



Single Public Service Pension Scheme

Relevant Authority Training Webinar Module A: Recruitment and Onboarding

Tuesday, 28 March 2023







- 1. Webinar Objectives
- 2. Single Scheme Overview
- 3. Website Resources for Administrators
- 4. Relevant Authority Responsibilities
- 5. Pension Scheme Assignment Key Principles
- 6. Scheme Vesting Period
- 7. Applicant Declaration Form
- 8. Examples walkthrough
- 9. Recap, Q&A and close





Housekeeping

 Webinar will run from 10:30am – 12:30pm, short break of about 10 minutes at about 11:30am

 Mics will be muted for duration but plenty of opportunities for questions as webinar progresses

 Webinar part of suite of other resources available on our website – <u>www.singlepensionscheme.gov.ie</u>





 More confident in making an accurate decision as to which Pension Scheme a new hire / re-hire should join

 Improved understanding of possible pension implications of hiring staff in receipt of a public service pension

Availability of online resources and supports



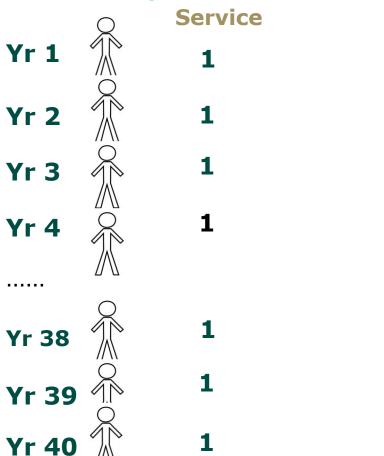


Single Scheme Overview

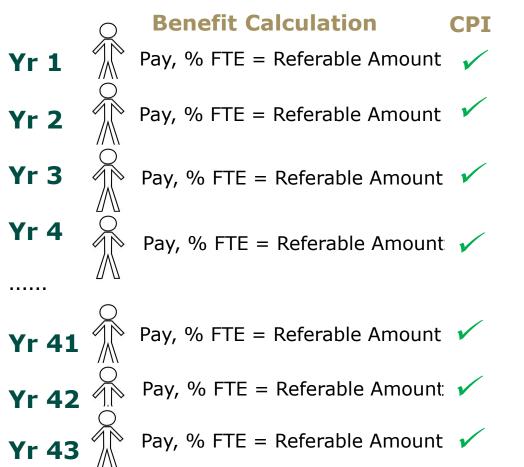
Single Scheme – Overview



Pre-2013 public service model



Single Scheme - Ongoing and Iterative



Pension and Lump-sum Calculation:

Final Salary, Total Years of Reckonable Service

Pension and Lump-sum Calculation:

Referable Amounts accrued every pay-period



Single Scheme – Overview

 Public Service Pensions (Single Scheme and Other Provisions) Act 2012

Almost all RAs now have members

 Introduced on 1 Jan 2013 across the Public Service for all New Entrants

Majority of members in Health and Education

• 350+ *Relevant Authorities* each responsible for its operation

211k members to end 2022

 Relevant Authorities legally responsible for the administration of the Single Scheme



Single Scheme – Overview

- A Defined Benefit Scheme
- Benefits based on Career Average Earnings & Work
 Pattern
- Normal Retirement Age same as eligibility age for State Pension (Contributory)
- Upper retirement age of 70
- Benefits may increase annually in line with CPI

Death in Service Benefits

Ill-Health Retirement facility

CNER from age 55



Website Resources







Recruitment

Single Public Service Pension Scheme > Employers > Toolkits > Standard Forms and Checklists > Recruitment

Recruitment Toolkit

Recruitment

Context: It is important that a new employee is assigned to the correct Pension Scheme at the time of recruitment.

Resource Toolkit: The resources provided in the table below may be used to aid in the onboarding of a new hire and making an accurate determination as to their correct Pension Scheme. Please note that the Process Map should be read with the Process Guidelines.

Note: The items below are suggested resources and their use is not mandatory. Organisations are free to continue to use their own, existing resources or to amend the resources below as they see fit.

If your organisation is partnered with a Shared Services Centre for HR, Pensions or Payroll purposes, you may need to clarify with them what elements of work, (if any), that they have been resourced to undertake on your behalf.

Training Resources: Administrators can access a soft-copy of the "Recruitment and Onboarding" training booklet provided at workshops delivered as part of the Single Scheme Project Team programme of training for Relevant Authorities. Please click here to access this page.

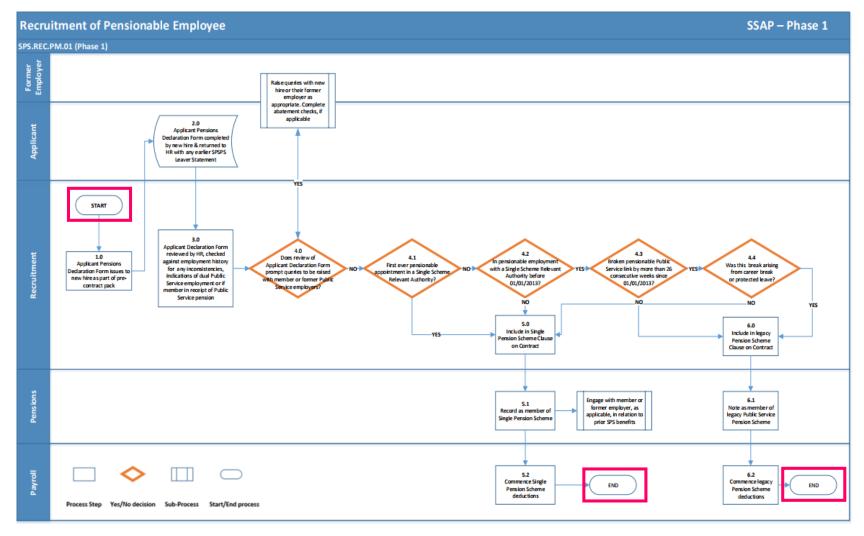
Name	Descriptor	Туре
1.Process Map	Process Map	٤
2.Process Guidelines	Process Guidelines	Æ
3. Circulars and Legislation	Circulars and Legislation	Ø
4. Applicant Declaration Form	Template Form	©.

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Process Map

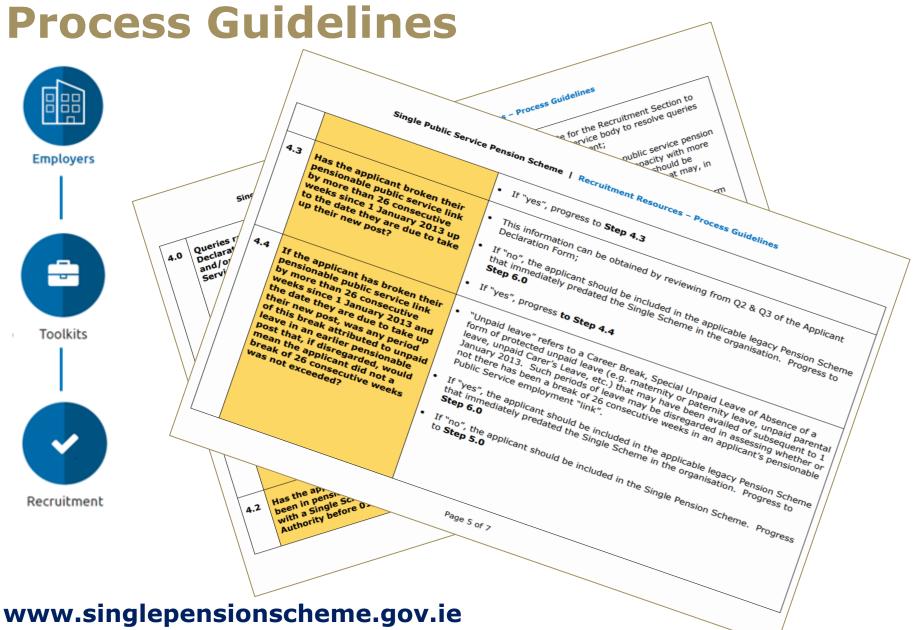




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Recruitment

Applicant Declaration Form To Be Completed By All Persons Taking Up Pensionable Employment with RA Legal Name

Purpose of this Form

Section 51 of the Public Service Pensions (Single Scheme and Other Provisions) Act 2012 requires that: Any person who

- (a) takes up employment in a public service body, and
- h) either—
- (i) has an entitlement to any preserved pension or any preserved lump sum or any other retirement benefit OR
- (ii) has received or is in receipt of retirement benefits, under a pre-existing public service pension scheme of which he or she was or is a member, shall provide a declaration to that effect to the relevant authority

Accordingly, RA Legal Name requires this Declaration to be made as a condition of being offered employment.

Section A. Verification of Current Irish Public Service Employee Status

- 1. I declare that: (please mark one answer only)
- a. I have NOT previously been employed in a pensionable capacity in the Irish Public Service [Go to Q6].
- b. I HAVE been employed in a pensionable capacity within the Irish Public Service Body [Go to Q2].

Section B. Declaration for current or former employees of the Irish Public Service

I declare details of all periods of prior pensionable service with Irish Public Service Bodies in the table below:

Irish Public Service Employer	Precise Dates of Employment		Have you received or applied for	
	From	То	a pension refund?	
(A)	/ /	/ /	O NO OR O YES	
(B)	/ /	/ /	O NO OR O YES	
(C)	/ /	/ /	O NO OR O YES	
(D)	/ /	/ /	O NO OR O YES	
(E)	/ /	/ /	O NO OR O YES	

(Please check with your former employers if you are unsure of precise dates.

Use an additional page if needed)

Act makes legal provision:

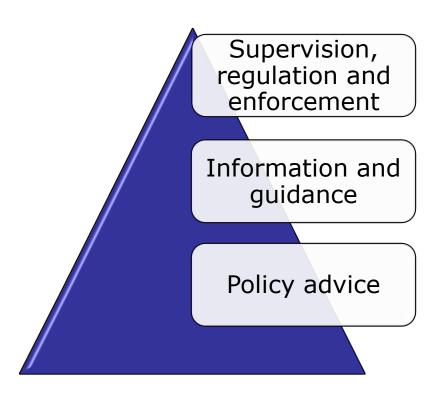
- For a Statutory Declaration to be made by new hires
- Use of PPS Numbers to exchange information between Public Service bodies to verify compliance with legislation



The Pensions Authority

The Pensions Authority





Regulatory Powers

Investigations, Audits, Inspections, Meetings, Data Analysis

Whistle-blow Reports

Prosecutions – all breaches of the Pensions Act are a criminal offence

On-the-spot fines

- €2,000 per trustee/administrator
- Late registration of schemes
- Failure to provide information to members
- Failure or delay in notifying amendments to the Authority
- Failure to provide required/requested information to the Authority

The Pensions Authority



Disclosure of Information Regulations and Member Information including....

- Details on constitution of the scheme
- Basic Information i.e explanatory booklet
- Annual benefit statement
- Leaving service options letter
- Information on retirement
- Information on death
- Notification of grant of PAO



Key Principles



RA Responsibilities - Onboarding

"It is the responsibility of HR at recruitment to identify who is a Single Scheme member"

"...necessary to have a robust process for identifying new Single Scheme members at recruitment stage."





Onboarding – Key Information

- Is this a new-entrant's first pensionable position in the Irish Public Service?
- Has the new-entrant previously been employed with a public service employer prior to 1 January 2013?
- If previously in public service employment in the Irish Public Service prior to 1 January 2013 has there been a break of more than 26 weeks?
- Has any break been as a result of employer approved or protected leave?
- If the new-entrant has received a refund of Single Scheme contributions, are the aware of the option to restore these benefits?







- All new entrants appointed to pensionable posts in the Irish Public Service on or after 1 January 2013 are, in general, members of the Single Scheme
- ..unless, they were in public service employment prior to 1 January 2013 and are entitled to avail of a derogation allowing them to join / re-join an earlier Public Service Pension Scheme in existence before 1 January 2013.





Derogations/Exceptions

- The employee had to have been in public service employment prior to 1 January 2013 and;
 - Be returning to the public service after a break of less than 26 consecutive weeks from a previous public service role; or
 - Be returning to pensionable employment under the same contract of employment
- Periods where a member was on a form of protected leave or other approved leave do not count as a break in service

Reasons for a derogation must be clearly documented



Derogations/Exceptions

- Previously had been the case that in order for a derogation to apply, an individual had to have been in pensionable public service employment
- Following a Judicial Review, Court ruled that such prior employment need not have been pensionable for the derogation to apply
- Currently the position that derogation applies i.e. the 26-week rule, whether person had previously been in pubic-service employment regardless of whether previous post was pensionable or not.
- Employment as a non-pensionable public servant should also be recognised when determining if the 26 week exemptions applies.



Pension Abatement

- A Pensioner in receipt of a Public Service pension who is re-hired in any paid capacity by a Public Service Body, their existing pension may be liable to be abated for the period they are in receipt of postretirement salary
- Why? A pensioner should not earn more in retirement (between their public service pension + public service salary) than if they had not retired from their original post.
- Recruitment need to transparently flag this to all candidates in advance of competition
- Pension abated, never remuneration





Single Scheme Vesting Period



Single Scheme Vesting Period

- Minimum period of scheme membership to be eligible for full scheme benefits
- Single Scheme vesting period is 24 months (non-consecutive)
- Days on which there is a pensionable employment relationship between the person and a Relevant Authority whether full-time or part-time (Circular 12 of 2019 refers)
- A new recruit may already be vested or have completed some of the vesting period as a member of the Single Scheme prior to taking up a post with a new Relevant Authority





Single Scheme Vesting Period

In order to determine member vesting status at recruitment, HR should:

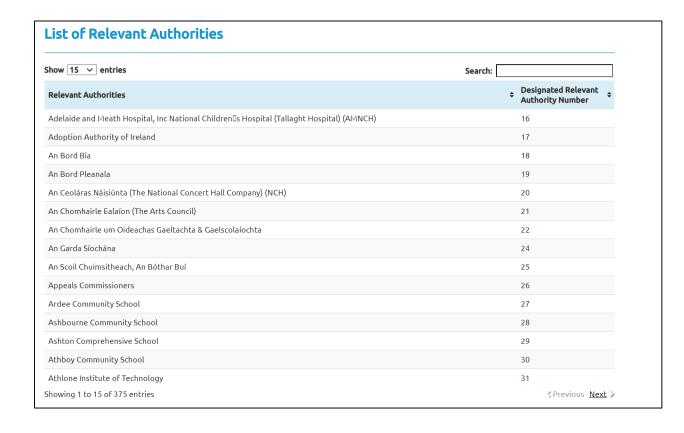
 Review completed Applicant Declaration Form or other documentation provided by member

and

 Confirm if any prior Single Scheme employments where contributions not refunded, following application for same by the member







- 350+ public service bodies to which the Single Scheme applies
- Bodies are designated as Relevant Authorities by the Minister for PENDR

 An evolving list as bodies are created, merged, renamed or disbanded over time





Website Resources - RA Look-up

Single Public Service Pension Scheme > Employers > List of Relevant Authorities

List of Relevant Authorities

Show 15 v entries	Search: Irish film board
Relevant Authorities	
Screen Ireland (formally Irish Film Board)	186

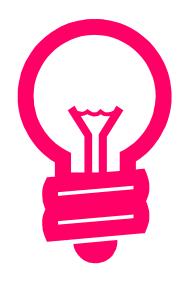
Showing 1 to 1 of 1 entries (filtered from 375 total entries)

Previous Next >





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In general, into which pension scheme is a recruit to their *first* pensionable public service post to be assigned if their start date is after *1 January 2013*?

Single Scheme



Into which pension scheme is someone assigned where recruited to a pensionable public service post, starting 4 October 2021 with a Relevant Authority, following on from a previous period of pensionable public service employment from 12 May 2008 to 31 August 2021?

Pre-2013 pension scheme



Applicant Declaration Form



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Toolkits



Recruitment

<u>Applicant Declaration Form</u> To Be Completed By All Persons Taking Up Pensionable Employment with RA Legal Name

Purpose of this Form

Section 51 of the Public Service Pensions (Single Scheme and Other Provisions) Act 2012 requires that: Any person who

- (a) takes up employment in a public service body, and
- b) either-
- (i) has an entitlement to any preserved pension or any preserved lump sum or any other retirement benefit, OR
- (ii) has received or is in receipt of retirement benefits, under a pre-existing public service pension scheme of which he or she was or is a member, shall provide a declaration to that effect to the relevant authority

Accordingly, RA Legal Name requires this Declaration to be made as a condition of being offered employment.

Section A. Verification of Current Irish Public Service Employee Status

- 1. I declare that: (please mark one answer only)
 - a. I have **NOT** previously been employed in a pensionable capacity in the Irish Public Service [Go to Q6].
 - b. I HAVE been employed in a pensionable capacity within the Irish Public Service Body [Go to Q2].

Section B. Declaration for current or former employees of the Irish Public Service

2. I declare details of **all periods** of prior **pensionable service** with Irish Public Service Bodies in the table below:

Irish Public Service Employer	Precise Dates of Employment		Have you received or applied for
	From	То	applied for a pension refund?
(A)	/ /	/ /	O NO OR O YES
(B)	/ /	/ /	O NO OR O YES
(C)	/ /	/ /	O NO OR O YES
(D)	/ /	/ /	O NO OR O YES
(E)	/ /	/ /	O NO OR O YES

(Please check with your former employers if you are unsure of precise dates.

Use an additional page if needed)

_			'
	that: (please mark one answer only	·)	
- 2	Since 1 January 2013 , I have NOT 26 consecutive weeks (e.g. throug Maternity Leave, Unpaid Parental Lea	gh a Career Break, Spec	ial Unpaid Absence, Unpaid
			[Go to Q4]
,	Since 1 January 2013, I HAVE ava consecutive weeks (e.g. through a maternity leave, unpaid parental lea eave after 1 January 2013 are include	i Career Break, special i ve, carer's leave, etc.).	inpaid absence, unpaid
	Type of Leave	Precise Da	tes of Leave
		From	To
.)		/ /	/ /
3)		/ /	/ /
:)		/ /	/ /
	that: (please mark one answer only		[Go to Q4]
Í	I have NEVER availed of an enha Retirement or redundancy from an I	rish Public Service Body	[Go to Q5]
, t	I HAVE availed of an enhanced or In redundancy from an Irish Public Ser- the terms of such Scheme from acce am aware of the potential conseque employment in the Irish Public Servi	vice Body. I confirm tha pting re-employment in ences to my existing be	t I am NOT prohibited unde the Irish Public Service and
(1 5 7 8	Please enclose full details of the pa ame. For example, Government Inc argeted Voluntary Early Retirement letirement Scheme, etc. If Minister nust be attached).	entivised Scheme for E Redundancy Scheme i	arly Retirement in 2009, HS n 2010, DES Teachers' Earl

з.

Page 3 of 5

Applicant Declaration Form To Be Completed By All Persons Taking Up Pensionable Employment with RA Legal Name

Purpose of this Form

Section 51 of the Public Service Pensions (Single Scheme and Other Provisions) Act 2012 requires that: *Any person who*

- (a) takes up employment in a public service body, and
- (b) either-
 - (i) has an entitlement to any preserved pension or any preserved lump sum or any other retirement benefit, OR
 - (ii) has received or is in receipt of retirement benefits, under a pre-existing public service pension scheme of which he or she was or is a member, shall provide a declaration to that effect to the relevant authority

Accordingly, RA Legal Name requires this Declaration to be made as a condition of being offered employment.



Section A. Verification of Current Irish Public Service Employee Status		
1. I declare that: (please mark one answer only)		
a. I have NOT previously been employed in the Irish Public Service	[Go to Q5]	
b. I HAVE previously been employed in the Irish Public Service Body	[Go to Q2]	

Section B. Declaration for current or former employees of the Irish Public Service

2. I declare details of all periods of prior employments with Irish Public Service Bodies in the table below:

H	Irish Public Service Employer	Precise Dates of Employment		
		From (dd/mmy/yyyy)	To¹ (dd/mm/yyyy)	
(A)				
(B)				
(C)				
(D)				
(E)				

(Please check with your former employers if you are unsure of precise dates.

Use an additional page if needed)

¹You are <u>not</u> deemed to have left public service employment if you are currently availing of employer approved unpaid leave (e.g. through a Career Break, Special Unpaid Absence, Unpaid Maternity Leave, Unpaid Parental Leave, Carer's Leave, etc.).

[Go to Q3]

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3. I declare that: (please mark one answer only)	
a. I have NEVER availed of an enhanced or Incentivised Scheme for Retirement or redundancy from an Irish Public Service Body;	Voluntary Early
Redirement of redundancy from all Irish rubile Service Body,	[Go to Q5]
b. I HAVE availed of an enhanced or Incentivised Scheme for Early Retirem redundancy from an Irish Public Service Body. I confirm that I am NOT the terms of such Scheme from accepting re-employment in the Irish Public Services to my existing benefits in the employment in the Irish Public Service.	prohibited under olic Service and I
(Please enclose full details of the particular Scheme that you availed of same. For example, Government Incentivised Scheme for Early Retireme Targeted Voluntary Early Retirement Redundancy Scheme in 2010, DES Retirement Scheme, etc. If Ministerial consent is required for your re-emust be attached).	ent in 2009, HSE 5 Teachers' Early
	[Go to Q5]



Section C. Verification of Current Irish Public Service Pension Scheme **Benefits in Payment 4.** I declare that: (please mark one answer only) a. I am NOT in receipt of any retirement benefits from any Irish Public Service Pension Scheme. I undertake to promptly notify RA Legal Name's HR Department in writing should this position change; [Go to Q6] b. I AM in receipt of retirement benefits from an Irish Public Service Pension Scheme and I set out details of these retirement benefits in the table below: (please use a separate page if you are in receipt of benefits from more than one Irish Public Service Pension Scheme) Name of Irish Public Service Pension Scheme that pays/paid benefits Current annual gross pension & Date of First Payment Lump Sum & Date of Payment Contact details of Payroll Office for these benefits

[Go to Q6]



Section D. Verification of Other Pensionable Pay from employment with any other Irish Public Service Body

I declare that: (please mark one answer only	<i>(</i>)
receive pensionable pay from anothe	employment with <mark>RA Legal Name</mark> , expecting to er Irish Public Service Body. I undertake to promptly ent in writing should this position change;
	[Go to Section 7]
pensionable pay from another Irish F pensionable pay in the table below: remuneration from more than one Ir	employment with RA Legal Name, in receipt of Public Service Body. I set out details of this other (please use a separate page if you are in receipt of rish Public Service Body).
Name of Public Service Body	
Reason for payment	
Gross Annual Amount of Payment	
% of Full time position	
Contact details of Payroll Office for other	
Public Service employment	

[Go to Section 7]

6. Important Notes:

- RA Legal Name reserves the right to seek clarifications or further information on any aspect
 of information submitted prior to finalising your appointment or the terms & conditions
 related to your appointment to ensure compliance with relevant legislation.
- You are not deemed to have left public service employment if you are currently availing of employer approved unpaid leave (e.g. through a Career Break, Special Unpaid Absence, Unpaid Maternity Leave, Unpaid Parental Leave, Carer's Leave, etc.).
- If you were previously employed by an Irish Public Service Body, or are in receipt of a pension from an Irish Public Service Body, you should note that RA Legal Name may verify the accuracy of information provided with other Irish Public Service Bodies in accordance with Section 50 of the Public Service Pensions (Single Scheme and Other Provisions) Act 2012.
- Failure to complete this form accurately and fully may result in RA Legal Name not being able to progress your appointment or lead to delays in setting you up on the payroll system.
- Former Irish Public Service employees that are in receipt of, or have an entitlement to a
 deferred or preserved benefit from an Irish Public Service Pension Scheme, should familiarise
 themselves with any personal implication this appointment may have on these existing
 entitlements or future entitlements from RA Legal Name. For example, reduction in existing
 pensions in payment (abatement).
- Please ensure that you complete this form fully and with care as salary deductions and pension scheme benefits may otherwise be incorrectly calculated. Any clause contained in your Contract of Employment will be deemed to be invalidated in the event that materially incorrect information is provided to RA Legal Name

[Go to Section 8]



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7. Supporting Pension Documentation

If you have completed Section 2 and were provided with pension documentation from your former public service employer, you are requested to enclose a copy of this pension documentation when returning this form. This will assist us to resolve any queries associated with your prior employment(s) and any public service pension scheme membership queries arising.

8. Declaration

I make this declaration in accordance with the requirements of **Section 51** of the *Public Service* Pensions (Single Scheme and Other Provisions) Act 2012.

Signed:	-				
Name (Block Capitals):					
Date	,	,	PPS Numl	aer:	

Your fully completed Declaration should be returned to the address below to enable recruitment formalities to be progressed:

> **RA Contact Name RA Name RA Full Address Details**



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A recruit who took up a pensionable public service post on 15 of September 2021 having previously worked in one other pensionable public service post from 1 June 2009 to resignation on 10 March 2021 should be assigned to which pension scheme?

Single Scheme



Which pension scheme should a recruit be assigned to if recruited to a pensionable post with *Relevant Authority A* immediately following the cessation of a 5-year employer approved career break with *Relevant Authority B*?

(recruit was a member of a pre-2013 pension scheme with Relevant Authority B)

Pre-2013 pension scheme



Some examples...



- Recruit offered a pensionable post with a Relevant Authority
- Per submitted Applicant Declaration Form has never worked in the public service
- Will commence employment from 1 October 2021

Single Scheme



 Anne has been working for the Department of Defence since 1 Jan 2007

 She went on unpaid leave on the 20 March 2021 for five months and then resigned from her post effective 16 August 2021

 She is starting a pensionable position with Relevant Authority on 1 Nov 2021

Pre-2013 Pension Scheme



- Recruit offered a pensionable post with a Relevant Authority
- Per submitted Applicant Declaration Form had worked in a pensionable public service post from 25 June 2011 to date of resignation – 30 April 2021
- Will commence employment from 1 November 2021

Single Scheme



- Catherine is starting in a new pensionable position with a Relevant Authority on 1 Nov 2021
- She has just finished availing of 12 months paid/unpaid maternity leave and parental leave with the Irish Film Board and is resigning from her post effective 21 September 2021
- She has been with the Irish Film Board in a pensionable position since 2011

Pre-2013 pension scheme



- Frank has been offered a position with a Relevant Authority earning €40K pa for some part-time work starting on the 22nd of September 2021
- He is currently receiving a pension of €30K p.a. from St. James's Hospital having worked in a pensionable capacity there for 40 years following his retirement on the 15th of June 2021.

Pre-2013 Pension Scheme



Recap



Onboarding - Key Information

- Is this a new-entrant's first pensionable position in the Irish Public Service?
- Has the new-entrant previously been in employment with a public service employer prior to 1 January 2013?
- If previously in public service employment in the Irish Public Service prior to 1 January 2013 has there been a break of more than 26 weeks?
- Has any break been as a result of employer approved or protected leave?
- If the new-entrant has received a refund of Single Scheme contributions, are the aware of the option to restore these benefits?













English Gaeilge Aa Aa

Search Filter by ▼ Q



Single Public Service Pension Scheme > Employers > General Information > Administrator FAQs

Administrator FAQs

Purpose Current Administrator FAQs for Single Pension Scheme. Administrator FAQs should

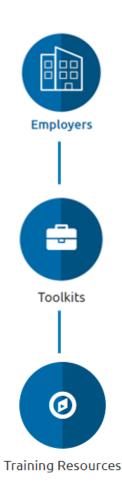
be read with Scheme Booklet.

Document Name Administrator FAQs Date of Issue 19 June 2019



(PDF, 587 KB)





Training Resources

Context: The Single Scheme Project Team commenced a modular programme of training in 2017. This training focuses on different aspects of Single Scheme administration and is directed at subject matter experts in Relevant Authorities. Training delivery is ongoing and will comprise refresher training as well as the delivery of new modules covering other aspects of Single Scheme administration.

Training Resources: The resources provided in the table below are soft-copy versions of the training booklets provided to attendees at the training sessions already delivered. When a new training module has been delivered the table below will be updated with a soft-copy version of the resources provided at the training session(s).

Toolkit Resources: Administrators can also access a suite of Toolkit resources available to assist and support different aspects of Single Scheme administration. The Toolkits currently available provide support and guidance on administration around Recruitment, Leavers, Retirement, Death and Annual Administration Activities. These Toolkit resources can be accessed here.

Training Module	Туре	File size
1.Recruitment and Onboarding	(L	(4 MB)
2.Leaving Employment and Annual Administration Activities 2019	Ø	(4.92 MB)
2a.Leaving Employment and Annual Administration Activities - Common Queries	<u>R</u>	(150 KB)
3.Retirements and Death Benefits Administration	Æ	(5 MB)
4.Purchase and Transfer Administration	į.	(4.93 MB)





Recruitment - Pension Scheme Membership Assignment

Context: This training video focuses primarily on the Applicant Declaration Form template available in our Recruitment Toolkit. It also references the other Employer resources available on our website as well as the *Public Service Pensions (Single Scheme and Other Provisions) Act 2012 referred* to as the "2012 Act" throughout the video.

Purpose: The purpose of this video is to provide Administrators with an overview of the information needed at the recruitment and onboarding stage in order to make the right decision on which pension scheme to assign a new recruit to a pensionable post into. The video is complemented by a table linking to other important resources on this website that Administrators may wish to refer to for further guidance.



Toolkits





Further Resources

- 1. Applicant Declaration Form
- 2. Recruitment Toolkit
- 3. Administrator FAQ
- 4. Circulars and Legislation

Suite of Training Videos covering:

- Recruitment and Onboarding/Pension
 Scheme Assignment
- Annual Administration Activities
- Leaving Employment
- Contributions and Referable Amount Calculations
- Purchase of Single Scheme Retirement Benefits
- Single Scheme Transfer Facility







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Single Public Service Pension Scheme

Relevant Authority Training Webinar Module A: Recruitment and Onboarding

Tuesday, 28 March 2023

