

What is Normal Retirement?

A normal retirement occurs when a member retires directly from pensionable employment and has:

- ▶ Reached their Normal Retirement Age (see below); and
- ▶ Contributed to the Scheme for 24 months or more.

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 normal retirement benefits calculated?

You build up two types of benefits, called referable amounts, each time you get paid while you are a member of the Scheme.

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

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

Your pensionable earnings largely determine how much you earn as benefit amounts in each pay period.

For benefit amounts earned during earlier years of your membership of the Scheme, these may be increased in subsequent years 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.

Do I have to retire at my Normal Retirement Age?

Provided the terms and conditions of your employment allow, you can decide not to retire and instead keep working up to age 70.

Can I retire before my minimum retirement age?

If you are at least 55 years old, you may be eligible to avail of Voluntary Early Retirement. You can find further information on early retirement in the Voluntary Early Retirement At-a-Glance guide or in your Scheme Information Booklet.

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 your employer's Pension Officer who will be able to assist you.

