



Pension Schemes (Northern Ireland) Act 1993

1993 CHAPTER 49

PART III

CERTIFICATION OF PENSION SCHEMES AND EFFECTS ON MEMBERS' STATE SCHEME RIGHTS AND DUTIES

CHAPTER I

CERTIFICATION

General requirements for certification

5 Requirements for certification of schemes: general.

- (1) Subject to subsection (4), an occupational pension scheme can be contracted-out in relation to an earner's employment only if it satisfies subsection (2) or (3).
- [^{F1}(2) An occupational pension scheme satisfies this subsection only if—
 - (a) in relation to any earner's service before the principal appointed day, it satisfies the conditions of subsection (2A); and
 - (b) in relation to any earner's service on or after that day, it satisfies the conditions of subsection (2B).
- (2A) The conditions of this subsection are that—
 - (a) the scheme complies in all respects with [^{F2}sections 9 to 19][^{F2}sections 9 to 20E] or, in such cases or classes of case as may be prescribed, with those sections as modified by regulations; and
 - (b) the rules of the scheme applying to guaranteed minimum pensions are framed so as to comply with the relevant requirements.

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Changes to legislation: Pension Schemes (Northern Ireland) Act 1993, Cross Heading: General requirements for certification is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 27 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)

- (2B) The conditions of this subsection are that the [F³Inland Revenue][F⁴are satisfied] that—
- (a) the scheme complies with section 8A;
 - (b) restrictions imposed under Article 40 of the Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 (restriction on employer-related investments) apply to the scheme and the scheme complies with those restrictions;
 - (c) the scheme satisfies such other requirements as may be prescribed (which—
 - (i) must include requirements as to the amount of the resources of the scheme, and
 - (ii) may include a requirement that, if the only members of the scheme were those falling within any prescribed class or description, the scheme would comply with section 8A), and
 - (d) the scheme does not fall within a prescribed class or description;
- and [F⁴are satisfied] that the rules of the scheme are framed so as to comply with the relevant requirements.
- (2C) Regulations may modify subsection (2B)(a) and (b) in their application to occupational pension schemes falling within a prescribed class or description.]
- (3) An occupational pension scheme satisfies this subsection only if—
- (a) the requirements imposed by or by virtue of sections F⁵. . . 22 to 28 and such other requirements as may be prescribed are satisfied in its case;
 - [F⁶(aa) the [F⁷Inland Revenue are] satisfied that the scheme does not fall within a prescribed class or description;] and
 - (b) the rules of the scheme applying to protected rights are framed so as to comply with the relevant requirements.
- (4) Where there are two or more occupational pension schemes in force in relation to an earner’s employment, none of which can by itself be a contracted-out scheme, the [F⁸Inland Revenue may, if they think] fit, treat them for contracting-out purposes as a single scheme.
- (5) A personal pension scheme can be an appropriate scheme only if—
- (a) the requirements imposed by or by virtue of sections 22 to 28 and such other requirements as may be prescribed are satisfied in its case; and
 - (b) the rules of the scheme applying to protected rights are framed so as to comply with the relevant requirements.
- (5A) Regulations about pension schemes made under this Chapter may contain provisions framed by reference to whether or not a scheme [F⁹is a registered pension scheme under section 153 of the Finance Act 2004].
- (6) In this section “relevant requirements” means—
- (a) the requirements of any regulations prescribing the form and content of rules of contracted-out or, as the case may be, appropriate schemes; and
 - (b) such other requirements as to form and content (not inconsistent with regulations) as may be imposed by the [F¹⁰Department] as a condition of contracting-out or, as the case may be, of being an appropriate scheme, either generally or in relation to a particular scheme.

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Textual Amendments

- F1** S. 5(2)-(2C) substituted (6.4.1996 for certain purposes otherwise 6.4.1997) for s. 5(2) by S.I. 1995/3213 (N.I. 22) art. 133(3); S.R. 1996/91, art. 2(d)(h), **Sch. Pt. IV**
- F2** Words in s. 5(2A) substituted (3.3.2009 for specified purposes, 6.4.2009 in so far as not already in force) by Pensions Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (c. 1), **ss. 12(4), 21(1)**; S.R. 2009/75, art. 2(a)(b)
- F3** Word in s. 5(2B) substituted (24.3.1999 for certain purposes and otherwise 1.4.1999) by S.I. 1999/671, arts. 1(2)(b), 3(1), **Sch. 1 para. 38(2)(a)**; S.R. 1999/149, art. 2(c), **Sch. 2**
- F4** Words in s. 5(2B) substituted (24.3.1999 for certain purposes and otherwise 1.4.1999) by S.I. 1999/671, arts. 1(2)(b), 3(1), **Sch. 1 para. 38(2)(b)**; S.R. 1999/149, art. 2(c), **Sch. 2**
- F5** Words in s. 5(3) repealed (6.4.1997) by S.I. 1995/3213 (N.I. 22), arts. 147, 168, Sch. 3 para. 17, **Sch. 5 Pt. III**; S.R. 1997/192, art. 2(b)
- F6** S. 5(3)(aa) inserted (6.4.1996 for certain purposes otherwise 6.4.1997) by S.I. 1995/3213 (N.I. 22) art. 133(4); S.R. 1996/91, art. 2(d)(h), **Sch. Pt. IV**
- F7** Words in s. 5(3)(aa) substituted (24.3.1999 for certain purposes and otherwise 1.4.1999) by S.I. 1999/671, arts. 1(2)(b), 3(1), **Sch. 1 para. 38(3)**; S.R. 1999/149, art. 2(c), **Sch. 2**
- F8** Words in s. 5(4) substituted (24.3.1999 for certain purposes and otherwise 1.4.1999) by S.I. 1999/671, arts. 1(2)(b), 3(1), **Sch. 1 para. 38(4)**; S.R. 1999/149, art. 2(c), **Sch. 2**
- F9** Words in s. 5(5A) substituted for s. 5(5A)(a)(b) (6.4.2006) by The Taxation of Pension Schemes (Consequential Amendments) Order 2006 (S.I. 2006/745), arts. 1, **8(2)**
- F10** Words in s. 5(6)(b) substituted (6.4.1997) by S.I. 1995/3213 (N.I. 22), art. 147, Sch. 3 paras. 13, **14 Table**; S.R. 1997/192, art. 2(b)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** S. 5 excluded (1.6.1996 for certain purposes otherwise 6.4.1997) by S.I. 1995/3213 (N.I. 22) art. 146(1); S.R. 1996/91, art. 2(f); S.R. 1997/192, art. 2

6 Protected rights and money purchase benefits.

- (1) Subject to ^{F11}the following provisions of this section], the protected rights of a member of a pension scheme are his rights to money purchase benefits under the scheme.
- (2) If the rules of an occupational pension scheme so provide, a member's protected rights are—
- his rights under the scheme which derive from the payment of minimum payments ^{F12}and payments under section 38A(3)] together with any payments by the ^{F13}Inland Revenue] to the scheme under Article 9 of the ^{M1}Social Security (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 in respect of the member;
 - any rights of the member to money purchase benefits which derive from protected rights under another occupational pension scheme or under a personal pension scheme which have been the subject of a transfer payment; and
 - such other rights as may be prescribed.
- (3) If the rules of a personal pension scheme so provide, a member's protected rights are—
- his rights under the scheme which derive from any payment of minimum contributions to the scheme; and
 - any rights of his to money purchase benefits which derive from protected rights under another personal pension scheme or protected rights under an occupational pension scheme which have been the subject of a transfer payment; and

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(c) such other rights as may be prescribed.

[^{F14}(4) Where, in the case of a scheme which makes such provision as is mentioned in subsection (2) or (3), a member’s rights under the scheme become subject to a pension debit, his protected rights shall exclude the appropriate percentage of the rights which were his protected rights immediately before the day on which the pension debit arose.

(5) For the purposes of subsection (4), the appropriate percentage is—

- (a) if the order or provision on which the pension debit depends specifies the percentage value to be transferred, that percentage;
- (b) if the order or provision on which the pension debit depends specifies an amount to be transferred, the percentage which the appropriate amount for the purposes of paragraph (1) of Article 26 of the Welfare Reform and Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 1999 (lesser of specified amount and cash equivalent of transferor’s benefits) represents of the amount mentioned in paragraph (3) (b) of that Article (cash equivalent of transferor’s benefits).]

[^{F15}(6) Where, in the case of a scheme which makes such provision as is mentioned in subsection (2) or (3), any liability of the scheme in respect of a member’s protected rights ceases by virtue of a civil recovery order, his protected rights are extinguished or reduced accordingly.]

Textual Amendments

- F11** Words in s. 6(1) substituted (1.12.1999 for certain purposes and otherwise 1.12.2000) by S.I. 1999/3147 (N.I. 11), **arts. 1(5)(a), 29(1)(2)**; S.R. 2000/133, art. 2(3), **Sch. Pt. IV**
- F12** Words in s. 6(2)(a) inserted (6.4.1997) by S.I. 1995/3213 (N.I. 22), art. 147, **Sch. 3 para. 18**; S.R. 1997/192, **art. 2(b)**
- F13** Words in s. 6(2)(a) substituted (24.3.1999 for certain purposes and otherwise 1.4.1999) by S.I. 1999/671, arts. 1(2)(b), 3(1), **Sch. 1 para. 39**; S.R. 1999/149, art. 2(c), **Sch. 2**
- F14** S. 6(4)(5) added (1.12.1999 for certain purposes and otherwise 1.12.2000) by S.I. 1999/3147 (N.I. 11), **arts. 1(5)(a), 29(1)(2)**; S.R. 2000/133, art. 2(3), **Sch. Pt. IV**
- F15** S. 6(6) inserted (24.2.2003) by **Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 (c. 29)**, s. 458(1), **Sch. 11 para. 23(2)**; S.I. 2003/120, art. 2, **Sch. (with arts. 34)** (as amended (20.2.2003) by S.I. 2003/333, art. 14)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C2** S. 6 modified (27.4.2005) by **The Occupational and Personal Pension Schemes (Pension Liberation) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005 (S.R. 2005/193)**, regs. 1(1), **2(2)**

Marginal Citations

- M1** S.I. 1986/1888 (N.I. 18).

7 Elections as to employments covered by contracting-out certificates.

- (1) Subject to the provisions of this Part, an employment otherwise satisfying the conditions for inclusion in a contracting-out certificate shall be so included if and so long as the employer so elects and not otherwise.
- (2) Subject to subsections (3) and (4), an election may be so made, and an employment so included, either generally or in relation only to a particular description of earners.

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- (3) Except in such cases as may be prescribed, an employer shall not, in making or abstaining from making any election under this section, discriminate between different earners on any grounds other than the nature of their employment.
- (4) If the [^{F16}Inland Revenue consider] that an employer is contravening subsection (3) in relation to any scheme, [^{F17}they may]—
 - (a) refuse to give effect to any election made by him in relation to that scheme; or
 - (b) cancel any contracting-out certificate held by him in respect of it.
- (5) Regulations may make provision—
 - (a) for regulating the manner in which an employer is to make an election with a view to the issue, variation or surrender of a contracting-out certificate;
 - (b) for requiring an employer to give a notice of his intentions in respect of making or abstaining from making any such election in relation to any existing or proposed scheme—
 - (i) to employees in any employment to which the scheme applies or to which it is proposed that it should apply;
 - (ii) to any independent trade union recognised to any extent for the purpose of collective bargaining in relation to those employees;
 - (iii) to the trustees and managers of the scheme; and
 - (iv) to such other persons as may be prescribed;
 - (c) for requiring an employer, in connection with any such notice, to furnish such information as may be prescribed and to undertake such consultations as may be prescribed with any such trade union as is mentioned in paragraph (b)(ii);
 - (d) for empowering the [^{F18}Inland Revenue] to refuse to give effect to an election made by an employer unless [^{F19}they are] satisfied that he has complied with the requirements of the regulations;
 - (e) for referring to an industrial tribunal any question—
 - (i) whether an organisation is such a trade union as is mentioned in paragraph (b)(ii), or
 - (ii) whether the requirements of the regulations as to consultation have been complied with.

Textual Amendments

- F16** Words in s. 7(4) substituted (24.3.1999 for certain purposes and otherwise 1.4.1999) by S.I. 1999/671, arts. 1(2)(b), 3(1), **Sch. 1 para. 40(2)(a)**; S.R. 1999/149, art. 2(c), **Sch. 2**
- F17** Words in s. 7(4) substituted (24.3.1999 for certain purposes and otherwise 1.4.1999) by S.I. 1999/671, arts. 1(2)(b), 3(1), **Sch. 1 para. 40(2)(b)**; S.R. 1999/149, art. 2(c), **Sch. 2**
- F18** Words in s. 7(5)(d) substituted (24.3.1999 for certain purposes and otherwise 1.4.1999) by S.I. 1999/671, arts. 1(2)(b), 3(1), **Sch. 1 para. 40(3)**; S.R. 1999/149, art. 2(c), **Sch. 2**
- F19** Words in s. 7(5)(d) substituted (24.3.1999 for certain purposes and otherwise 1.4.1999) by S.I. 1999/671, arts. 1(2)(b), 3(1), **Sch. 1 para. 40(3)**; S.R. 1999/149, art. 2(c), **Sch. 2**

8 Determination of basis on which scheme is contracted-out.

- (1) A contracting-out certificate shall state whether the scheme is contracted-out by virtue of subsection (2) or (3) of section 5.

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- (2) Where a scheme satisfies both of those subsections the employers, in their application for a certificate, shall specify one of those subsections as the subsection by virtue of which they wish the scheme to be contracted-out.
- (3) A scheme which has been contracted-out by virtue of one of those subsections may not become contracted-out by reason of the other except in prescribed circumstances.

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C3 S. 8 excluded (1.6.1996 for certain purposes otherwise 6.4.1997) by [S.I. 1995/3213, art. 146\(1\)](#); [S.R. 1996/91, art. 2\(f\)](#); [S.R. 1997/192, art. 2\(b\)](#)

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