

The Chief Executive of:
Each Health and Social Services Board
Each HSS Trust
Central Services Agency
Northern Ireland Practice and Education Council
Northern Ireland Guardian Ad Litem Agency
Northern Ireland Blood Transfusion Agency
Northern Ireland Health Promotion Agency
NI Medical and Dental Training Agency

HSS(S) 05/2005

GP Practices
The Directional Bodies

Staff Side Representatives

14 June 2005

Dear Colleague

REVIEW OF THE HPSS SUPERANNUATION SCHEME

On the 24th January 2005, the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS) launched a consultation on the future of the HPSS Superannuation Scheme in Northern Ireland. The consultation concluded on the 30th April 2005, and we thank everyone who has responded.

Among the issues on which we sought your views was the UK Government's proposal to raise the normal pension age in public service pension schemes, including the HPSS Superannuation Scheme, to age 65. You may have seen in the press recently that the UK Government announced that further discussions would take place with public service unions on this issue. These negotiations will be conducted at a UK level, and will commence shortly.

Although some Staff Side organisations have responded, those who have not, confirmed they will respond after the discussions referred to above have been concluded.

In the meantime, HPSS Superannuation Branch will be collating the responses to the consultation document it has received so far. However the Department does not intend to make any recommendations to the Minister on the future of the HPSS Superannuation Scheme until the further discussions between the Government and public service unions have been concluded. Any recommendations made to the Minister will reflect the Department's consideration of the suggestions made by consultees in the responses to the Northern Ireland consultation exercise.

If you have any concerns or questions about this circular, or about the review itself, please e-mail the review team at modernisation@dhsspsni.gov.uk Alternatively you can call them on 028 71 319165.

Yours sincerely

Phil McCusker
HPSS Superannuation Scheme Manager