



# Single Scheme Administration Project

Quarterly Bulletin - Issue 3

December 2016



## Welcome

Welcome to the third quarterly bulletin on the Single Scheme Administration Project. This bulletin aims to share information with all public service bodies involved in Single Public Service Pension Scheme operation regarding project work underway in this area.

## Project Purpose

The project is currently focused on conducting a Feasibility Study into various options for improving the administrative arrangements for the Single Scheme. The outcome from the project will be a recommendation to Government on a preferred option for implementation.

## November Townhalls

Two townhall meetings were held in Dublin and Athlone on November 10 and 16. The purpose was to share information on the project and get feedback from practitioners present. The events also provided an opportunity for the policy team to share updates on developments and clarify operational matters. Instances of good practice were also highlighted, with both St. Vincent's University Hospital (SVUH) and NUI Galway sharing their experiences in implementing the Single Scheme.

Unfortunately it was not possible to accommodate all those who wished to attend the events but all presentations are available at [www.per.gov.ie/single-scheme-project-slides](http://www.per.gov.ie/single-scheme-project-slides). Attendee survey responses are being evaluated in the context of potentially running similar events in future.



*Aileen Reilly and John Keane of SVUH presenting at the Dublin event*



*Discussion during the breakout session in Athlone*



*Microphone in demand at the Dublin Townhall*

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## Project Status

As part of the Feasibility Study, a cost-benefit analysis of all options for long-term administration of the Single Scheme is in progress, with the intention that a recommendation will be made to Government early in the new year. The outputs will define work to be undertaken in future Design, Build/Test phases of work. In tandem, consideration is being given to what actions can be taken in the short-term to address current risks and assist RAs in operation of the scheme. Input provided by attendees during the townhalls is supporting this.



## CPI adjustment

Once the 2016 inflation figures are published by the CSO in January, a determination will be made as to whether a CPI (consumer price index) uprating will need to be applied to referable amount and Single Scheme pensions in payment. Notification will issue in Q1 2017 on this.

## 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017 Single Scheme Member Survey

As with previous years, DPER will ask RA's to complete a short survey early in January of the numbers of Single Scheme members in every Relevant Authority (RA) on that date. This generates some key statistics on the scheme, and is also necessary in order for the Pension Authority fees for all scheme members to be paid centrally. We'd appreciate a timely response once the request is issued.



## FAQ to Everyone!

An updated FAQ to address common queries on the implementation of the scheme has been posted to the Department's website by the Policy Unit. It can be found on the Single Scheme webpage, along with all related circulars and other materials <http://www.per.gov.ie/en/single-scheme/>.

For further information or to be added to/removed from, the circulation list please email [singleschemequeries@per.gov.ie](mailto:singleschemequeries@per.gov.ie). If possible, please include your Relevant Authority identification number in any correspondence.