



Single Public Service Pension Scheme

Relevant Authority Training Webinar Module A: Recruitment and Onboarding

Tuesday, 11th June 2024



Recruitment & Onboarding

- 1. Webinar Objectives
- 2. Single Scheme Overview
- 3. Website Resources for Administrators
- 4. Relevant Authority Responsibilities
- 5. Pension Scheme Assignment Key Principles
- 6. Scheme Vesting Period
- 7. Applicant Declaration Form
- 8. Examples walkthrough
- 9. Recap, Q&A and close



An Roinn Caiteachais Phoiblí agus Athchóirithe Department of Public Expenditure and Reform



Housekeeping



- Webinar will run from 10:30am 12:30pm, short break of about 10 minutes at about 11:30am
- Mics will be muted for duration but plenty of opportunities for questions as webinar progresses
- Webinar part of suite of other resources available on our website – <u>www.singlepensionscheme.gov.ie</u>







- More confident in making an accurate decision as to which Pension Scheme a new hire / re-hire should join
- Improved understanding of possible pension implications of hiring staff in receipt of a public service pension
- Availability of online resources and supports



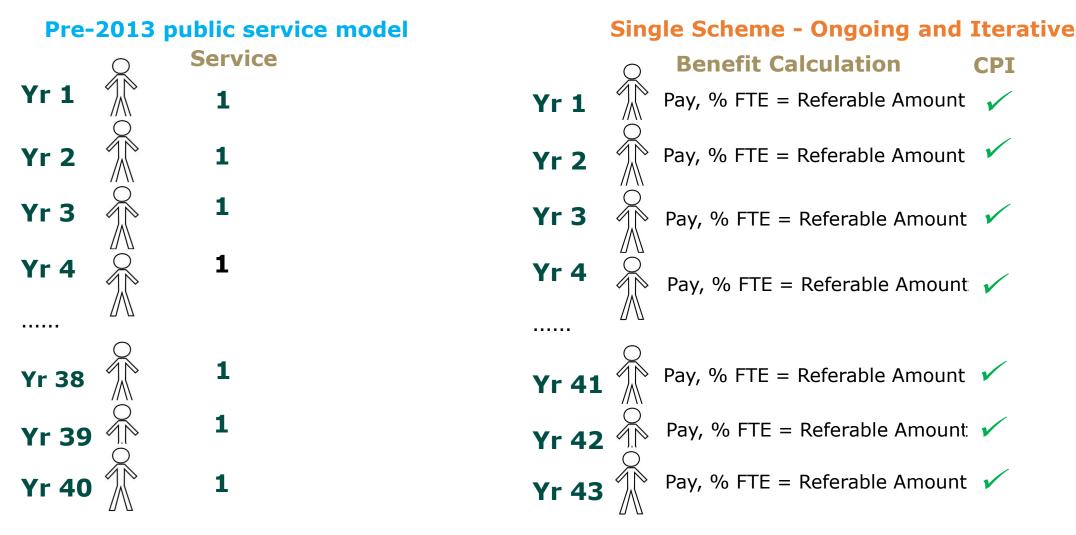


Single Scheme Overview

Single Scheme – Overview



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Pension and Lump-sum Calculation: Final Salary, Total Years of Reckonable Service **Pension and Lump-sum Calculation:** Referable Amounts accrued <u>every pay-period</u>

Single Scheme – Overview

- Public Service Pensions (Single Scheme and Other Provisions) Act 2012
- Introduced on 1 Jan 2013 across the Public Service for all New Entrants
- 350+ *Relevant Authorities* each responsible for its operation
- Relevant Authorities legally responsible for the administration of the Single Scheme



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Almost all RAs now have members

Majority of members in Health and Education

242k members to end 2023

Single Scheme – Overview

- A Defined Benefit Scheme
- Benefits based on Career Average Earnings & Work
 Pattern
- Normal Retirement Age same as eligibility age for State Pension (Contributory)
- Upper retirement age of 70
- Benefits may increase annually in line with CPI



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> Death in Service Benefits

Ill-Health Retirement facility

CNER from age 55



Website Resources

Recruitment Toolkit



Employers

Toolkits



Single Public Service Pension Scheme > Employers > Toolkits > Standard Forms and Checklists > Recruitment

Recruitment Toolkit

Recruitment

Context: It is important that a new employee is assigned to the correct Pension Scheme at the time of recruitment.

Resource Toolkit: The resources provided in the table below may be used to aid in the onboarding of a new hire and making an accurate determination as to their correct Pension Scheme. Please note that the Process Map should be read with the Process Guidelines.

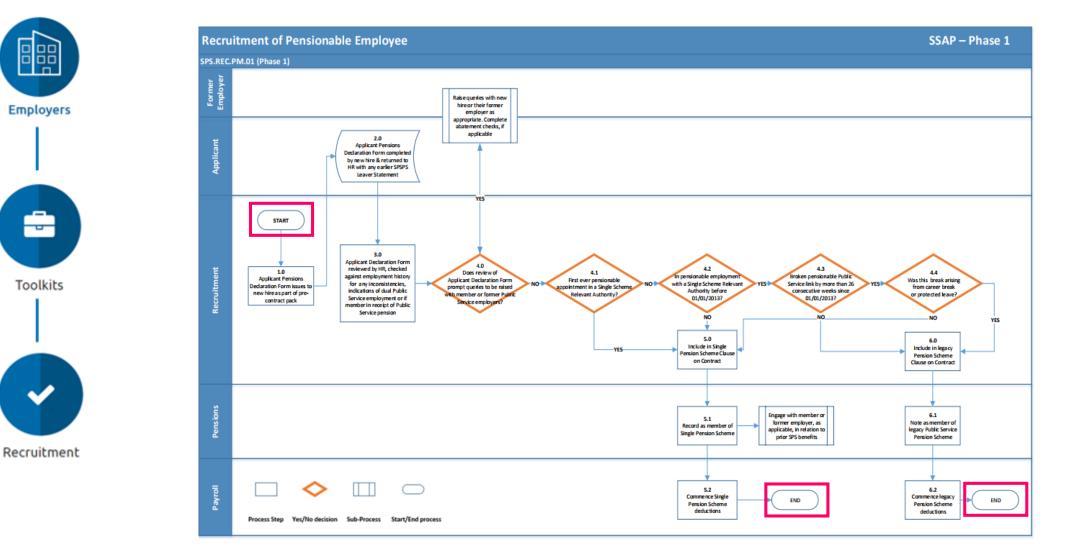
Note: The items below are suggested resources and their use is not mandatory. Organisations are free to continue to use their own, existing resources or to amend the resources below as they see fit.

If your organisation is partnered with a Shared Services Centre for HR, Pensions or Payroll purposes, you may need to clarify with them what elements of work, (if any), that they have been resourced to undertake on your behalf.

Training Resources: Administrators can access a soft-copy of the "Recruitment and Onboarding" training booklet provided at workshops delivered as part of the Single Scheme Project Team programme of training for Relevant Authorities. Please click here to access this page.

Name	Descriptor	Туре
1.Process Map	Process Map	Ø
2.Process Guidelines	Process Guidelines	Ø
3. Circulars and Legislation	Circulars and Legislation	ø
4. Applicant Declaration Form	Template Form	W

Process Map



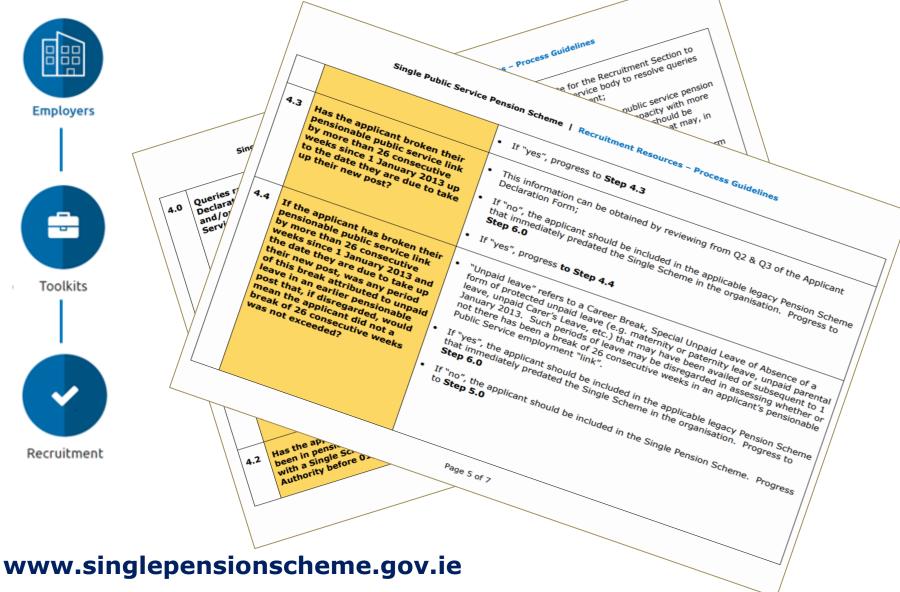
www.singlepensionscheme.gov.ie



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Process Guidelines



Applicant Declaration Form



Recruitment

<u>Applicant Declaration Form</u> To Be Completed By All Persons Taking Up Pensionable Employment with RA Legal Name</u>

Purpose of this Form

Section 51 of the Public Service Pensions (Single Scheme and Other Provisions) Act 2012 requires that: Any person who

- (a) takes up employment in a public service body, and
 (b) either—
 - (i) has an entitlement to any preserved pension or any preserved lump sum or any other retirement benefit, OR
 - (ii) has received or is in receipt of retirement benefits, under a pre-existing public service pension scheme of which he or she was or is a member, shall provide a declaration to that effect to the relevant authority

Accordingly, **RA Legal Name** requires this Declaration to be made as a condition of being offered employment.

Section A. Verification of Current Irish Public Service Employee Status

- 1. I declare that: (please mark one answer only)
- a. I have NOT previously been employed in a pensionable capacity in the Irish Public Service [Go to Q6].
- b. I HAVE been employed in a pensionable capacity within the Irish Public Service Body [Go to Q2].

Section B. Declaration for current or former employees of the Irish Public Service

 I declare details of all periods of prior pensionable service with Irish Public Service Bodies in the table below:

Irish Public Service Employer	Precise Dates of Employment		Have you received or
	From	То	applied for a pension refund?
(A)	1 1	/ /	O NO OR O YES
(B)	/ /	/ /	O NO OR O YES
(C)	1 1	/ /	O NO OR O YES
(D)	/ /	/ /	O NO OR O YES
(E)	/ /	/ /	O NO OR O YES

(Please check with your former employers if you are unsure of precise dates. Use an additional page if needed) Act makes legal provision:

- For a Statutory Declaration to be made by new hires
- Use of PPS Numbers to exchange information between Public Service bodies to verify compliance with legislation

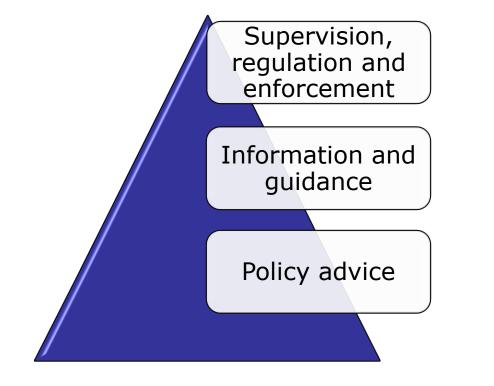




The Pensions Authority

The Pensions Authority





Regulatory Powers

Investigations, Audits, Inspections, Meetings, Data Analysis

Whistle-blow Reports

Prosecutions – all breaches of the Pensions Act are a criminal offence

On-the-spot fines

- €2,000 per trustee/administrator;
- Late registration of schemes
- Failure to provide information to members
- Failure or delay in notifying amendments to the Authority
- Failure to provide required/requested information to the Authority

The Pensions Authority



Disclosure of Information Regulations and Member Information including....

- Details on constitution of the scheme
- Basic Information i.e explanatory booklet
- Annual benefit statement
- Leaving service options letter
- Information on retirement
- Information on death
- Notification of grant of PAO
- Annual Report



Key Principles

RA Responsibilities - Onboarding



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"It is the responsibility of HR at recruitment to identify who is a Single Scheme member"

"...necessary to have a robust process for identifying new Single Scheme members at recruitment stage."



Baseline Study, 2014

Onboarding – Key Information



- Is this a new-entrant's first pensionable position in the Irish Public Service?
- Has the new-entrant previously been employed with a public service employer prior to 1 January 2013?
- If previously in public service employment in the Irish Public Service prior to 1 January 2013 has there been a break of more than 26 weeks?
- Has any break been as a result of employer approved or protected leave?
- If the new-entrant has received a refund of Single Scheme contributions, are the aware of the option to restore these benefits?







- All new entrants appointed to pensionable posts in the Irish Public Service on or after 1 January 2013 are, in general, members of the Single Scheme
- ..unless, they were in public service employment prior to 1 January 2013 and are entitled to avail of a derogation allowing them to join / re-join an earlier Public Service Pension Scheme in existence before 1 January 2013.



Derogations/Exceptions



- The employee had to have been in public service employment prior to 1 January 2013 and;
 - Be returning to the public service after a break of less than 26 consecutive weeks from a previous public service role; or
 - Be returning to pensionable employment under the same contract of employment
- Periods where a member was on a form of protected leave or other approved leave do not count as a break in service

Reasons for a derogation must be clearly documented

Derogations/Exceptions



- Previously had been the case that in order for a derogation to apply, an individual had to have been in pensionable public service employment
- Following a Judicial Review, Court ruled that such prior employment <u>need not</u> <u>have been pensionable</u> for the derogation to apply, <u>as long as individual</u> <u>had been in a pre-existing public service pension scheme immediately</u> <u>prior to the non-pensionable post (i.e. no break of greater than 26</u> <u>weeks)</u>
- Currently the position that derogation applies *i.e. the 26-week rule*, as long as the person had previously been in pubic-service employment <u>regardless of</u> <u>whether previous post was pensionable or not</u>.
- Employment as a non-pensionable public servant should also be recognised when determining if the 26 week exemptions applies, as long as employment within 26 weeks before that was in a pensionable post, in a preexisting public service pension scheme.



Pension Abatement

- A Pensioner in receipt of a Public Service pension who is re-hired in any paid capacity by a Public Service Body, their existing pension may be liable to be abated for the period they are in receipt of postretirement salary
- Why? A pensioner should not earn more in retirement (between their public service pension + public service salary) than if they had not retired from their original post.
- Recruitment need to transparently flag this to all candidates in advance of competition
- Pension abated, **never** remuneration





Single Scheme Vesting Period

Single Scheme Vesting Period



- Minimum period of scheme membership to be eligible for full scheme benefits
- Single Scheme vesting period is **24 months** (non-consecutive)
- Days on which there is a pensionable employment relationship between the person and a Relevant Authority whether full-time or part-time (*Circular 12 of 2019* refers)
- A new recruit may already be vested or have completed some of the vesting period as a member of the Single Scheme prior to taking up a post with a new Relevant Authority

Single Scheme Vesting Period



In order to determine member vesting status at recruitment, HR should:

• Review completed *Applicant Declaration Form* or other documentation provided by member

and

 Confirm if any prior Single Scheme employments where contributions not refunded, following application for same by the member

"RA" Look-up

show 15 v entries	Search:
Relevant Authorities	 Designated Relevant Authority Number
Adelaide and Meath Hospital, Inc National Children🛛s Hospital (Tallaght Hospital) (AMNCH)	16
Adoption Authority of Ireland	17
An Bord Bia	18
An Bord Pleanala	19
An Ceoláras Náisiúnta (The National Concert Hall Company) (NCH)	20
An Chomhairle Ealaíon (The Arts Council)	21
An Chomhairle um Oideachas Gaeltachta & Gaelscolaíochta	22
An Garda Síochána	24
An Scoil Chuimsitheach, An Bóthar Buí	25
Appeals Commissioners	26
Ardee Community School	27
Ashbourne Community School	28
Ashton Comprehensive School	29
Athboy Community School	30
Athlone Institute of Technology	31



- 350+ public service bodies to which the Single Scheme applies
- Bodies are designated as Relevant Authorities by the Minister for PENDR
- An evolving list as bodies are created, merged, renamed or disbanded over time



www.singlepensionscheme.gov.ie

List of Relevant Authorities



Website Resources – RA Look-up

Single Public Service Pension Scheme > Employers > List of Relevant Authorities

List of Relevant Authorities

Show 15 v entries	Search: Irish film board
Relevant Authorities	Designated Relevant Authority Number
Screen Ireland (formally Irish Film Board)	186
Showing 1 to 1 of 1 entries (filtered from 375 total entries)	SPrevious Next >



www.singlepensionscheme.gov.ie

List of Relevant Authorities







In general, into which pension scheme is a recruit to their *first* pensionable public service post to be assigned if their start date is after *1 January 2013*?





Into which pension scheme is someone assigned where recruited to a pensionable public service post, starting *4 October 2021* with a Relevant Authority, following on from a previous period of pensionable public service employment from *12 May 2008* to *31 August 2021*?

Pre-2013 pension scheme



Applicant Declaration Form





<u>Applicant Declaration Form</u> To Be Completed By All Persons Taking Up Pensionable Employment with RA Legal Name</u>

Purpose of this Form

Section 51 of the Public Service Pensions (Single Scheme and Other Provisions) Act 2012 requires that: Any person who

- (a) takes up employment in a public service body, and
- (b) either—
 - (i) has an entitlement to any preserved pension or any preserved lump sum or any other retirement benefit, OR
 - (ii) has received or is in receipt of retirement benefits, under a pre-existing public service pension scheme of which he or she was or is a member, shall provide a declaration to that effect to the relevant authority

Accordingly, **RA Legal Name** requires this Declaration to be made as a condition of being offered employment.

Section A. Verification of Current Irish Public Service Employee Status

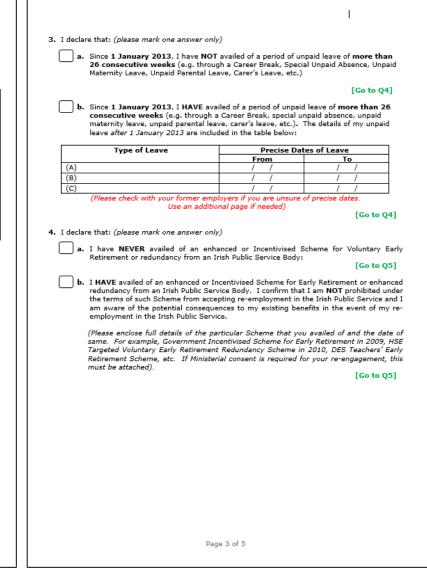
- 1. I declare that: (please mark one answer only)
 - a. I have NOT previously been employed in a pensionable capacity in the Irish Public Service [Go to Q6].
 - b. I HAVE been employed in a pensionable capacity within the Irish Public Service Body [Go to Q2].

Section B. Declaration for current or former employees of the Irish Public Service

 I declare details of all periods of prior pensionable service with Irish Public Service Bodies in the table below:

Irish Public Service Employer	Precise Dates of Employment		Have you received or applied for
	From	То	a pension refund?
(A)	/ /	/ /	O NO OR O YES
(B)	/ /	/ /	O NO OR O YES
(C)	/ /	/ /	O NO OR O YES
(D)	/ /	/ /	O NO OR O YES
(E)	/ /	/ /	O NO OR O YES

(Please check with your former employers if you are unsure of precise dates. Use an additional page if needed)





Applicant Declaration Form

To Be Completed By All Persons Taking Up Pensionable Employment with RA Legal Name

Purpose of this Form

Section 51 of the Public Service Pensions (Single Scheme and Other Provisions) Act 2012 requires that: *Any person who*

(a) takes up employment in a public service body, and

(b) either—

- (i) has an entitlement to any preserved pension or any preserved lump sum or any other retirement benefit, OR
- (ii) has received or is in receipt of retirement benefits, under a pre-existing public service pension scheme of which he or she was or is a member, shall provide a declaration to that effect to the relevant authority

Accordingly, RA Legal Name requires this Declaration to be made as a condition of being offered employment.



[Go to Q5]

Section A. Verification of Current Irish Public Service Employee Status

1. I declare that: (please mark one answer only)/



- I have NOT previously been employed in the Irish Public Service
- b. I HAVE previously been employed in the Irish Public Service Body [Go to Q2]



Section B. Declaration for current or former employees of the Irish Public Service

 I declare details of all periods of prior employments with Irish Public Service Bodies in the table below:

Irish Public Service Employer	Precise Dates of Employment		
	From (dd/mmy/yyyy)	To ¹ (dd/mm/yyyy)	
(A)			
(B)			
(C)			
(D)			
(E)			

(Please check with your former employers if you are unsure of precise dates. Use an additional page if needed)

¹You are <u>not</u> deemed to have left public service employment if you are currently availing of employer approved unpaid leave (e.g. through a Career Break, Special Unpaid Absence, Unpaid Maternity Leave, Unpaid Parental Leave, Carer's Leave, etc.).

[Go to Q3]



- 3. I declare that: (please mark one answer only)
 - a. I have **NEVER** availed of an enhanced or Incentivised Scheme for Voluntary Early Retirement or redundancy from an Irish Public Service Body;

[Go to Q5]

b. I HAVE availed of an enhanced or Incentivised Scheme for Early Retirement or enhanced redundancy from an Irish Public Service Body. I confirm that I am NOT prohibited under the terms of such Scheme from accepting re-employment in the Irish Public Service and I am aware of the potential consequences to my existing benefits in the event of my reemployment in the Irish Public Service.

(Please enclose full details of the particular Scheme that you availed of and the date of same. For example, Government Incentivised Scheme for Early Retirement in 2009, HSE Targeted Voluntary Early Retirement Redundancy Scheme in 2010, DES Teachers' Early Retirement Scheme, etc. If Ministerial consent is required for your re-engagement, this must be attached).

[Go to Q5]



Section C. Verification of Current Irish Public Service Pension Scheme Benefits in Payment				
I declare that: (please mark one answer only)				
a. I am NOT in receipt of any retirement benefits from any Irish Public Service Pension Scheme. I undertake to promptly notify RA Legal Name's HR Department in writing should this position change;				
j-,	[Go to Q6]			
set out details of these retiren	benefits from an Irish Public Service Pension Scheme and I nent benefits in the table below: <i>(please use a separate</i> enefits from more than one Irish Public Service Pension			
Name of Irish Public Service Pension Scheme that pays/paid benefits				
Current annual gross pension & Date of First Payment				
Lump Sum & Date of Payment				
Contact details of Payroll Office for these benefits				
1	[Go to Q6]			



Section D. Verification of Other Pensionable Pay from employment with any other Irish Public Service Body

- **5.** I declare that: (please mark one answer only)
 - **a.** I am **NOT**, during the course of my employment with **RA Legal Name**, expecting to receive pensionable pay from another Irish Public Service Body. I undertake to promptly notify **RA Legal Name**'s HR Department in writing should this position change;

[Go to Section 7]



b. I WILL BE, during the course of my employment with RA Legal Name, in receipt of pensionable pay from another Irish Public Service Body. I set out details of this other pensionable pay in the table below: (please use a separate page if you are in receipt of remuneration from more than one Irish Public Service Body).

Name of Public Service Body	
Reason for payment	
Gross Annual Amount of Payment	
% of Full time position	
Contact details of Payroll Office for other Public Service employment	

[Go to Section 7]



6. Important Notes:

- RA Legal Name reserves the right to seek clarifications or further information on any aspect of information submitted prior to finalising your appointment or the terms & conditions related to your appointment to ensure compliance with relevant legislation.
- You are not deemed to have left public service employment if you are currently availing of employer approved unpaid leave (e.g. through a Career Break, Special Unpaid Absence, Unpaid Maternity Leave, Unpaid Parental Leave, Carer's Leave, etc.).
- If you were previously employed by an Irish Public Service Body, or are in receipt of a pension from an Irish Public Service Body, you should note that RA Legal Name may verify the accuracy of information provided with other Irish Public Service Bodies in accordance with Section 50 of the Public Service Pensions (Single Scheme and Other Provisions) Act 2012.
- Failure to complete this form accurately and fully may result in RA Legal Name not being able to progress your appointment or lead to delays in setting you up on the payroll system.
- Former Irish Public Service employees that are in receipt of, or have an entitlement to a
 deferred or preserved benefit from an Irish Public Service Pension Scheme, should familiarise
 themselves with any personal implication this appointment may have on these existing
 entitlements or future entitlements from RA Legal Name. For example, reduction in existing
 pensions in payment (abatement).
- Please ensure that you complete this form fully and with care as salary deductions and pension scheme benefits may otherwise be incorrectly calculated. Any clause contained in your Contract of Employment will be deemed to be invalidated in the event that materially incorrect information is provided to RA Legal Name

[Go to Section 8]



7. Supporting Pension Documentation

If you have completed **Section 2** and were provided with pension documentation from your former public service employer, you are requested to enclose a *copy* of this pension documentation when returning this form. This will assist us to resolve any queries associated with your prior employment(s) and any public service pension scheme membership queries arising.

8. Declaration

I make this declaration in accordance with the requirements of **Section 51** of the *Public Service Pensions (Single Scheme and Other Provisions) Act 2012*.

Name (Block Capital	s):
Date:	// PPS Number:
	eclaration should be returned to the address below to enable recruitmen
Your fully completed D formalities to be progre	







A recruit who took up a pensionable public service post on 15 of September 2021 having previously worked in one other pensionable public service post from 1 June 2009 to resignation on 10 March 2021 should be assigned to which pension scheme?

Single Scheme



Which pension scheme should a recruit be assigned to if recruited to a pensionable post with *Relevant Authority A* immediately following the cessation of a 5-year employer approved career break with *Relevant Authority B*? (recruit was a member of a pre-2013 pension scheme with Relevant Authority B)

Pre-2013 pension scheme



Some examples...



- Recruit offered a pensionable post with a Relevant Authority
- Per submitted Applicant Declaration Form has never worked in the public service
- Will commence employment from 1 October 2021

Single Scheme



- Anne has been working for the Department of Defence since 1 Jan 2007
- She went on unpaid leave on the 20 March 2021 for five months and then resigned from her post effective 16 August 2021
- She is starting a pensionable position with Relevant Authority on 1 Nov 2021

Pre-2013 Pension Scheme



- Recruit offered a pensionable post with a Relevant Authority
- Per submitted Applicant Declaration Form had worked in a pensionable public service post from 25 June 2011 to date of resignation – 30 April 2021
- Will commence employment from 1 November 2021

Single Scheme



- Catherine is starting in a new pensionable position with a Relevant Authority on 1 Nov 2021
- She has just finished availing of 12 months paid/unpaid maternity leave and parental leave with the Irish Film Board and is resigning from her post effective 21 September 2021
- She has been with the Irish Film Board in a pensionable position since 2011

Pre-2013 pension scheme



- Frank has been offered a position with a Relevant Authority earning €40K pa for some part-time work starting on the 22nd of September 2021
- He is currently receiving a pension of €30K p.a. from St. James's Hospital having worked in a pensionable capacity there for 40 years following his retirement on the 15th of June 2021.

Pre-2013 Pension Scheme



Recap

Onboarding – Key Information



- Is this a new-entrant's first pensionable position in the Irish Public Service?
- Has the new-entrant previously been in employment with a public service employer prior to 1 January 2013?
- If previously in public service employment in the Irish Public Service prior to 1 January 2013 has there been a break of more than 26 weeks?
- Has any break been as a result of employer approved or protected leave?
- If the new-entrant has received a refund of Single Scheme contributions, are they aware of the option to restore these benefits?









Single Public Service Pension Scheme > Employers > General Information > Administrator FAQs

Current Administrator FAQs for Single Pension Scheme. Administrator FAQs should

Administrator FAQs

Purpose

Purposebe read with Scheme Booklet.Document NameAdministrator FAQsDate of Issue19 June 2019



(PDF, 587 KB)

Administrator FAQs





Training Resources

Context: The Single Scheme Project Team commenced a modular programme of training in 2017. This training focuses on different aspects of Single Scheme administration and is directed at subject matter experts in Relevant Authorities. Training delivery is ongoing and will comprise refresher training as well as the delivery of new modules covering other aspects of Single Scheme administration.

Training Resources: The resources provided in the table below are soft-copy versions of the training booklets provided to attendees at the training sessions already delivered. When a new training module has been delivered the table below will be updated with a soft-copy version of the resources provided at the training session(s).

Toolkit Resources: Administrators can also access a suite of Toolkit resources available to assist and support different aspects of Single Scheme administration. The Toolkits currently available provide support and guidance on administration around Recruitment, Leavers, Retirement, Death and Annual Administration Activities. These Toolkit resources can be accessed here.

Training Module	Туре	File size
1.Recruitment and Onboarding	(L	(4 MB)
2.Leaving Employment and Annual Administration Activities 2019	<mark>(</mark>	(4.92 MB)
2a.Leaving Employment and Annual Administration Activities - Common Queries	<u>A</u>	(150 KB)
3.Retirements and Death Benefits Administration	<u>s</u>	(5 MB)
4.Purchase and Transfer Administration	۶.	(4.93 MB)





Employers

Recruitment – Pension Scheme Membership Assignment

Context: This training video focuses primarily on the Applicant Declaration Form template available in our Recruitment Toolkit. It also references the other Employer resources available on our website as well as the *Public Service Pensions (Single Scheme and Other Provisions) Act 2012 referred* to as the *"2012 Act"* throughout the video.

Purpose: The purpose of this video is to provide Administrators with an overview of the information needed at the recruitment and onboarding stage in order to make the right decision on which pension scheme to assign a new recruit to a pensionable post into. The video is complemented by a table linking to other important resources on this website that Administrators may wish to refer to for further guidance.



Toolkits



Single Public Service Pension Scheme Training and Support for Relevant Authorities

Recruitment Pension Scheme Assignment

Pension Scheme Membership Assignment

Training Resources

Suite of Training Videos covering:

- Recruitment and Onboarding/Pension Scheme Assignment
- Annual Administration Activities
- Leaving Employment
- Contributions and Referable Amount Calculations
- Purchase of Single Scheme Retirement Benefits
- Single Scheme Transfer Facility

Further Resources

- 1. Applicant Declaration Form
- 2. Recruitment Toolkit
- 3. Administrator FAQ
- 4. Circulars and Legislation









Single Public Service Pension Scheme

Relevant Authority Training Webinar Module A: Recruitment and Onboarding

Tuesday, 11th June 2024

