



Department of  
**Health, Social Services  
and Public Safety**

[www.dhsspsni.gov.uk](http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk)

AN ROINN

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta  
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

MÁNNYSTRE O

**Poustie, Resydënter Heisin  
an Fowk Siccar**



## **PENSION POST**

### **HSC Pensions Annual Newsletter**

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# Editors Letter



Hello

Welcome to the first edition of our new annual newsletter. I hope you find it interesting and useful.



We have included some important information and useful contacts for you to keep for future reference.

The HSC Scheme is the largest public sector pension scheme in Northern Ireland, with 58,000

active members, 11,000 deferred members and 27,000 members in receipt of a pension. HSC Pensions Branch pays out £145 million every year in pensions.

If you require any additional information regarding your pension you are welcome to contact any of our pension payroll staff on 028 7131 9000. We are always pleased to hear from our members.

Moira McCarthy  
HSC Pensions

**COPIES OF THIS NEWSLETTER IN LARGE PRINT, BRAILLE FORMAT OR ON AUDIO CASSETTE WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST**

# Your Tax Code

The Tax Office tells us how much tax to take from your pension. If you have any queries about your tax code or tax liability, please contact

Inland Revenue Northern Ireland Counties Area  
Foyle House  
Duncreggan Rd  
Derry  
BT48 0AA

Tel. 0845 3021481

You will need to quote your National Insurance Number and PAYE reference which is 916/G78000.

## Payment dates for the remainder of 2008 - 09

Pension payment dates will normally fall on the last banking day of each month, with the only exception being December when we aim to arrange payment before the annual holidays. The payment dates are:

- 30 January 2009
- 27 February 2009
- 31 March 2009

- 30 April 2009
- 29 May 2009

N.B. For pensioners living overseas the payment date will usually be between two and six days later.



## Pension Payslips

For those of you who have your pension paid directly into a bank account each month we normally do not send out a payslip every month.

You will only receive a pension payslip if your net payment differs by more than £1 per month and also when

the pension increase comes into effect in April and May each year.

It is your responsibility to forward copies of the payslips to any body that you receive benefits from such as the Social Security Agency or the Housing Executive.

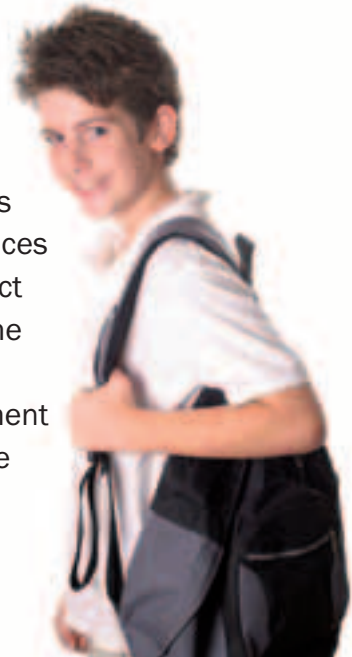
## Changing Your Address or Bank Account

Please remember to tell us if you are moving house. If we lose touch with you by the return of items through the post we may have to suspend your pension until we verify your new address.

All changes of address and bank account need to be sent to us in writing. It is most important that we have your usual signature on the letter to ensure that we can verify that it is you who is requesting the change.

## Child Allowances

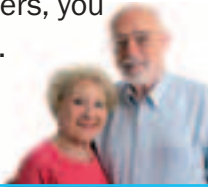
If the payment you receive from us is a child allowance you must inform us immediately when a child ceases full time education or training, or if there are any other changes in circumstances that may affect payment of the allowance. Any overpayment will have to be repaid.



## **Survivor Benefits, Marriage and forming a Civil Partnership**

If you receive survivor benefits from us and you marry, form a Civil Partnership or live with another person as husband and wife or partners, you must let us know.

It may affect your pension.



## **The National Fraud Initiative**

HSC Pensions has a duty to protect the public funds which it administers and is required by the Northern Ireland Audit Office to participate in an anti-fraud initiative called the National Fraud Initiative.

To this end we are providing details of pensioners so that they can be compared to information provided by other public bodies. This will ensure that any monies being paid are correct and properly payable.

## **Taking up new employment in the HSC/NHS**

If you were 60 or over when you retired and at least one calendar month has passed from the date you retired to the date you go back to work, you do not need to tell us.

Otherwise you must let us know as soon as possible before you go back to work in the HSC/ NHS because your pension may need to be reduced or stopped altogether whilst you are employed. You can check with us beforehand and we will be happy to let you know.

If you do not let us have the relevant information you may be paid too much pension. If this happens you will have to pay the money back.

## **Pensioners Living Overseas**

We will write to our overseas pensioners every year asking them to complete and return a Declaration of Entitlement.

# The NHS Retirement Fellowship



The NHS Retirement Fellowship is a registered charity, created for the benefit of all retired health service employees and their partners. The main objective is to provide the opportunity for retired health service staff to continue friendships formed during employment and to make new friends and enjoy the companionship of people from a shared health and social services background. A benevolent fund is available to support members who are in financial need, subject to certain criteria.

There are branches located in most of the cities and major towns in Northern Ireland and membership is open to all grades

of staff. If you are interested in becoming a member or would like some more information please contact:



Bertie Thompson  
NHS Retirement Fellowship (N.I.)  
c/o Bangor Community Hospital  
Castle Street  
Bangor  
BT20 4TA  
Telephone : 028 91460852  
(home)

Membership can be paid through a monthly deduction of 45 pence from your Health Service pension or by an annual payment.

## Meet the HSC Payroll Team



**Back row:** Gerard Gray, Eamonn McGowan, Terry Curran  
**Front row:** Heather Dougherty, Tara Hughes

## Standards of Service you can expect from our Payroll Team

### **We will:**

- Pay all monthly pensions by the last banking day of each month with the exception of December when payments are issued earlier to facilitate the annual Christmas holidays
- Pay weekly pensions each Friday
- Issue P60 Tax Forms by 31 May each year
- Reply to all correspondence from pensioners and their representatives within 10 working days
- Issue all pensioners with a copy of the HSC Pensions Annual Newsletter. This will contain relevant articles and future pension payment dates

## What to do if you are not satisfied with our Service

We make every effort to get things right, however, if something is wrong please write to us with details of your concern.

We will try to give you a full reply within 10 working days. However, sometimes we are unable to do so because we may need to contact another organisation for more information. In this case

we will send you an interim reply. This will explain what we are doing, tell you who is handling your complaint and when we expect to send you a full reply.

If you are not satisfied with our reply you can write and ask a Scheme Manager to look into your complaint and provide a reply.

