

Retirement of a Former Scheme Member

What retirement benefits are payable to a former Scheme Member?

If you are a former scheme member with an entitlement to deferred benefits, to be eligible to access these retirement benefits you must:

- ▶ have paid into the scheme for at least 24 months while in pensionable employment; and
- ▶ have reached your Normal Retirement Age.

What is my Normal Retirement Age?

Your Normal Retirement Age is the same as the eligibility age for the Contributory State Pension, paid by the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection.

How are my retirement benefits calculated?

You build up two types of benefits, called referable amounts, each time you were paid when you were in pensionable employment with your public service Single Scheme employer.

In each pay period, you built up benefit amounts towards:

- ▶ your retirement lump sum benefit; and
- ▶ your annual retirement pension benefit.

Your pensionable earnings largely determined how much you earned as benefit amounts in each pay period when you were in employment.

These benefit amounts may have been increased in subsequent years, up the time of your retirement, to take into account inflation.

At the time of your retirement, each of the benefit amounts is summed and this determines what your benefits on retirement will be.

You can find comprehensive examples of how retirement benefits are calculated, for either a full-time member or a part-time member, in your Scheme Information Booklet.

Can I access my benefits before my Normal Retirement Age?

No. The only circumstance where you may apply to access your retirement benefits before your Normal Retirement Age is on serious ill-health grounds. Such an application is subject to strict medical criteria.

Will my Single Scheme pension increase after retirement?

Subject to the approval of the Minister for Public Expenditure & Reform, your pension may increase after your retirement in line with any increases to inflation.

What happens when I die after retirement?

If you leave a surviving eligible Spouse, Civil Partner or dependent child, they may be eligible to receive a pension.

Am I also entitled to the Contributory State Pension?

You may potentially be entitled to receive the Contributory State Pension that would be payable separately to you by the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection at your normal retirement age.

Entitlement to the State Contributory Pension is based on eligibility criteria set by the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection. Further information on Contributory State Pension entitlements, including details on the eligibility criteria, can only be obtained from the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection by telephone at LoCall 1890 500 000 or via their website at www.welfare.ie

Where can I get further information on my Single Scheme retirement benefits?

You can find more general information, including a copy of your **Scheme Information Booklet**, in the members' area of the Single Scheme website at www.singlepensionscheme.gov.ie/for-members/

If you have any specific questions or need further help, you should contact the Pensions Officer for your most recent public service employer in the first instance.

