

Welcome

Welcome to Issue 17 of the quarterly bulletin of the Single Scheme Administration Project. This bulletin aims to share relevant information with all administrators involved in the operation of the Single Public Service Pension Scheme.

This issue alerts administrators to recent Pensions Authority guidance in relation to core pensions administration activities during COVID-19 and includes an infographic providing some key statistics on overall Single Scheme implementation.

COVID-19 Regulatory Updates from Pensions Authority

The Pensions Authority issued 2 announcements on COVID-19 (the first on 27 March 2020 available <u>here</u> and the second on 24 April 2020 available <u>here</u>) to pensions administrators and employers. In line with our <u>COVID-19 Special Project Bulletin</u>, the guidance sets out the expectations of the pensions regulator relating to the existing statutory requirement of administrators to continue to remit deductions, issue statements and promptly discharge the payment of pensioners and other benefit entitlements as part of their Covid-19 contingency arrangements.

Prompt remittance of contributions - Reminder

As part of your local contingency arrangements, and to ensure no interruption to the anticipated supply of monies to the Exchequer, you are reminded to please ensure that all Single Scheme contributions due continue to be promptly remitted to the designated DPER bank account within the statutory timelines.

Please also ensure that the associated <u>banking remittance advice</u> is emailed to the dedicated banking email address *singlescheme@per.gov.ie* as each remittance is processed.

Approaching annual statements deadline - Reminder

Administrators are reminded that the statutory deadline to have issued Annual Benefit Statements to members for the year ended 31 December 2019 is **30 June 2020**. <u>Circular 2 of 2020</u> issued on 21 January 2020 sets out details of the CPI adjustments to be applied

Single Scheme Implementation Infographic

The project team has prepared an infographic which is included overleaf on page 2 of this bulletin. This infographic illustrates:

- Membership growth 2013 2019
- Membership by sector
- Annual Benefit Statement compliance levels
- Training workshops
- Project milestones

For further information or to be added to/removed from the Single Scheme circulation list, please email <u>singleschemequeries@per.gov.ie</u>. For technical queries, please consult with online resources or a senior colleague prior to raising a query. Please include your Relevant Authority identification number in any correspondence and ensure that any personal member data is fully anonymised.

National Implementation Steering Committee

Oonagh Buckley, D/Justice (Chair); Colin Menton, D/PER (SRO); Barry O'Brien, D/PER; Paul Bolger, D/Health; Des Dowling, D/Defence; Eithne Fox, HSE; Deirdre McDonnell, D/Education & Skills; Doncha O'Sullivan, D/Justice; Emma Reeves, D/Housing; John Ryan, NSSO

DPER Project Team

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Training Progress - since 2017 - 87 Workshops with 1,437 Attendees from 235 RA's – 90% of respondents rated them Excellent or Very Good

