

| The Chief Executive of:
Each Health and Social Services Board
Each HSS Trust
Finance Director:
Each Health and Social Services Board
Each HSS Trust
Human Resource Director:
Each Health and Social Services Board
Each HSS Trust

Circular HSS(S) 15/05

4 January 2006

Dear Colleague

HPSS Superannuation Scheme – New Tax Rules From 6 April 2006 (“A-Day”)

You will shortly receive a copy of an information leaflet, entitled “Legislative changes affecting the HPSS Superannuation Scheme”, which all employers have been asked to issue to every member of staff via their payslips (Circular HSS(S) 12/05 refers). The leaflet has been designed to meet the needs of most Scheme members in terms of the impact of the new tax rules from 6 April 2006. Overall we anticipate that most members will not be adversely impacted by the changes.

HPSS Superannuation Branch realises however, that a small percentage, but nevertheless a significant number, of HPSS Superannuation Scheme members are high earners and/or may have other substantial pension investments outside the main HPSS Superannuation Scheme. With this in mind we will in the near future be making available on our website more detailed information about the implications of the tax rule changes together with two interactive tools to assist members to determine whether they are at risk of exceeding the new limits and if so what their options are.

The HPSS Superannuation Branch website address is www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/superann

The topics covered on the website are – Lifetime Allowance, Lifetime Allowance Charge, Estimator Tools, Options at A-Day (Transitional Protection), the Annual Allowance, Notes for General Practitioners, Frequently Asked Questions, Sources of Information and Glossary of Terms Used.

This information is designed to help facilitate the need for fact finding and self-assessment. The HPSS Superannuation Branch cannot provide financial advice and it is for individuals, possibly with the assistance of Independent Financial Advisors, to determine what advice they require.

Scheme members who may be adversely impacted by the tax rule changes are likely to be senior employees of your organisation so **we are writing to ask you to use your pay offices to pass a copy of this letter to any of your staff on a salary of £100,000 or over.** We think senior staff would appreciate this extra pointer to our website and this may help avoid some questions being asked both locally and directly to the HPSS Superannuation Branch. Yours sincerely

Phil McCusker
HPSS Superannuation Scheme Manager