- (2) The Administration Regulations are amended in accordance with regulations 10 to 16.
- 10.** In regulation 42(2) (exclusion of rights to return of contributions) omit “nominated”.
- 11.** In regulation 45B(1)(b) (survivor benefits: guaranteed minimum pension) omit “nominated”.
- 12.** In regulation 54(2)(a) (right to apply for an appointed person to review a decision) omit “nominated”.
- 13.** In regulation 72(5)(b) (transfer of sums from the fund to compensate for former member’s misconduct) omit “nominated”.

(a) This regulation was inserted into S.R. 2009 No. 32 by regulation 15 of S.R. 2010 No. 410.
 (b) This regulation was inserted into S.R. 2009 No. 32 by regulation 40 of S.R. 2010 No. 410.

14. In regulation 76(5)(a) (contracting-out requirements affecting transfers out) for “nominated co-habiting” substitute “cohabiting”.

15. In regulation 81(2)(b) (community scheme transferees) omit “nominated”.

16. In Schedule 1 (interpretation)—

(a) after the definition of “cancelling notice” insert—

““cohabiting partner” has the meaning given in regulation 1 (citation, commencement and interpretation) of the Benefits Regulations;”; and

(b) omit the definition of “nominated cohabiting partner”.

Amendment of the 2009 Transitional Regulations

17.—(1) Regulations 18 to 20 have effect in relation to the 2009 Transitional Regulations to the extent that they continue in operation by virtue of the 2014 Transitional Regulations.

(2) The 2009 Transitional Regulations are amended in accordance with regulations 18 to 20.

18. In regulation 1(3) (citation, commencement, interpretation and retrospection)—

(a) after the definition of “the Benefits Regulations” insert—

““cohabiting partner” has the meaning given in regulation 1 (citation, commencement and interpretation) of the Benefits Regulations;”; and

(b) omit the definition of “nominated cohabiting partner”.

19. In regulation 3(4) (membership accrued before 1st April 2009: active members) omit “nominated”.

20. In Schedule 5 (transitional and transitory provisions and savings) in paragraph 4(3), in the definition of “benefit” omit “nominated”.

Amendment of the Principal Regulations

21. The Principal Regulations are amended in accordance with regulations 22 to 31.

22. In regulation 21(2) (exclusion of rights to return of contributions) omit “nominated”.

23. In regulation 41(1) (survivor benefits: partners of active members) omit “nominated”.

24. Omit regulation 42 (meaning of “nominated co-habiting partner”).

25. In regulation 47(1) (survivor benefits: partners of deferred members) omit “nominated”.

26. In regulation 52(1) (survivor benefits: partners of pensioner members) omit “nominated”.

27. In regulation 58(8) (guaranteed minimum pensions) omit “nominated”.

28. In regulation 84(2)(a) (right to apply for an appointed person to review a decision) omit “nominated”.

29. In regulation 109(4)(a) (contracting-out requirements affecting transfers out) omit “nominated”.

30. In regulation 114(2)(b) (EU scheme transfers) omit “nominated”.

31. In Schedule 1 (interpretation)—

(a) before the definition of “the Committee” insert—

““cohabiting partner” means a person whom the Committee is satisfied fulfils the following condition—

(a) the person (P) has fulfilled the condition in paragraph (b) for a continuous period of at least two years on the date the member (M) died;

- (b) the condition is that—
 - (i) M is able to marry, or form a civil partnership with, P;
 - (ii) M and P are living together as if they were a married couple or as if they were civil partners;
 - (iii) neither M nor P is living with a third person as if they were a married couple or as if they were civil partners; and
 - (iv) either P is financially dependent on M, or M and P are financially interdependent; and
- (c) in this definition—
 - (i) “member” means an active member or a former active member who has become a deferred or pensioner member in accordance with these Regulations or the 2009 Regulations; and
 - (ii) the qualifying time period, under paragraph (a), of a continuous period of at least two years on the date the member died as it applies in relation to the condition in paragraph (b)(i) (ability to marry or form a civil partnership) no longer applies from 18th November 2019;”;
- (b) omit the definition of “nominated co-habiting partner”; and
- (c) in the definition of “partner” omit “nominated”.

Amendment of the 2014 Transitional Regulations

32. The 2014 Transitional Regulations are amended in accordance with regulations 33 and 34.

33. In regulation 17(7)(c) (survivor benefits) omit “nominated”.

34. In paragraph 4(3) of Schedule 5 (transitional and transitory provisions and savings), in the definition of “benefit” for “nominated cohabiting partner (as defined in regulations 42 of the 2014 Regulations)” substitute “cohabiting partner”.

PART 2

Minor amendments

Amendment of the 1981 Regulations

35.—(1) Regulation 36 has effect in relation to the 1981 Regulations to the extent that they continue in operation by virtue of the 2014 Transitional Regulations.

(2) The 1981 Regulations are amended in accordance with regulation 36.

36. For regulation 13(4)(e) (admission of other persons to participation in superannuation benefits), substitute—

“(e) the managers of a voluntary school or grant maintained integrated school within the meaning of Article 2(2) of the Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 1986(a).”.

Amendment of the 1992 Regulations

37.—(1) Regulation 38 has effect in relation to the 1992 Regulations to the extent that they continue in operation by virtue of the 2014 Transitional Regulations.

(2) The 1992 Regulations are amended in accordance with regulation 38.

(a) S.I. 1986/594 (N.I. 3).

38. In regulation B5(10)(e) (power to admit employees of other bodies), after “school” insert “or grant maintained integrated school”.

Amendment of the 2000 Regulations

39.—(1) Regulations 40 to 43 have effect in relation to the 2000 Regulations to the extent that they continue in operation by virtue of the 2014 Transitional Regulations.

(2) The 2000 Regulations are amended in accordance with regulations 40 to 43.

40. In regulation B6(a) (agreements to enable employees of non-LGPS employers to be members (“admission agreements”))—

- (a) in paragraph (9)(e)(b), after “school” insert “or grant maintained integrated school”; and
- (b) in paragraph (3)(g)(c), after “school” insert “or grant maintained integrated school”.

41. In regulation D11 (entitlement to deferred retirement benefits)—

- (a) in paragraph (2)(c), for “employing authority” substitute “the Committee” and omit “with the agreement of the Committee.”;
- (b) for paragraph (2)(e) substitute—
 - “(e) in the case of a person who—
 - (i) has ceased the employment under which the preserved benefits were accrued (but may be in local government employment unrelated to the preserved benefits); and
 - (ii) has duly elected to receive payment from a date on or after the date upon which that person attains the age of 55, the date so elected.”; and
- (c) omit paragraph (4).

42. In regulation D13 (reduction of pensions payable early by virtue of elections etc.)—

- (a) in paragraph (2) for “by the appropriate percentage for the member’s pension advancement period” substitute “in accordance with guidance issued by the Government Actuary”; and
- (b) omit paragraphs (3) to (5).

43. After regulation N9(1)(d) (payment of benefits), insert—

“(1A) A pension credit member may apply in writing to the Committee for the early payment of benefits from age 55 up to normal benefit age and such benefits must be reduced in accordance with guidance issued by the Government Actuary.”.

Amendment of the 2002 Regulations

44.—(1) Regulations 45 to 48 have effect in relation to the 2002 Regulations to the extent that they continue in operation by virtue of the 2014 Transitional Regulations.

(2) The 2002 Regulations are amended in accordance with regulations 45 to 48.

45. In regulation 4(e) (employees of non-Scheme employers: community admission bodies)—

- (a) in paragraph (3)(g)(f), after “school” insert “or grant maintained integrated school”;
- (b) in paragraph (2)(f)(a), after “school” insert “or grant maintained integrated school”;

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- (a) This regulation was substituted by regulation 3 of S.R. 2001 No. 64.
 - (b) Regulation B6(9)(e) was effective from 1st August 2000 to 1st April 2001 at which point it was replaced by regulation B6(3)(g) by S.R. 2001 No. 64 - Regulation 3.
 - (c) Regulation B6(3)(g) was effective from 2nd April 2001 to 31st January 2003.
 - (d) This regulation was inserted into S.R. 2000 No. 177 by regulation 2 of S.R. 2001 No. 61.
 - (e) This regulation was substituted by regulation 3 of S.R. 2005 No. 206.
 - (f) Regulation 4(3)(g) was effective from 1st February 2003 to 30 April 2005 at which point it was replaced by regulation 4(2)(f) by S.R. 2005 No. 206 - Regulation 3.

46. Omit paragraph (7) of regulation 41 (death grants).
47. After regulation 140(1) (payment of benefits) insert—
“(1A) A pension credit member may apply in writing to the Committee for the early payment of benefits from age 55 up to normal benefit age and such benefits must be reduced in accordance with guidance issued by the Government Actuary.”.
48. Omit paragraph (5) of regulation 141 (death grants).

Amendment of the Benefits Regulations

- 49.—(1) Regulations 50 to 52 have effect in relation to the Benefits Regulations to the extent that they continue in operation by virtue of the 2014 Transitional Regulations.
(2) The Benefits Regulations are amended in accordance with regulations 50 to 52.
50. Omit paragraph (5) of regulation 23 (death grants: active members).
51. Omit paragraph (4) of regulation 32 (death grants: deferred members).
52. Omit paragraph (4) of regulation 35 (death grants: pensioner members).

Amendment of the Administration Regulations

- 53.—(1) Regulations 54 to 56 have effect in relation to the Administration Regulations to the extent that they continue in operation by virtue of the 2014 Transitional Regulations.
(2) The Administration Regulations are amended in accordance with regulations 54 to 56.
54. In regulation 4(2)(f) (employees of community admission bodies), after “school” insert “or grant maintained integrated school”.
55. Omit paragraph (10)(b) of regulation 22 (use of accumulated value of AVCs and SCAVCs).
56. Omit paragraph (3) of regulation 92 (death grants: pension credit members).

Amendment of the Principal Regulations

57. The Principal Regulations(c) are amended in accordance with regulations 58 to 83.
58. After regulation 10(1) (pension credit members and survivor members) insert—
“(1A) A reference to a pension credit member is always a reference to that member before benefits come into payment; at that point the pension credit member becomes a pensioner member.”.
59. In regulation 13 (contributions during absence from work) after paragraph 3 insert—
“(3A) An active member shall pay contributions under regulation 11 (contributions) or 12 (temporary reduction in contributions) during an absence from work with the permission of the member’s employing authority (otherwise than because of illness or injury) in accordance with regulation 16A (contributions during absences with permission).”.
60. After regulation 16 (contributions during absence for illness or injury) insert—

“Contributions during absences with permission

- 16A.** An active member who is absent from work with permission from the member’s employing authority and receiving reduced pay or no pay—

(a) Regulation 4(2)(f) was effective from 1st May 2005 to 31st March 2009.
(b) This paragraph was inserted into S.R. 2009 No. 33 by regulation 20(e) of S.R. 2012 No. 183.
(c) S.R. 2014 No. 188; those Regulations have been amended by S.R. 2015 No. 77, S.R. 2015 No. 162, and S.R. 2016 No. 128

- (a) shall pay contributions in accordance with regulation 11 (contributions) or regulation 12 (temporary reduction in contributions) on the pensionable pay the member would have received but for the member's absence; and
- (b) may continue to pay APCs, AVCs or SCAVCs that the member was paying prior to the period of absence,

where the absence, is for a period of 30 consecutive days or less, in respect of the period of that absence; or is for a period longer than 30 consecutive days, in respect of the first 30 days of that absence only.”.

61. In regulation 17 (employing authority contributions during absence)—

- (a) in paragraph (3)(b) after “are payable” insert “by the Ministry of Defence”;
- (b) after paragraph (3) insert—
 - “(3A) Where an active member is absent from work under regulation 13(4)(c) and makes contributions under regulation 16A the employing authority shall make contributions in accordance with regulation 73(4) for the same period as the active member makes contributions under regulation 16A.”; and
- (c) in paragraph (6)(a) omit “, which amount shall be calculated in accordance with actuarial guidance issued by the Department where the amount of pensionable remuneration cannot be readily determined”.

62. For regulation 18(7) (additional pension contributions), substitute—

“(7) The amount of the contributions to be paid in respect of arrangements under this regulation is to be determined in accordance with actuarial guidance issued by the Department based on the age of the active member at the time the arrangements commence.”.

63. In regulation 19 (additional voluntary contributions)—

- (a) in paragraph (13) for “paragraphs (12) or (14)” substitute “paragraph (12)”; and
- (b) omit paragraph (14).

64. In regulation 22(2) (meaning of “pensionable pay”)—

- (a) at the end of sub-paragraph (h) omit “or”;
- (b) at the end of sub-paragraph (i) for “leave.” substitute “leave; or”; and
- (c) after sub-paragraph (i) insert—
 - “(j) any non-consolidated non-pensionable payment paid to a member as part of an annual pay award.”.

65. In regulation 23(b) (assumed pensionable pay)—

- (a) in paragraph (4), for “Subject to paragraph (4A)” substitute “Subject to paragraphs (4A), (5A) and (5B)”; and
- (b) after paragraph (5) insert—
 - “(5A) Where the pensionable pay received by a member during any period specified in paragraph (4)(a)(i) or (4)(b)(i) was, in the opinion of the employing authority, materially different than the level of pensionable pay that the member normally received, for the purposes of this regulation the employing authority may substitute for the pensionable pay the member received, a revised level of pensionable pay to reflect the level of pensionable pay that the member would normally have received.

(a) Regulation 17(6) was substituted by regulation 5 of S.R. 2016 No. 128.
 (b) Regulation 23 was amended by regulation 8 of S.R. 2016 No. 128.

(5B) In determining what the level of pensionable pay a member normally receives for the purposes of paragraph (5A) an employing authority must have regard to the level of pensionable pay received by a member in the previous 12 months.”.

66. In regulation 31 (retirement benefits)—

(a) after paragraph (3) insert—

“(3A) A member who is an employee in local government employment on the day before attaining age 75 must have their retirement pension paid from age 75 even if the member remains in local government employment beyond that age.”; and

(b) in paragraph (7)(b) for “that employment” substitute “that active member’s pension account in respect of that employment”.

67. For regulation 34(5)(a) (election for lump sum instead of pension) substitute—

“(a) a pension credit where, on the date upon which the pension credit member becomes entitled to the pension credit, the member of the Scheme subject to the corresponding pension debit has an actual (rather than a prospective) right to payment of the retirement pension under the Scheme; or”.

68. Omit paragraph (4) of regulation 40 (death grants: active members).

69. In regulation 46 (death grants: deferred members and pension credit members)—

(a) omit paragraph (4); and

(b) for paragraph (5) substitute—

“(5) This regulation shall apply to pension credit members as it applies to deferred members, subject to paragraph (6).

(6) Where a person entitled to a pension credit dies before the Committee awards a pension credit, the calculation of the death grant under paragraph (3), shall be modified so that the multiplier is three.”.

70. Omit paragraph (5) of regulation 51 (death grants: pensioner members).

71. In regulations 52(4)(a), 54(3)(a), 54(4)(a), 55(3)(a) and 55(4)(a) (survivor benefits: partners and children of pensioner members) after “earned pension” insert “(including any amount added under regulations 39(1)(a) or 39(2)(a) (enhancement of member’s tier 1 and tier 2 ill-health benefits))”.

72. For regulation 57(2) (limit on total amount of benefits payable) substitute—

“(2) In this regulation “lifetime allowance” is to be construed in accordance with section 218 of, and Schedule 36 to, the 2004 Finance Act, and section 44 of, and Schedule 6 to the Finance Act 2014(a) and, where applicable, is to include primary protection, enhanced protection, fixed protection or individual protection within the meaning of those provisions.

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73. In regulation 70 (special circumstances where revised actuarial valuations and certificates shall be obtained)—

(a) after paragraph (12) insert—

“(12A) Where in the opinion of the Committee there is a material change in circumstances of an employing authority, the Committee may, with the approval of the Department, vary the date at which an actuarial valuation and exit certificate is determined under paragraph (12).”; and

(b) after paragraph (13D)(b) insert—

(a) 2014 c. 26.

(b) Regulations 70(13A) to (13D) were inserted by regulation 19(b) of S.R. 2016 No. 128.

“(13E) Where in the opinion of the Committee there has been a relevant change in the circumstances of an employing authority (including an admission body), the Committee may with the agreement of the employing authority obtain from an actuary a certificate specifying the percentage or amount by which in the actuary’s opinion it is appropriate that:

- (a) the contribution at the common rate of employer’s contribution should be adjusted; or
- (b) any individual adjustment should be made or any prior individual adjustment should be increased or reduced in respect of that employing authority.

(13F) Where the actuary is producing a certificate under paragraph (13E), the actuary shall take into account the current version of the Committee’s funding strategy statement and any other matter which the actuary considers relevant.

(13G) A relevant change in circumstances for the purpose of paragraph (13E) includes any one or more of the following:

- (a) the employing authority, since the date of the existing rates and adjustments certificate, has secured a guarantee in a form satisfactory to the Committee of its entire liabilities to the pension fund from a Department which is established by or under any enactment and where that enactment enables the Department to make financial provision for that employing authority;
- (b) the employing authority, since the date of the existing rates and adjustments certificate, has provided security, in a legally binding form satisfactory to the Committee, for its entire liabilities to the pension fund;
- (c) an assessment carried out to the satisfaction of the Committee and taking account of actuarial advice, of the level of risk arising on the premature termination of the provision of service or assets by reason of insolvency, winding up or liquidation of the admission body demonstrates that the risk has reduced significantly since the existing certificate was issued;
- (d) at the time that the existing rates and adjustments certificate was obtained there were circumstances which in the opinion of the Committee made it likely that the employing authority would become an exiting employer but there has been a change in those circumstances so that in the opinion of the Committee it is likely that the employing authority’s participation in the scheme will be indefinite; or
- (e) there was an error and/or omission in the information provided to the actuary for the purposes of calculating the existing rates and adjustment certificate, which in the opinion of the actuary has had a significant impact upon the contributions certified for that employing authority, or where there has been a substantive or typographical error in the existing rates and adjustments certificate.”.

74. In regulation 80(3) (first instance decisions - general) at the end insert “including which of the employee’s emoluments are remuneration on which contributions are payable”.

75. After regulation 90(3) (exchange of information) insert—

“(3A) The Committee may, in respect of one or more employing authorities, determine that the statement referred to in paragraph (3) shall be provided at regular intervals of periods of less than one year and where it so determines—

- (a) the Committee shall notify in writing each relevant employing authority of the revised intervals at which the statement is to be provided; and
- (b) each employing authority so notified shall provide the statement within one month of the expiry of each of the revised intervals, containing the information in respect of that period.”.

76. For regulation 92(2) (payments due in respect of deceased persons) substitute—

“(2) The Committee may, at its absolute discretion, pay the whole or part of the amount due from the pension fund to a person’s personal representatives, any person or persons

appearing to the Committee to be beneficially entitled to the estate or any person appearing to the Committee to have been a relative or dependent of the person at any time.”.

77. For regulation 96 (joint liability in respect of annual allowance charge) substitute—

“Annual allowance charge

96.—(1) This regulation applies where—

- (a) a member gives notice to the Committee of joint and several liability under section 237B (liability of scheme administrator) of the 2004 Finance Act in respect of the member’s annual allowance charge; or
- (b) the Committee satisfies all or part of a member’s liability to the annual allowance charge on a voluntary basis^(a).

(2) Where the member’s annual allowance charge is met by the pension fund, the Committee shall reduce the value of the member’s rights accrued under the Scheme in accordance with actuarial guidance issued by the Department.”.

78. In regulation 108 (rights to payments out of the fund)—

- (a) in paragraph (1) for “Chapter 4 or 5 of Part 4” substitute “Chapters 1 or 2 of Part 4ZA^(b)”; and
- (b) after paragraph (1) insert—

“(1A) Where a transfer under paragraph (1) is a Club Transfer, the Committee must comply with the provisions in the Club Memorandum in relation to that transfer.”.

79. In regulation 112 (inward transfers of pension rights), at the end insert—

“(8) Where a relevant transfer is a Club Transfer, the Committee must comply with the provisions in the Club Memorandum in relation to that transfer.”.

80. In regulation 113 (effect of acceptance of transfer value) for paragraph (2) substitute—

“(2) The calculation of the appropriate amount of earned pension for the purposes of the paragraph (1) is—

- (a) in the case of a transfer of employment between members of the Public Sector Transfer Club, in accordance with the Club Memorandum; and
- (b) in any other case, in accordance with actuarial guidance issued by the Department.

81. In Schedule 1(c) (interpretation)—

- (a) after the definition of “children’s pension” insert—

““Club Memorandum” means—

- (a) in respect of a Club Transfer completed before 1st April 2015, the memorandum published by the Cabinet Office under the title “The Public Sector Transfer Club – Memorandum by the Cabinet Office – effective from 1st March 2012;
- (b) in respect of a Club Transfer completed in the period from 1st April 2015 to 28th February 2017, the memorandum published by the Cabinet Office under the title “The Public Sector Transfer Club – Memorandum by the Cabinet Office – effective from 1st April 2015; and
- (c) in respect of a Club Transfer completed on or after 1st March 2017, the memorandum published by the Cabinet Office under the title “The Public Sector

(a) See S.I. 2011/1791.

(b) Part 4ZA was inserted into the Pension Schemes Act (Northern Ireland) 1993 (c. 49) by section 67 of and Schedule 4, Part 2, paragraphs 49 and 50, to the Pension Schemes Act 2015 (c. 8).

(c) There are amendments to Schedule 1 which are not relevant to these Regulations.

Transfer Club – Memorandum by the Cabinet Office – effective from 1st March 2017 or any replacement or revision thereof for the time being in force;

“Club Transfer” means a transfer of employment between members of the Public Sector Transfer Club;”;

- (b) in the definition of “partner” omit “in relation to an active member”;
- (c) after the definition of “permanently incapable” insert—

““Public Sector Transfer Club” means the arrangement approved by the Department and detailed in the Club Memorandum as providing reciprocal arrangements between the Scheme and other registered occupational pension schemes for making and receiving transfer value payments;”; and
- (d) for the definition of “revaluation adjustment” substitute—

““revaluation adjustment” means—

 - (a) in the case of a balance transferred under a Club Transfer, the adjustment that would have applied to that balance if it had not been transferred; and
 - (b) in any other case the percentage specified as the change in prices in the relevant Treasury Order made under section 9(2) of the Public Service Pensions Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 which applied to a sum in a pension account at the beginning of the next scheme year;”.

82. In Schedule 2 (admission agreements with admission bodies)—

- (a) in paragraph 2(1)(f) of Part 1 (admission bodies), after “school” insert “or grant maintained integrated school”; and
- (b) after paragraph 15 insert—

“(16) An admission agreement may take effect on a date before it is executed.”.

83. In paragraph 3(2) of Part 3 (expense and allowances payable by the Committee) of Schedule 3 (the committee: preliminary provisions) omit “under section 36 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972”.

Amendment of the 2014 Transitional Regulations

84. The 2014 Transitional Regulations(a) are amended in accordance with regulations 85 to 92.

85. In regulation 3 (membership before 1st April 2015) after paragraph 6 insert—

“(6A) Notwithstanding paragraph (1)(a), where deferred benefits are aggregated in accordance with paragraph (6), the normal pension age in relation to deferred benefits in respect of membership that ceased before 1st October 2006, is age 65.”.

86. For regulation 5(5) (membership of the scheme) substitute—

“(5) A person who was a deferred member of one of the earlier Schemes whose benefits under those Schemes have not come into payment and who becomes an active member of the Scheme by virtue of regulation 3(1) (active membership) of the 2014 Regulations without a disqualifying break, may choose, by notice in writing to the Committee to be treated as if he or she had become an active member of the Scheme by virtue of paragraph (1)—

- (a) within 12 months of becoming a member of the Scheme; or
- (b) within such longer period as the employing authority permits.”.

87. In regulation 9 (transfers)—

- (a) in paragraph (1)—

(a) S.R. 2014 No. 189 as amended by S.R. 2015 No. 162, S.R. 2015 No. 128 and S.R. 2016 No. 329.

- (i) omit “before 1st April 2015”; and
 - (ii) at the end, insert “since ceasing active membership in the Scheme from which the transfer payment is received”; and
- (b) after paragraph (1) insert—
- “(1A) Regulation 4 (statutory underpin) applies to a person of the description in paragraph (1) as if that person had been an active member of the 2009 Scheme in respect of the service in the different public service pension scheme.”.

88. In regulation 9A(a) (aggregation adjustments etc.) for paragraph (6) substitute—

“(6) A member with deferred benefits relating to the Earlier Schemes, who did not become a member of the 2014 Scheme by virtue of regulation 5(1) (membership of the 2014 Scheme), but who subsequently becomes an active member of the 2014 Scheme may—

- (a) within 12 months of the active member’s pension account being opened; or
- (b) such longer period as the Committee permits,

elect to receive a transfer value payment in relation to the deferred benefits to be credited to the active member’s pension account to purchase earned pension in accordance with actuarial guidance issued by the Department.”.

89. In regulation 13(2) (contributions) after “is entitled to a refund of contributions” insert “(including additional contributions)”.

90. In regulation 14 (additional contributions)—

- (a) omit paragraph (1)(b);
- (b) for paragraph (1)(d) substitute—

“(d) regulation 14 (election in respect of additional pension) and regulation 14A (election to pay additional contributions: survivor benefits) of the Benefits Regulations and regulations 19 (payment of additional regular contributions (ARCs)), 20 (discontinuance of ARCs), regulation 20A (payment of additional contributions: survivor benefits (ASBCs)) and 20B (discontinuance of ASBCs) of the Administration Regulations**(b)** as they apply to a member who has elected before 1st April 2015 to pay additional contributions under those regulations.”; and

- (c) after paragraph (2) insert—

“(2A) Regulation 19 of the 2014 Regulations (additional voluntary contributions) applies to an AVC arrangement entered into before 1st April 2015 as it applies to an AVC arrangement entered into on or after that date save that—

- (a) the normal pension age in an AVC arrangement entered into before 1st April 2015 is the normal retirement age under the 2009 Scheme; and
- (b) regulation 68(8) of the 2002 Regulations (persons making elections in relation to AVC’s prior to 1st February 2003 continues to have effect in relation to persons of the description in that regulation.”.

91. For regulation 15(1) (annual allowance) substitute—

“**15.**—(1) The Committee may adjust the member’s benefits accrued within the earlier Schemes in accordance with actuarial guidance issued by the Department, where—

- (a) a member gives notice to the Committee of joint and several liability under section 237B (liability of scheme administrator) of the 2004 Finance Act in respect of the member’s annual allowance charge; or

(a) Regulation 9A was inserted by regulation 28 of S.R. 2016 No. 128.
 (b) Regulations 20A and 20B were inserted by S.R. 2010 No. 410.

- (b) the Committee satisfies all or part of a member's liability to the annual allowance charge on a voluntary basis^(a).”.

92. In Schedule 3**(b)** (the 85 year rule: transitional provisions and savings)—

- (a) in paragraph 1(1)(a) after “the Benefits Regulations” insert “if the member is aged 60 or over at the date of early retirement”;
- (b) after paragraph 1(1)(a) insert—
 - “(aa) regulation 30(1) (choice of early payment of pension) of the Benefits Regulations, if the member is aged 55 or over but aged under 60 at the date of early retirement and the former employing authority agrees that paragraph 1(3) should apply;”;
- (c) in paragraph 1(1)(c) after “of the 2014 Regulations” insert “, or regulation 30(1) (choice of early payment of pension) of the Benefits Regulations;”;
- (d) after paragraph 1(1)(c) insert—
 - “(d) regulation 33(1) (other early leavers: deferred retirement benefits and elections for early payment) of the 2002 Regulations if the member is aged 60 or over at the date of early retirement; or
 - (e) regulation 33(1) (other early leavers: deferred retirement benefits and elections for early payment) of the 2002 Regulations if the member is aged 55 or over but aged under 60 at the date of early retirement and the member's employing authority agrees that paragraph 1(3) should apply.”;
- (e) in paragraph 1(2) for “1(1)(b)(ii)” substitute “1(1)(aa), 1(1)(b)(ii) or 1(1)(e)”;
- (f) in paragraph 1(5) for “References” substitute “In this Schedule, references”; and
- (g) in paragraph 2—
 - (i) in sub-paragraph (1A)(c) after “waive” insert “in whole or in part”; and
 - (ii) for sub-paragraph (3) insert—
 - “(3) Where an employing authority agrees that paragraph 1(1)(aa), 1(1)(b)(ii) or 1(1)(e) should apply to a member, or determines to waive a reduction under sub-paragraph (1), the Committee shall require the employing authority concerned, or itself, to make additional payments to the fund in respect of any extra charge on the fund, as calculated by an actuary appointed by the Committee, resulting from the agreement or waiver of the reduction.”.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department for Communities on 23rd October 2019



Anthony Carleton
A senior officer of the Department for Communities

(a) See S.I. 2011/1791.
(b) There are amendments to Schedule 3 which are not relevant to these Regulations.
(c) Sub-paragraph (1A) was inserted by S.R. 2016 No. 128.

The Department of Finance consents to these Regulations
Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Finance on 23rd October 2019



Emer Morelli
A senior officer of the Department of Finance

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

These Regulations amend a number of Statutory Rules which provide for the Local Government Pension Scheme (Northern Ireland) (LGPS (NI)).

Part 1 of these Regulations amend—

- (a) The Local Government Pension Scheme (Benefits, Membership and Contributions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009 (“the Benefits Regulations”);
- (b) The Local Government Pension Scheme (Administration) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009 (“the Administration Regulations”);
- (c) The Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment and Transitional Provisions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009 (“the 2009 Transitional Regulations”);
- (d) The Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 (“the Principal Regulations”); and
- (e) The Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment and Transitional Provisions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 (“the 2014 Transitional Regulations”).

The amendments remove the requirement to complete a nomination form as part of the criteria which must be fulfilled to qualify for a survivor pension. The Benefits Regulations, the Administration Regulations and the 2009 Transitional Regulations came into operation on 1 April 2009 and the amendments to those 3 sets of Regulations will take effect from that date with the exception of regulation 4 (election to pay additional contributions: survivor benefits) which was introduced by amendment to the Benefits Regulations by S.R 2010 No. 410 with an effect date of 31 December 2009.

The definition of “cohabiting partner” as substituted in regulation 31(a) includes a new subparagraph at (c)(ii) which removes the 2 year qualifying period as it applied to the member’s ability to marry or enter a civil partnership on the date the member died. This modification will not have retrospective effect.

Part 2 of these Regulations amend—

- (a) the Local Government (Superannuation) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1981 (“the 1981 Regulations”);
- (b) the Local Government (Superannuation) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1992 (“the 1992 Regulations”);
- (c) the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2000 (“the 2000 Regulations”);
- (d) the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2002 (“the 2002 Regulations”);
- (e) the Benefits Regulations;
- (f) the Administration Regulations;
- (g) the Principal Regulations; and
- (h) the 2014 Transitional Regulations.

All of the amending regulations in Part 2 come into operation on the same date as these Regulations with the exception of those listed in regulation 1(2).

Regulation 35 introduces amendments to the 1981 Regulations in so far as they remain extant by virtue of the 2014 Transitional Regulations. This regulation and regulation 36 will have retrospective effect from 19 February 1990.

Regulation 36 substitutes regulation 13(4)(e) (admission of other persons to participation in superannuation benefits) to clarify and confirm the existing position, that a grant maintained integrated school may be an admission body of the LGPS (NI).

Regulation 37 introduces amendments to the 1992 Regulations in so far as they remain extant by virtue of the 2014 Transitional Regulations. This regulation and regulation 38 will have retrospective effect from 1 March 1993.

Regulation 38 amends regulation B5(10)(e) (power to admit employees of other bodies) to clarify and confirm the existing position, that a grant maintained integrated school may be an admission body of the LGPS (NI).

Regulation 39 introduces amendments to the 2000 Regulations in so far as they remain extant by virtue of the 2014 Transitional Regulations. This regulation and regulation 40(a) will have retrospective effect from 1 August 2000.

Regulation 40 amends regulation B6(3)(g) (agreements to enable employees of non-LGPS employers to be members (“admission agreements”)) to clarify and confirm the existing position, that a grant maintained integrated school may be an admission body of the LGPS (NI). Regulation 40(b) will have retrospective effect from 2 April 2001.

Regulation 41 amends regulation D11 (entitlement to deferred retirement benefits) to remove the requirement for an employer to give consent for a member to elect for early payment of benefits where a member left with deferred benefits before 1 February 2003 and is aged 55 to 59. The consent of the LGPS (NI) the Committee – the Northern Ireland Local Government Officers’ Superannuation Committee (“the Committee”) remains a requirement. The member cannot be in the employment to which the deferred benefits relate, but can be in unrelated local government employment.

Regulation 42 amends regulation D13 (reduction of pensions payable early by virtue of elections etc.) to enable the early payment of pensions from age 55 subject to an actuarial reduction for early payment in line with guidance issued by the Government Actuary’s Department.

Regulation 43 amends regulation N9 (payment of benefits) to allow a pension credit member to apply in writing to the Committee for the early payment of benefits from age 55. These benefits must be reduced for early payment in line with guidance issued by the Government Actuary’s Department.

Regulation 44 introduces amendments to the 2002 Regulations in so far as they remain extant by virtue of the 2014 Transitional Regulations. This regulation and regulation 45(a) will have retrospective effect from 1 February 2003.

Regulation 45 amends regulation 4(3)(g) (employees of non-Scheme employers: community admission bodies) to clarify and confirm the existing position, that a grant maintained integrated school may be an admission body of the LGPS (NI). Regulation 45(b) will have retrospective effect from 1 May 2005.

Regulation 46 omits regulation 41(7) (death grants) to remove the 2 year limit within which a death grant had to be paid in order to be considered an authorised payment.

Regulation 47 makes an amendment to regulation 140 (payment of benefits) to allow a pension credit member to apply in writing to the Committee for the early payment of benefits from age 55. These benefits must be reduced for early payment in line with guidance issued by the Government Actuary.

Regulation 48 omits regulation 141(5) (death grants) to remove the 2 year limit within which a death grant had to be paid in order to be considered an authorised payment.

Regulation 49 introduces amendments to the Benefits Regulations in so far as they remain extant by virtue of the 2014 Transitional Regulations.

Regulations 50, 51 and 52 omit regulations 23(5) (death grants: active members), 32(4) (death grants: deferred members) and 35(4) (death grants: pensioner members), respectively, to remove the 2 year limit within which a death grant had to be paid in order to be considered an authorised payment.

Regulation 53 introduces amendments to the Administration Regulations in so far as they remain extant by virtue of the 2014 Transitional Regulations. This regulation and regulation 54 will have retrospective effect from 1 April 2009.

Regulation 54 amends regulation 4(2)(f) (employees of community admission bodies) to clarify and confirm the existing position, that a grant maintained integrated school may be an admission body of the LGPS (NI).

Regulations 55 and 56 omit regulations 22(10) (use of accumulated value of AVCs and SCAVCs) and 92(3) (death grants: pension credit members), respectively, to remove the 2 year limit within which a death grant had to be paid in order to be considered an authorised payment.

Regulation 57 introduces amendments to the Principal Regulations by regulations 58 to 83 of these Regulations.

Regulation 58 inserts a new paragraph into regulation 10 (pension credit members and survivor members) clarifies that a reference to a pension credit member is always a reference to that member before benefits come into payment and at that point that member becomes a pensioner member.

Regulations 59, 60 and 61(b) amend regulation 13 (contributions during absence from work), insert a new regulation 16A (contributions during absences with permission) and amend regulation 17 (employing authority contributions during absences) respectively, to clarify the contributions that members and employers make during absences from work.

Regulation 61(a) amends regulation 17 (employing authority contributions during absences) to clarify that, where a member is absent on reserve forces service leave, it is the Ministry of Defence who pays the employer contribution.

Regulation 61(c) makes a minor amendment to regulation 17 (employing authority contributions during absences) to delete an incorrect reference to actuarial guidance.

Regulation 62 substitutes regulation 18(7) (additional pension contributions) to clarify the basis on which the Government Actuary's Department calculates the amount of contributions in respect of these arrangements by removing the gender of the member from consideration. The age of the member at the time these arrangements commence remains a factor. Regulation 62 will have effect from 1 January 2020.

Regulation 63 deletes regulation 19(14) (additional voluntary contributions) to remove the 2 year limit within which a death grant had to be paid in order to be considered an authorised payment.

Regulation 64 amends regulation 22 (meaning of pensionable pay) to provide clarification that a non-consolidated non-pensionable payment made to a member resulting from the settlement of an annual pay award is excluded from pensionable pay.

Regulation 65 amends regulation 23 (assumed pensionable pay) to permit employers to adopt a revised reference figure for the calculation of assumed pensionable pay where it would otherwise be unfair. This provision will apply retrospectively from 10 February 2016.

Regulation 66 amends regulation 31 (retirement benefits) to clarify that a member must receive their pension from age 75 even if they remain in local government employment and regulation 31(7)(b) (retirement benefits) to clarify that only active membership relating to that employment in relation to a post being made redundant is allowed to be considered in the calculation of early access to pension as part of a redundancy payment.

Regulation 67 amends regulation 34 (election for lump sum instead of pension) by updating the rules regarding election for lump sum instead of pension to reflect the Finance Act 2004. It

ensures that where a pension in payment is split through a pension sharing order, the person who is provided with the pension credit will not be able to take a tax-free lump sum from the benefit rights that are acquired. This is on the basis that when the member's ex-spouse or former civil partner's benefits first came into payment, that ex-spouse or former civil partner will have taken (or had the opportunity to take) a tax-free lump sum in respect of the benefits, so it would not be appropriate to allow a lump sum to be taken free of income tax from the pension credit rights. This applies regardless of whether a lump sum was actually taken by the pension debit member.

Regulation 68 omits regulation 40(4) (death grants: active members) to remove the 2 year limit within which a death grant had to be paid in order to be considered an authorised payment.

Regulation 69(a) amends regulation 46 (death grants: deferred members and pensioner credit members) to remove the 2 year limit within which a death grant had to be paid in order to be considered an authorised payment and regulation 69(b) substitutes regulation 46(5) to clarify the formula used for the calculation of the death grant payable to a pension credit member. This provision will apply retrospectively from 1 April 2015.

Regulation 70 amends regulation 51 (death grants: pensioner members) to remove the 2 year limit within which a death grant had to be paid in order to be considered an authorised payment.

Regulation 71 amends regulations 52(4)(a), 54(3)(a), 54(4)(a), 55(3)(a) and 55(4)(a) (survivor benefits: partners and children of pensioner members) to ensure that the calculation of survivor benefits for partners and children of pensioner members include any ill-health enhancement under regulations 39(1)(a) or 39(2)(a) (tier 1 or tier 2 ill-health benefits).

Regulation 72 amends regulation 57 (limit on total amount of benefits payable) to correct references which apply in respect of lifetime allowance statements.

Regulation 73 amends regulation 70 (special circumstances where revised actuarial valuations and certificates shall be obtained) to provide for an amendment of the rates and adjustments certificate between valuations where there is material change in the employer's circumstances.

Regulation 74 amends regulation 80 (first instance decisions – general) to make it clear that it is the employing authority's responsibility to determine which of the employee's emoluments are remuneration on which contributions are payable.

Regulation 75 amends regulation 90 (exchange of information) to accommodate the faster exchange of information between the Committee and employing authorities.

Regulation 76 amends regulation 92 (payments due in respect of deceased persons) to clarify the recipients to which payments may be made under the scheme when a person dies.

Regulation 77 substitutes regulation 96 (annual allowance charge) to clarify that voluntary scheme pays may be offered to members who qualify. This provision will apply retrospectively from 17 August 2018.

Regulations 78-81 (except regulation 81(b)) amend regulations 108 (rights to payments out of the fund), 112 (inward transfers of pension rights), 113 (effect of acceptance of transfer value) and Schedule 1 (interpretation) to make provision for the Scheme to comply with its membership obligations of the Public Sector Transfer Club.

Regulation 81(b) amends the definition of "partner" in Schedule 1 (interpretation).

Regulation 82(a) amends Schedule 2 (admission agreements with admission bodies) to clarify and confirm the existing position, that a grant maintained integrated school may be an admission body of the LGPS (NI). This provision will apply retrospectively from 1 April 2015. Regulation 82(b) inserts a new sub-paragraph to clarify and confirm the existing position, which is that an admission agreement may take effect on a day before it is executed.

Regulation 83 amends Part 3 (expense and allowances payable to the Committee) of Schedule 3 (the committee: preliminary provisions) to remove a reference to a repealed provision.

Regulation 84 introduces amendments to the 2014 Transitional Regulations.

Regulation 85 amends regulation 3 (membership before 1 April 2015) to clarify that the normal pension age in relation to deferred benefits in respect of membership that ceased before 1 October 2006, is age 65.

Regulation 86 amends regulation 5 (membership of the scheme) to clarify that a person who has been a deferred member accruing final salary benefits under previous LGPS (NI) Regulations, who then becomes an active member of the reformed LGPS (NI) without a disqualifying break in membership, may continue to accrue final salary benefits under the statutory underpin arrangements, if notification is given to the Committee within a certain period of time.

Regulation 87 amends regulation 9 (transfers) to ensure that members of other public service pension schemes who are entitled to transitional protection under those schemes and who are continuing to accrue final salary benefits can obtain final salary benefits within the Local Government Pension Scheme if they transfer those benefits in and can benefit from the statutory underpin. This provision will apply retrospectively from 1 April 2015.

Regulation 88 amends regulation 9A (aggregation adjustments etc.) to introduce a 12 month time limit (which may be extended at the discretion of the Committee) if a former member of the Earlier Schemes takes up active membership of the Scheme and wishes to aggregate the benefits.

Regulation 89 amends regulation 13 (contributions) to clarify that the term “contributions” includes additional contributions.

Regulation 90 amends regulation 14 (additional contributions) to alter the administration of AVC benefits in regulation 19 (additional voluntary contributions) of the 2014 Regulations, so that the date the AVC arrangement was established is disregarded.

Regulation 91 substitutes regulation 15(1) (annual allowance) to enable the Committee to offer members, at its discretion, the voluntary scheme pays facility where the value of the member’s accrued benefits exceeds the annual allowance.

Regulation 92 makes an amendment to the provisions in Schedule 3 to the Transitional Regulations (“the 85 year rule”) to remove the requirement for employer consent for members aged between 55 and 60 to draw benefits.

These Regulations are made under the powers contained in the Public Service Pensions Act (Northern Ireland) 2014. Section 3(3)(b) of that Act provides that scheme regulations may make retrospective provision. In these Regulations, the regulations listed in regulation 1(2) are retrospective. The retrospective provisions contained in these Regulations do not appear to the Department to have significant adverse effects in relation to the pension payable to or in respect of members of the scheme, or members of previous schemes. Accordingly, the procedures set out in section 23 of that Act are not applicable in relation to these Regulations.

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