

## NHS Pension Scheme



### Changes to public service pension schemes

## How to process applications to retire from 1 April 2022 for 1995/2008 Scheme members

The Department of Health and Social Care recently announced a consultation on proposed changes to the NHS Pension Scheme Regulations that will be required to put the first part of the McCloud remedy in place.

These proposed changes will support the closure of the 1995/2008 Scheme on 31 March 2022 and the transition of all active 1995/2008 members into the 2015 Scheme on 1 April 2022.

This document sets out the process for managing retirement applications from members of the 1995/2008 Scheme who had full protection.

### Managing applications to retire from 1 April 2022

On 1 April 2022, we'll update the records of those 1995/2008 members moving into the 2015 Scheme. This will happen automatically.

Because we are updating these member records, this will impact any work in progress relating to applications to retire.

If you receive a retirement application from a 1995/2008 Scheme member with full protection, you should follow the guidance below:

- **Applications to retire before 31 March 2022:** should be processed as normal.
- **Applications to retire in April 2022:** you should submit the application as normal using your existing processes. We'll calculate the member's pension using 1995/2008 Scheme membership until their last day of service for when they first retire. As soon as possible after 1 April 2022, we'll recalculate their pension benefits based on 2015 Scheme membership for the period from 1 April 2022 and write to the member to explain they'll get a sub award to cover this service.

- **Applications to retire from May 2022 onwards:** applications for retirement from May 2022 should be uploaded to Pensions Online (POL) on or after Monday 4 April 2022 – no applications should be uploaded to POL before this date.

This will ensure that the member record has been moved into the 2015 Scheme and their pension calculations will accurately reflect both their 1995/2008 and 2015 Scheme membership.

## **If an application from a member who had full protection is submitted before April 2022**

1. If an application for a member with full protection is submitted prior to 1 April 2022 it may automatically progress through the system as a legacy scheme award even though the payable date is on or after 1 April 2022.

If this happens, an interim letter will be sent to the affected member to advise them that their benefits will need to be revised.

A sub award will then be calculated to revise their legacy scheme benefits up to 31 March 2022.

For their 2015 Scheme benefits from 1 April 2022, the member will be given options to either:

- Defer their 2015 benefits until their 2015 Scheme retirement date (if not already reached)
- Claim their 2015 benefits, adjusted in line with their retirement age (reduced if not at retirement age or increased if a late retiree)
- Commute their 2015 benefits, taking them as a lump sum

The options to claim 2015 benefits adjusted in line with retirement age or commute 2015 benefits will be offset against any overpayment made when calculating their provisional legacy scheme award.

## **Applications from members who had tapered protection**

We have received some queries about processing applications from members who will move into the 2015 Scheme before 1 April 2022.

If a member has tapered protection and is due to move into the 2015 Scheme before 1 April 2022, the processes for handling applications for retirement remain the same.

Applications should be uploaded after the member's transition date into the 2015 Scheme and their pension will be correct first time and accurately reflect both their 1995/2008 and 2015 Scheme membership.

## **Estimates**

If you're calculating estimates for 1995/2008 members with full protection, you should only do so up to 31 March 2022 using details of their 1995/2008 membership.

## **More information**

If you have any questions about any of this information, please email [nhsbsa.pensionemployers@nhsbsa.nhs.uk](mailto:nhsbsa.pensionemployers@nhsbsa.nhs.uk)