

## What is the Single Scheme Fast Accrual (Uniformed) Estimator Tool?

The Single Scheme Fast Accrual (Uniformed) Estimator Tool is a spreadsheet based calculator designed to give **active** Single Scheme members a broad indication of the level of retirement benefits that they may be eligible to receive on reaching their normal retirement age. Specifically, it can be used to provide an estimate to the following Fast Accrual (Uniformed) members of the Single Scheme:

- Members of An Garda Síochána
- Members of the Permanent Defence Force
- Prison Officers and,
- Full-time Firefighters

Because Single Scheme benefits build up every time a member gets paid, it is not possible to provide a precise forecast of your retirement benefits. To be eligible to receive a retirement benefit under the Scheme, a member must have paid into the Scheme for 24 months or more.

## What information do I need to have to hand to use the Fast Accrual (Uniformed) Estimator Tool?

You will need all of the information below;

- Your Fast Accrual (Uniformed) “rank” or “grade”
- Full-Time Gross Annual Pensionable Remuneration: this is your basic annual pay plus any allowances approved as pensionable by your employer
- Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) or “Work Pattern” information for the current year. A full-time worker has an FTE of 100%. A part-time worker that works half of the hours of a full-time colleague, would have a work pattern FTE of 50%. If you have changed your work pattern this year, please use your current work pattern
- Your year of birth
- Your year of entry to the Single Scheme (i.e. the year you joined the Single Scheme, or the earliest year for which you did not receive a refund of contributions)
- You will also need to have your “Full-Time Equivalent” or “Work Pattern” information and “Full-Time Gross Annual Pensionable Remuneration” details for each year you have been a member of the Single Scheme. If you changed your work pattern in a particular year, please use the average work pattern for that particular year.

The Fast Accrual (Uniformed) Estimator Tool outputs are based on a number of built-in assumptions and the information you provide. These assumptions are set out under the heading “*What are the assumptions?*” in this user-guide.

## What information will the Fast Accrual (Uniformed) Estimator Tool provide?

You will receive a broad estimate of your Single Scheme normal retirement benefits at your normal retirement age based on your Single Scheme Member Category, the built-in assumptions and the information you provide. The estimate that the tool provides is divided into three sections;

1. Contributions This Year- these are the amount of Single Scheme pension contributions you are estimated to pay over the next twelve months. This section also sets out the Additional Superannuation Contribution (ASC) you are estimated to pay over the next twelve months. Please note the ASC is not a unique feature of the Single Scheme and this deduction applies to all pensionable public servants whether members of the Single Scheme or another public service pension scheme.
2. Retirement Benefits Built Up This Year - on the basis of the information you provide, these are the estimated referable pension and lump sum amounts you may build up towards your final Single Scheme normal retirement pension and lump sum benefits over the next 12 months. The Fast Accrual (Uniformed) Estimator Tool will also indicate when your normal retirement age is based on your year of birth.
3. Estimated Benefits at Retirement - on the basis of your inputs this section sets out your estimated normal retirement benefits at your normal retirement age, in current day money terms. This means that your estimate is shown in the equivalent of “today’s money.”

## What are the assumptions?

In order to provide an estimate the Fast Accrual (Uniformed) Estimator Tool makes a number of assumptions. It is not possible to forecast what your normal retirement benefits at your normal retirement age will be because you build up Single Scheme benefits every time you get paid. These assumptions should be read carefully and are as follows:

1. All values shown are in present day money terms i.e. the calculations aim to take account of inflation between now and your retirement date.
2. Your pensionable pay is assumed to increase in line with a projected nominal pay growth of 2.5% per annum in accordance with actuarial guidance issued by the Society of Actuaries in Ireland, Actuarial Standards of Practice PEN-12.
3. A further 1% per annum adjustment is made to assumed pensionable pay to allow for expected career progression
4. You are assumed to be eligible to receive the full Contributory State Pension from your state pension eligibility age. The Contributory State Pension rate is €12,956.29 per annum (or €248.30 per week) from 29 March 2019. The Contributory State Pension is assumed to increase by 2.5% every year.
5. Your annual salary is assumed to be earned evenly throughout the year.
6. Your contributions include your Single Scheme employee contributions and Additional Superannuation Contributions (ASC) from 1 January 2019 until your normal retirement age.
7. You are assumed to continue your current work pattern until your normal retirement age.
8. You are assumed to have started working mid-way through your year of entry to the Single Scheme.

## What is the disclaimer?

- This Estimator Tool is designed to give a **broad indication of retirement benefits at the normal retirement age** for Fast Accrual (Uniformed) members of the Single Scheme. Fast Accrual (Uniformed) members will be required to input the relevant normal retirement age manually.
- **The outputs from the Fast Accrual (Uniformed) Estimator Tool are not a guarantee of the retirement benefits payable at your normal retirement age.**
- The estimate is based on the information you provide as well as the assumptions detailed in the Estimator Tool. It is essential that you read the assumptions to get a better understanding of how your estimate is arrived at.
- Any information obtained through the use of the Single Scheme Estimator has no legal standing nor is it in any way suitable for purposes other than to give you a broad indication of your normal retirement benefits. If you need Single Scheme

benefit information for official purposes (e.g. retirement, Family Law) you should contact your employer's Pensions Administrator or, if applicable, Shared Service Centre.

- The Department of Public Expenditure and Reform accepts no responsibility for any errors, omissions, or misleading statements obtained through the use of the Single Scheme Estimator. At all times the terms of the Public Service Pensions (Single Scheme and Other Provisions) Act 2012 govern entitlements to benefits under the Single Scheme.
- The results from the Fast Accrual (Uniformed) Estimator Tool are not intended to replace the requirement for your employer to provide you with an annual benefit statement.
- The specific data that you enter into this calculator tool is not stored or monitored by the Department of Public Expenditure & Reform. Your use of the website on which this Fast Accrual (Uniformed) Estimator Tool is held is governed by the terms of the website Privacy Statement that may be viewed at <http://singlepensionscheme.gov.ie/privacy/>

## Where can I get further information?

Before using the Fast Accrual (Uniformed) Estimator Tool you should familiarise yourself with the Scheme provisions as outlined in the Fast Accrual (Uniformed) Scheme Booklet at <https://singlepensionscheme.gov.ie/for-members/scheme-information/scheme-booklet/>

If you have any specific questions or need further help, you should contact your employer's Pension Officer or Shared Service Centre if applicable who will be able to assist you.

Glossary of Common Terms used:

<http://singlepensionscheme.gov.ie/for-members/scheme-information/glossary/>

## At-a-Glance Guides

Overview of the Single Scheme – At-a-Glance

<http://singlepensionscheme.gov.ie/for-members/scheme-information/ataglance/scheme-overview/>

Building Up Benefits – At-a-Glance:

<https://singlepensionscheme.gov.ie/for-members/scheme-information/ataglance/building-benefits/>

Additional Superannuation Contribution (ASC):

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/c552ee-asc/>