

Leaving the Scheme

In this section you can find out about what happens if you leave the HSC Pension Service

- [Deferred Members](#)

The section provides information specifically for deferred members (those who contribute to the pension scheme and leave the HSC Pension Service before retirement but do not transfer their pension to another pension scheme) - so payment is 'deferred' until retirement.

- [Claiming Deferred Pension Benefits](#)

This section tells deferred members how they can claim their pension.

- [Leaving Your Job - Your options](#)

This sets out the various options available to you (Deferring your Pension, Transferring your Pension, Applying for a refund).

- [Changes from 1 October 2008 for Deferred Members](#)

If you are currently a deferred member of the HSC Pension Service Scheme changes details of the changes made on 1 October 2008 can be found in this section.

Deferred Members

Contributors to the pension scheme who leave the HSC Pension Scheme before retirement and do not transfer their pension to another pension scheme, are known as 'deferred' members. This is because payment of pension is 'deferred' until retirement age.

This section explains deferred membership of the HSC Pension Scheme, and introduces the rules and benefits that apply.

Members with 2 or more years' membership, or less than 2 years, with pension rights previously transferred from a personal, money purchase or stakeholder pension, can choose deferral – ie leave benefits in the Scheme for payment when the member reaches retirement age.

Deferred main Scheme benefits are increased each year by the rate of inflation to protect their value and will normally be paid when the deferred member reaches age 60. At this point the deferred member will get a pension payable for life and, depending upon which rules and benefits apply to their pension (see note 2 below) a lump sum that is usually tax-free.

Deferred members do not need to apply to defer their benefits. HSC Pension Service will automatically write to you if you do not rejoin the Scheme within 12 months of leaving. For enquiries, or if you wish to inform us of a change in address, please let us know in writing as we cannot accept these details via telephone or electronically due to Data Protection regulations.

Contact Address:

HSC Pension Service
Waterside House
75 Duke Street
Londonderry
BT47 6FP

If you do rejoin the Scheme within 12 months, your membership will link up and all your membership will count in one calculation when your retirement benefits are worked out.

Should you die before or after you retire, life assurance and family benefits may be payable.

For more information read the .

Note to all current deferred members:

On 1 October 2008 changes were made to the HSC Pensions Scheme that may affect you.

1: If you die as a Scheme Pensioner and are aged over 75 within five years of your retirement.

The death gratuity lump sum that the beneficiaries of your estate will receive if you die in retirement has changed.

If you are aged over 75, and die within five years of your retirement, a pension will be paid to your beneficiaries instead of a single lump sum payment.

This pension will be paid from the day after your death until the 5th Anniversary of the date of your retirement.

2: If you rejoin the HSC Pension Scheme after a break of five or more years.

If you left HSC employment and preserved your HSC Pension Scheme membership five or more years ago you will have to join the 2008 Section of the Scheme if you return.

(If these circumstances affect you, you will receive one opportunity to transfer your preserved 1995 Section pension benefits into the 2008 Section on a cash equivalent transfer basis).

If you left HSC Employment before 1st April 2008 and subsequently transferred your benefits to another pension scheme, and you to return to HSC Employment after a break of five years or more you will be prevented from rejoining the 1995 Section. You will have to join the 2008 Section instead.

Additional Notes

1. As a result of the changes to the **HSC Pension Scheme** effective 1 April 2008, there are a number of issues to consider for individuals in deferred membership up to 31 October 2008 who **subsequently re-join the HSC**.
2. The changes also mean that members who deferred membership on or before 31 March 2008 will, when they retire, be subject to different rules and benefits from members who deferred membership after 1 April 2008. The first group will be subject to the rules and benefits of the **HSC Pension Scheme** (pre 1 April 2008 terms) and the second group to the rules and benefits of the **HSC Pension Scheme** (post 1 April 2008 terms) – also known as the **HSC Pension Scheme (Amended April 2008)**.

Claiming Deferred Pension Benefits

Please note: the information below is for people who deferred membership on or before 31 March 2008 and are therefore claiming deferred benefits from the **HSC Pension Scheme** (pre 1 April 2008 terms) and for people who deferred membership after 1 April 2008, whose benefits will be governed by the rules of the **HSC Pension Scheme** (post 1 April 2008 terms) – also known as the **HSC Pension Scheme (Amendment Regulations April 2008)**.

Deferred benefits are normally paid at age 60. Three to six months before you reach that age you should complete and send us a [claim form AW6P](#)

Voluntary Early Retirement

If you leave the Scheme with deferred benefits on or after 6 June 2000 and are aged 50 or over, you may be able to claim your deferred main Scheme and any HSC AVC benefits early, provided you are no longer in HSC employment. **Your benefits will be reduced to cover the extra cost of being in payment longer.**

- If you joined the Scheme for the first time on or after 6 April 2006, or previously left the Scheme before 6 June 2000 with deferred benefits and rejoined again on or after 6 April 2006, the minimum age that you can retire will increase to 55 with effect from 6 April 2010.
- You cannot take your deferred benefits on Voluntary Early Retirement grounds if you left the Scheme **before** 6 June 2000.

If you are thinking of claiming your benefits early, you must first write to us for an estimate of your benefits.

Ill-health retirement

If you become permanently unable to do any regular work because of ill-health before your normal retirement age, we **may** be able to pay your deferred benefits early.

Redundancy retirement

If you are made redundant before age 50 and are a qualifying member of the special classes we may be able to pay your deferred benefits at age 55.

Leaving Your Job - Your options

The information on this page is for members who are leaving HSC employment and want to know about their options with regards to their pension. Remember, your pension rights are valuable so you should think carefully about what you do. If you are in any doubt, seek independent financial advice.

Deferring your Pension

Members with at least 2 years' membership can also choose to defer benefits for payment when they reach retirement age.

Transferring your Pension

Choices open to members on leaving the scheme depend on how much membership they have in the main Scheme, and whether they are buying HSC Money Purchase AVCs, but whatever the case, members can normally choose a transfer of benefits to another registered pension scheme.

Applying for a refund

Members with less than 2 years' membership can choose a refund of contributions instead of a transfer to another registered pension scheme.

Please note that members of the **1995 section of the HSC Pension Scheme** who take a refund of contributions will only be eligible to join the **2008 section of the HSC Pension Scheme** if they later return to HSC work.

Notes

1. Whatever you decide for your main Scheme benefits will automatically apply to your Money Purchase AVCs. However, you can decide separately about your HSC AVCs. For example you could defer your main Scheme benefits but transfer your HSC AVC benefits.
2. Members who intend to rejoin HSC employment within one year need not take any action.

Changes from 1 October 2008 for Deferred Members

If you are currently a deferred member of the HSC Pension Scheme changes made on 1st October 2008 may affect you.

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The death gratuity lump sum that the beneficiaries of your estate will receive if you die in retirement has changed.

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