



Circular Number: Circular 06/2020

Circular Title: Purchase and Transfer of Retirement Benefits under the Single Public Service Pension Scheme for members of the Permanent Defence Force (PDF)

To: Department of Defence as Relevant Authority under the Single Public Service Pension Scheme for members of the PDF

I am directed by the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform to advise of the arrangements to apply in relation to the purchase and transfer of retirement benefits by members of the PDF who are members of the Single Scheme.

Circular Application: Single Scheme Members covered by Section 26(1)(b) of the Public Service Pensions (Single Scheme and Other Provisions) Act 2012.

Date: 13 March 2020

Purpose: To inform relevant Scheme members of the facility to enable Single Scheme members in the PDF to purchase retirement benefits in the Single Scheme and to enable such members to transfer retirement benefits accrued in certain other Revenue approved Schemes and PRSAs into the Single Scheme.

Relevant Legislation: Public Service Pensions (Single Scheme and Other Provisions) Act 2012.

Single Public Service Pension Scheme (Purchase and Transfer of Retirement Benefits) Regulations 2019 (S.I. No 252/2019)

Single Public Service Pension Scheme (Purchase and Transfer of Retirement Benefits – Permanent Defence Force) Regulations 2020 (S.I. No 73/2020).

Status: This Circular is effective from 1 April 2020.

Circular 06/2020: Purchase and Transfer of Retirement Benefits under the Single Public Service Pension Scheme for members of the Permanent Defence Force (PDF)

1. Introduction

The Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform has made Regulations under Section 8(2)(f) of the Public Service Pensions (Single Scheme and Other Provisions) Act 2012 (the 2012 Act), entitled Single Public Service Pension Scheme (Purchase and Transfer of Retirement Benefits – Permanent Defence Force) Regulations 2020 (S.I. No 73/2020). These Regulations enable eligible members of the Single Public Service Pension Scheme (“Single Scheme”) who are members of the PDF to:

- (i) purchase additional referable amounts for the purpose of augmenting their pensions and/or lump sums (collectively their “retirement benefits”) payable under the Single Scheme (also described in this Circular as “actual purchase”), and
- (ii) make inward transfer to the Single Scheme of transfer values from certain other Revenue approved retirement schemes and PRSAs by way of the purchase of referable amounts (also described in this Circular as “purchase by way of transfer”).

The Minister previously made Regulations entitled Single Public Service Pension Scheme (Purchase and Transfer of Retirement Benefits) Regulations 2019 (S.I. No 252/2019), referred to in this Circular as the Principal Regulations. Due to the unique, atypical sectoral compulsory retirement age model applicable in the Defence Forces, the Principal Regulations do not apply to members of the PDF (those Single Scheme members covered by Section 26(1)(b) of the 2012 Act). Separate purchase and transfer of retirement benefits Regulations have now been made for such members. This Circular deals with those Regulations, which closely mirror the Principal Regulations and essentially give PDF members the same facility to purchase and transfer retirement benefits as their Single Scheme counterparts elsewhere in the public service.

2. Background

The main purpose of the Purchase Facility is to allow persons who may not have a long career in the public service to boost their retirement benefits under the Single Scheme. It may, therefore, be of interest to persons who joined the public service in mid-career, or who have taken career breaks or other periods of extended unpaid leave.

The main purpose of the Transfer Facility is to allow Single Scheme members with transfer values arising from pension entitlements in certain other Revenue approved retirement schemes and PRSAs to transfer those entitlements into the Single Scheme.

The Purchase and Transfer Facility will operate on the basis of the purchase of additional referable amounts for pension and/or lump-sum. It will operate on a cost-neutral basis, with the pricing of purchased benefits being based on the actuarially calculated cost of paying out those benefits at retirement. Purchased benefits will rank on a par with benefits ordinarily

earned and are inclusive of dependants' benefits in line with existing benefit provisions under the Single Scheme.

Before considering entering into a contract to purchase referable amounts under this Circular, Scheme members should ensure that all of their prior service in the Single Scheme, including service with other Relevant Authorities, is reflected in their pension record. Members who had previously been members of the Single Scheme and received a refund of contributions prior to vesting and subsequently re-joined the Single Scheme within two years of departure may also wish to consider restoring those refunded amounts, with compound interest, in accordance with Section 17 of the 2012 Act before entering into a purchase contract under this Circular.

Pensions Administrators in the public service are not qualified to provide financial advice. Single Scheme members are advised to seek independent financial advice before entering into a contract for the purchase or transfer of benefits. Ultimately any decision to enter into a contract for the purchase of additional benefits is a decision for the member.

3. Eligibility

(i) General Eligibility

Subject to the limits on purchase outlined in this Circular, the Purchase and Transfer Facility applies to a member of the PDF who is a member of the Single Scheme (Section 26(1)(b) of the 2012 Act).

(ii) Eligibility for Purchase

In addition to the eligibility requirements at (i) above, the conditions set out below must also be complied with by Scheme members who are eligible to purchase referable amounts in accordance with Para 4 of this Circular ("actual purchase"):

- Scheme members must have completed the vesting period;
- Scheme members must have the potential to complete a period of 9 FTE years as a member of the Single Scheme by the time they reach their normal retirement age (including Single Scheme membership before purchase, whether as a member of the PDF or otherwise). Normal retirement age for a member of the PDF for the purpose of purchase of retirement benefits is age 50, as provided in Sections 26(1)(b) and 26(4) of the 2012 Act. See Para 9(i) below for further details of normal retirement age for Single Scheme members;
- While the facility to purchase is available to both contract and permanent employees, for a Scheme member on contract, the term of the contract must be such that along with membership of the Single Scheme in the past, the Scheme member would have the potential to complete a period of 9 FTE years as a member of the Single Scheme by the time they reach their normal retirement age.

(iii) Eligibility for Transfer

In addition to the eligibility requirements at (i) above, the condition set out below must also be complied with by Scheme members who are eligible to transfer existing retirement benefits in accordance with Para 5 of this Circular (“purchase by way of transfer”):

- Scheme members must have the capacity to become vested members of the Single Scheme before they reach their normal retirement age.

4. Purchase Facility

Eligible Scheme members can enter into purchase contract(s) with the Relevant Authority for the purchase of referable amounts. The following are the features of the purchase facility:

- Eligible members can choose to purchase additional pension only, additional lump sum only or a combination of additional pension and additional lump sum;
- Purchase contracts will operate on a twelve month basis;
- A Scheme member can enter into one contract in any period of 12 months, the setting of the 12 month period to be determined by the Relevant Authority;
- Subject to the limits provided for in this Circular, a Scheme member can enter into any number of 12 month purchase contracts over his/her period of membership of the Single Scheme, although no two contracts can overlap;
- The limits on purchase, as set out in Para 8.2 are determined on the basis of the lower amount resulting from the calculation of two formulae;
- The limits referred to above must be re-calculated in respect of each individual contract;
- Referable amounts may be purchased by way of one lump sum payment only;
- The Relevant Authority can set its own notice period for the receipt of applications for purchase.

5. Transfer Facility

The transfer facility will operate in a similar fashion to the purchase facility, in that the transfer will be effected by way of the purchase of referable amounts and, subject to this paragraph, has similar features to those described above. Under the transfer facility, a Scheme member who has accrued retirement benefits:

- under a retirement benefit scheme approved by the Revenue Commissioners in accordance with Chapter 1 of Part 30 of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997, other than a pre-existing public service pension scheme;
- under a Buy-out-Bond (BoB)/Personal Retirement Bond (PRB) approved by Revenue for the purposes of Chapter 1 Part 30 of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997;
- in a Personal Retirement Savings Account (PRSA), including an Additional Voluntary Contribution (AVC) PRSA, approved by the Revenue Commissioners in accordance with Chapter 2A of Part 30 of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997;

- under an approved overseas pension scheme in accordance with Chapter 1 of Part 30 of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997, subject to the explicit prior approval of Revenue, where necessary;
- as provided for by Section 18(a) of the 2012 Act, in respect of service in the European Commission, European Council, European Parliament, European Court of Auditors, European Economic and Social Committee or Eurocontrol;

will be permitted to transfer those benefits into the Single Scheme, subject to the limits provided for in Para 8.3 of this Circular. Transfer values are used in all cases and this transfer value can then be used to purchase referable amounts in the Single Scheme, in accordance with the cost tables appended to this Circular.

The transfer of retirement benefits accrued under pre-existing public service pension schemes is not permitted under this transfer facility. Preserved benefits in pre-existing public service pension schemes will be available to former members of such schemes at preserved pension age in the normal course.

The following are the features of the transfer facility:

- Eligible members can choose to purchase additional pension only, additional lump sum only or a combination of additional pension and additional lump sum;
- The transfer will be effected directly between Pension Trustees i.e. between the Scheme member's Relevant Authority and the Trustees of the Scheme, PRSA provider or BoB/PRB provider where the retirement benefits are originating;
- All transfer values relating to a previous employment, PRSA or BoB/PRB must always be included in the purchase of referable amounts by way of transfer. No split transfers are permitted. For this reason, Scheme members should be aware that in cases where the transfer value exceeds the cost of purchasing the maximum amount of pension/lump sum referable amounts permitted for the individual member under this Circular, this would result in the balance of the transfer value being lost to the member;
- Subject to the limits provided for in this Circular, Scheme members who are transferring retirement benefits may enter into one or more contracts in any 12 month period, where separate previous employments, PRSAs or BoBs/PRBs are involved. The limits provided for in this Circular must be re-calculated in respect of each individual contract.
- Subject to the limits provided for in this Circular, Scheme members who enter into a contract(s) to effect a transfer(s) are permitted to enter into a purchase contract, as provided for in Para 4 above, within the same 12 month period but the limits provided for in this Circular must be re-calculated in respect of each individual contract.

- Taking account of the limits set out in this Circular and the rule that no split transfers are permitted, members should pay particular attention, with the help of independent financial advice if necessary, to the sequence of purchase contracts, where both actual purchase and purchase by way of transfer are anticipated by a member;
- Only one formula applies in calculating the limit in the case of purchase by way of transfer. This formula is set out in Para 8.3.
- In calculating the limit on purchase by way of transfer provided for in Para 8.3 in a case where that Scheme member has not been a Scheme member for a full calendar year, such that the figures required in order to calculate the limits referred to above are not available, the limits should be calculated on the basis of the pensionable remuneration for the most recent pay period, annualised as appropriate, rather than the “most recent year” as provided for in Para 7(b).

6. Tax Free Retirement Benefits/Pension Contributions

(a) Tax Treatment of benefits on retirement

The Revenue Commissioners are responsible for taxation rules in relation to retirement benefits. The Purchase and Transfer facility for the Single Scheme has been devised to ensure, as far as possible, that referable amounts purchased as part of this Scheme will be available to Scheme members on retirement in accordance with the Revenue rules applying on the date of this Circular. It is, however, the Scheme member’s responsibility to ensure that their own purchase arrangements are in compliance with Revenue rules, with the assistance of independent professional advice if necessary. This is particularly important in a situation where a Scheme member has retained superannuation benefits (pension and lump sum benefits from previous employments, PRSAs etc).

(b) Tax relief on superannuation contributions

The maximum amount of pension contributions, including purchase payments, in any one year in respect of which a person is currently entitled to tax relief is related to age and is expressed as a percentage of gross income. In this regard it should be noted that the Additional Superannuation Contribution (ASC) introduced with effect from 1 January 2019 is treated as an expense which means that it will attract tax relief and Employer PRSI relief. It is not, however, deemed to be a pension contribution and, therefore, does not impact on the age-related tax relief thresholds which are set out below:

Highest Age in Year of Pension Contribution	% of gross income for which tax relief available
Under 30	15%
30 to 39	20%
40 to 49	25%
50 to 54	30%
55 to 59	35%
60 and over	40%

There is also a maximum annual level of earnings in respect of which tax relief is given. That earnings limit is currently set at €115,000 and is adjusted by the Minister for Finance from time to time. On that basis, higher earners in particular should ensure that their tax free limits are not exceeded. Other than in the case of the ASC described above, the tax relief limit covers all superannuation contributions, including purchase payments paid by a Scheme member. On that basis, large purchase payments may not be fully relievable for tax purposes. Scheme members using the purchase facility should satisfy themselves as to the level of tax relief that will be available to them, with the assistance of independent professional advice if necessary.

Tax relief for qualifying pension contributions must be claimed directly from the Revenue Commissioners by the Scheme member concerned.

7. Information Required in order to calculate purchase limits

The following information is required in order to calculate the level of purchase that will be possible by the Scheme member.

(a) Purchase Multiplier

- Number of years as a Single Scheme member to normal retirement age. This figure must be calculated on a full time equivalent basis and is not limited to calendar years. The figure should include years as a Scheme member in the past along with potential years to the Scheme member's normal retirement age (age 50 for members of the PDF). Years representing periods where contributions were refunded to a member and subsequently paid back in accordance with the provisions of section 17 of the 2012 Act can be included when calculating this figure. Once the figure for years as a Scheme member has been established, this figure should be rounded down so that only whole years are taken into account.
- The Purchase Multiplier is the figure in column 2 of table below, opposite the years as a Single Scheme member in column 1, calculated as above.

Column 1 Total period, in FTE years, as a Single Scheme Member to Normal Retirement Age	Column 2 Purchase Multiplier
9	1
10	2
11	3
12	4
13	5
14	7
15	9
16	11
17	13
18	15
19	17
20 or more	20

(b) Details calculated at the end of the most recent year

The following details calculated **as at the end of the most recent year** will also be required in order to calculate the level of purchase available to a Scheme member. For the purposes of this Circular, “most recent year” is the most recent January to December year before the commencement of the annual purchase contract.

- A is Scheme member’s annual pensionable remuneration, calculated on a full time basis (FTE);
- B is the annual maximum personal rate of the State Pension (Contributory) payable to a person who has no adult dependant or child dependant (value of €12,956.29 at 31/12/19 which at the date of this Circular is the end of the most recent year);
- C is total of pension referable amounts (both accrued and previously purchased) by the Scheme member. “Previously purchased” includes all referable amounts purchased either by actual purchase or purchase by way of transfer, whether under the Regulations covered by this Circular or under the Principal Regulations as a Scheme member in a different Relevant Authority;
- D is pension referable amounts accrued by the Scheme member in that most recent year;
- E is total of lump sum referable amounts (both accrued and previously purchased) by the Scheme member. “Previously purchased” includes all referable amounts purchased, either by actual purchase or purchase by way of transfer, whether under the Regulations covered by this Circular or under the Principal Regulations as a Scheme member in a different Relevant Authority.
- F is lump sum referable amount accrued by the Scheme member in that most recent year;
- G is period of time in calendar years to the normal retirement age of 50 for members of the PDF (whole years only to be taken into account). This is not the same as “years as a Single Scheme member to normal retirement age” as set out in bullet 1 of Para 7(a). G does not include the period of Scheme membership prior to the most recent year and it is not an FTE figure.

8. Calculating Limits for Purchase/Transfer

8.1 The Purchase and Transfer facility for the Single Scheme places limits on the value of referable amounts that are available to a Scheme member to purchase by way of actual purchase and to purchase by way of transfer. Separate formulae apply in the case of pension and lump sum purchase. The main purpose of the limits is to ensure, as far as possible, that Revenue rules in relation to retirement benefits are observed. The first formula in the case of both pension and lump sum purchase is designed to ensure that, on retirement, the expected pension of the Scheme member will not exceed 50% of his/her final FTE salary and that the lump sum will not exceed 150% of his/her final FTE salary. The second formula, which applies only in cases of actual purchase, rather than purchase by way of transfer, is designed to ensure that the 50% pension; 150% lump sum limit above is not breached into the future based on accrued benefits to normal retirement age.

The calculations do not take account of any retained benefits that a Scheme member may have accrued. As set out in Para 6(a), Scheme members are responsible for ensuring that their own purchase arrangements are in compliance with Revenue rules, with the assistance of independent professional advice if necessary.

An eligible Scheme member will be entitled to purchase both pension and lump sum referable amounts up to the value of the limits calculated as set out below.

8.2 Limits for Purchase

(a) Purchasing Pension Referable Amounts

The level of pension referable amounts that can be purchased by a PDF Scheme member in the context of actual purchase under this Circular is calculated on the basis of the lesser amount resulting from the calculation using the following formulae:

- $(A/2) - B - C - (D \times G)$; or
- $D \times \text{purchase multiplier}$

(b) Purchasing Lump Sum Referable Amounts

The level of lump sum referable amounts that can be purchased by a PDF Scheme member in the context of actual purchase is calculated on the basis of the lesser amount resulting from the calculation using the following formulae:

- $(A \times 1.5) - E - (F \times G)$; or
- $F \times \text{purchase multiplier}$

8.3 Limits for Transfer

(a) Purchasing Pension Referable Amounts by way of transfer

The level of pension referable amounts that can be purchased by a PDF Scheme member, in the context of purchase by way of transfer, is calculated using the following formula:

- $(A/2) - B - C - (D \times G)$

(b) Purchasing Lump Sum Referable Amounts by way of transfer

The level of lump sum referable amounts that can be purchased by a PDF Scheme member, in the context of purchase by way of transfer, is calculated using the following formula:

- $(A \times 1.5) - E - (F \times G)$

9. Cost of purchase of additional referable amounts

(i) Normal Retirement Age

Normal retirement age under the Single Scheme is the earliest age at which a member may retire and receive their lump sum and pension (other than on the basis of retirement on medical grounds). Normal retirement age varies depending on the category of Single Scheme member in question. For a member of the PDF, normal retirement age is age 50, as provided in Section 26(1)(b) and 26(4) of the 2012 Act. Section 26 of the 2012 Act also provides for the normal retirement age in the case of the other uniformed fast accrual groups - age 55 for members of An Garda Síochána, Prison Officers and full time Firefighters. Normal retirement age for the vast majority of other Single Scheme members is set out in Section 13 of the 2012 Act and is linked to the member's age of eligibility for the State Pensions i.e. age 66, 67 or 68 depending on the member's date of birth.

The cost of purchasing additional referable amounts by members of the PDF, whether for pension or lump sum, is based on the normal retirement age (50) and the individual Scheme member's age next birthday, i.e. the age that the Scheme member will attain in the 12 month period of the contract. Rates are the same whether the Scheme member is engaging in actual purchase or in purchase by way of transfer.

(ii) Tables of Rates

There are 2 tables appended to this Circular, depending on whether the Scheme member is purchasing pension or lump sum referable amounts. Each table shows a separate rate depending on the age the Scheme member attains in the 12 month period to which the purchase/transfer contract relates. Details are as follows:

Table 1: Purchase of pension referable amounts – rates for PDF Scheme members (normal retirement age of 50);

Table 2: Purchase of lump-sum referable amounts – rates for PDF Scheme members (normal retirement age of 50).

10. Refunds/Reduction

(i) Refunds arising in connection with adherence to 9 year rule

A refund of the value of purchased referable amounts must be made in certain cases where a PDF Scheme member has purchased referable amounts (other than purchase by way of transfer in accordance with Para 5 above). These arise in the case of an individual who:

(a) ceases to be a Scheme member before complying with the requirement to be a member of the Single Scheme for 9 FTE years; or

(b) although complying with the requirement to be a member of the Single Scheme for 9 FTE years, the sum of referable amounts purchased by the member exceeds that which would

be permitted, taking into account the actual length of time the person has spent as a Scheme member on their date of resignation or retirement.

Either of these eventualities could arise if, for example, a Scheme member purchases referable amounts and subsequently reduces his/her work pattern or if he/she ceases to be a Scheme member before reaching normal retirement age.

In the case of (a) above, the full cost of all referable amounts purchased under one or more contracts must be refunded.

In the case of (b) above, when a Scheme member resigns or retires, a calculation of the level of purchase permitted by the member should be carried out in accordance with the second formula in Para 8.2(a) and 8.2(b) on a notional basis using the actual date that the member ceased to be a member of the Single Scheme and the referable amounts accrued by the member in the most recent year available. If the member's total actual purchase, under one or more contracts, exceeds the new notional limit, the excess should be refunded to the member. This calculation must be carried out whether the purchase limits for this contract(s) were established using this formula or not.

In both cases, the value of the refund should reflect the cost of payment at time of purchase. Interest is not payable in either case. In the case of a member who engaged in multiple purchase contracts, a refund of the most recent amounts purchased should be made. The refund should be made through the payroll, by the final employer/Relevant Authority, following consultation with previous employers/Relevant Authorities if appropriate. Where purchase payments which have resulted in the accrual of referable amounts credited to the member's Annual Benefit Statement are subsequently refunded, the pension and lump sum referable amounts from such payments will be reduced accordingly, inclusive of any CPI adjustment that may have been made to those amounts.

Those set out above are the only occasions where refund of purchased referable amounts is permitted.

(ii) Treatment of Purchased amounts in case where referable amounts were purchased under the Principal Regulations

Where a PDF Scheme member has previously entered into a contract to purchase referable amounts to retire at a certain age under the Principal Regulations and subsequently secures employment in the PDF and retires at an age that is earlier than that age, the value of the referable amounts purchased under the Principal Regulations will be reduced in accordance with actuarial tables approved and issued by the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform from time to time. The tables in operation at the time of the issue of this Circular are attached to D/PER Circular 18/2017.

(iii) Treatment of purchased amounts in case of death or retirement or discharge on medical grounds

For the avoidance of doubt, actuarial reduction of purchased referable amounts is not required in the following instances:

(a) Retirement or Discharge on Medical Grounds

- Where a Scheme member who has purchased referable amounts subsequently retires or is discharged on medical grounds, the referable amounts purchased up to the date of retirement or discharge can be used in the calculation of the pension and lump sum;
- Where a Scheme member who has purchased referable amounts subsequently retires or is discharged on medical grounds, the referable amounts purchased up to the date of retirement or discharge can be used in the calculation of the enhancement to pension/lump sum in accordance with Single Scheme Guidance Note 01/2017;

(b) Death in Service

- In the case of a Scheme member who dies in service, referable amounts purchased up to the date of death can be used in the calculation of a survivor's/child's pension following that death.

11. Member Records/Reporting Requirements

Each €1 pension or lump sum referable amount purchased should be included in the Scheme member's Annual Benefit Statement for the calendar year in which the payment is made and will attract CPI adjustments thereafter on the same basis as referable amounts earned.

In all cases, only purchased amounts where the required payment has been completed will be included in the relevant Annual Benefit Statement for the Single Scheme member.

In line with existing requirements, the Relevant Authority is required to maintain accurate records of extra contributions paid/extra benefits purchased in each calendar year under these arrangements in respect of each member, and must also ensure that such amounts are appropriately reflected on the Annual Benefit Statements that issue to members.

All extra contributions on foot of a purchase contract, whether in respect of actual purchase or purchase by way of transfer, must be included in the ongoing remittances made by the Relevant Authority to the Minister and identified as a purchase contribution (within 20 days of the end of the month in which the payment is received by the Relevant Authority).

12. Examples

Attached to this Circular are worked examples of how to process an application for purchase and/or transfer by a Single Scheme member. These are the examples attached to Circular 15/2019 dated 12 June 2019 for the purposes of the Principal Regulations but the methodology is the same and can be adapted for use in the case of purchase/transfer for a member of the PDF.

13. Effective date

The arrangements outlined above come into force on 1 April 2020.

14. Circulation

This Circular is being issued to the Department of Defence. The Circular is also available at <http://www.gov.ie> and www.singlepensionscheme.gov.ie.

This Circular and any future amending Circulars should be brought to the attention of all Single Scheme members in the employment of the PDF, including those currently on leave.

14. Queries

Queries about this Circular may be pursued as follows:

- Individual public servants with queries should raise them with the Department of Defence at pensions.admin@defence.ie quoting “Circular 06/2020 – Purchase/Transfer for members of the PDF” in the subject line.
- If the Department of Defence wishes to raise queries, they should send them to singleschemequeries@per.gov.ie, quoting “Circular 06/2020 – Purchase/Transfer for members of the PDF” in the subject line, noting that member personal details should not be provided.

Colin Menton
Assistant Secretary
Department of Public Expenditure and Reform

Table 1
Pension purchase rates by reference to Normal Retirement Age 50

Age Next Birthday (1)	Cost of purchasing €1 Pension p.a. from age 50 (2)
50	38.24
49	38.29
48	38.35
47	38.41
46	38.46
45	38.52
44	38.58
43	38.64
42	38.69
41	38.75
40	38.81
39	38.87
38	38.93
37	38.98
36	39.04
35	39.10
34	39.16
33	39.22
32	39.28
31	39.33
30	39.39
29	39.45
28	39.51
27	39.57
26	39.63
25	39.69
24	39.75
23	39.81
22	39.87
21	39.93

Table 2
Lump-sum purchase rates by reference to Normal Retirement Age 50

Age Next Birthday (1)	Cost of purchasing €1 Lump-sum from age 50 (2)
50	1.00
49	1.00
48	1.00
47	0.99
46	0.99
45	0.99
44	0.99
43	0.98
42	0.98
41	0.98
40	0.98
39	0.97
38	0.97
37	0.97
36	0.97
35	0.96
34	0.96
33	0.96
32	0.96
31	0.95
30	0.95
29	0.95
28	0.95
27	0.95
26	0.94
25	0.94
24	0.94
23	0.94
22	0.93
21	0.93

PURCHASE AND TRANSFER – EXAMPLES

[These are the examples attached to Circular 15/2019 dated 12 June 2019 for the purposes of the Principal Regulations but the methodology is the same and can be adapted for use in the case of purchase/transfer for a member of the PDF.]

Note: the referable amount figures used in these example calculations are for illustrative purposes only. It is assumed that the person’s salary has not changed over time.

EXAMPLE 1: Purchase - full time member

Lisa has been a member of the Single Scheme for 3 years. She wishes to purchase Single Scheme benefits.

- Date of birth: 2 January 1968
- Date of application: 3 April 2018
- Age on date of application: 50
- Normal Retirement Age [NRA]: 68 (born on or after 1 January 1961)
- Work pattern: 100%
- FTE Salary: €50,000
- Previously purchased referable amounts: None
- Date of entry to Single Scheme: 1 April 2015

1) Eligibility

There are three conditions that a member must fulfil in order to purchase benefits in the Single Scheme. Lisa satisfies all three conditions.

Eligibility Conditions for Purchase	
Is the member vested?	Yes
Does the member have the potential to complete a period of 9 FTE years as a Scheme member?	Yes
Is the member in one of the excluded categories (Section 20 or 26(1)(b) of the 2012 Act)?	No

2) Limits

Figures A - G are based on the “most recent year”. As Lisa is applying in April 2018, the “most recent year” is Jan-Dec 2017.

The “most recent year” is not relevant to the purchase multiplier. The purchase multiplier captures total membership of the Single Scheme, both previous and potential.

Information Needed to Calculate Purchase Limits		
A	Scheme member’s annual pensionable remuneration, calculated on a full time basis (FTE)	€50,000
B	Annual maximum personal rate of the Contributory State Pension payable to a person who has no adult or child dependent	€12,434.49 on 31/12/17
C	Total of pension referable amounts (both accrued and previously purchased) by scheme member	€877.53

D	Pension referable amount accrued by scheme member in most recent year	€314.66
E	Total of lump sum referable amounts (both accrued and previously purchased) by scheme member	€5,156.25
F	Lump sum referable amount accrued by scheme member in most recent year	€1,875
G	Period of time from end of most recent year to the member's NRA (whole years only). This is not an FTE figure.	18 years
Purchase Multiplier	Figure in column 2 of table, opposite total number of whole FTE years as Scheme member to member's NRA, including in the past	20

Calculating limit of pension referable amounts:

i) First formula: $\frac{A}{2} - B - C - (D \times G)$
 $50,000/2 - 12,434.49 - 877.53 - (314.66 \times 18) = \text{€}6,024.10$

ii) Second formula: $D \times \text{purchase multiplier}$
 $314.66 \times 20 = \text{€}6,293.20$

The limit that applies to Lisa's purchase of pension referable amounts is the lower figure: **€6,024.10**

Calculating limit of lump sum referable amounts:

i) First formula: $(A \times 1.5) - E - (F \times G)$
 $(50,000 \times 1.5) - 5,156.25 - (1,875 \times 18) = \text{€}36,093.75$

ii) Second formula: $F \times \text{purchase multiplier}$
 $1,875 \times 20 = \text{€}37,500$

The limit that applies to Lisa's purchase of lump sum referable amounts is the lower figure: **€36,093.75**

On this occasion, Lisa is eligible to purchase up to a maximum of €6,024.10 in pension referable amounts **and** up to a maximum of €36,093.75 in lump sum referable amounts.

3) Cost of referable amounts

Factors that determine cost	
NRA of Scheme member	68
Age next birthday	51

To calculate the cost of purchasing pension and lump sum referable amounts for Lisa, we refer to the appropriate purchase tables in the appendices to this Circular, which in Lisa's case are tables 1 & 2.

i) *Cost of purchasing pension referable amounts:*

From Table 1 we can see that the cost of purchasing €1 pension referable amount for a member with NRA 68, who is 51 at next birthday, is **€22.75**.

The cost of calculating any amount, X of pension referable amounts for Lisa is $X \times 22.75$

For example, if Lisa wants to purchase €1,000 of pension, that will cost: $1,000 \times 22.75 = \text{€}22,750$

The maximum value of pension referable amounts that can be purchased by Lisa is €6,024.10. This would cost $6,024.10 \times 22.75 = \text{€}137,048.27$

ii) *Cost of purchasing lump sum referable amounts:*

From Table 2 we can see that the cost of purchasing €1 lump sum referable amount for a member with NRA 68, who is 51 at next birthday, is **€0.96**.

The cost of calculating any amount, Y, of lump sum referable amounts for Lisa is $Y \times 0.96$

For example, if Lisa wants to purchase €2,000 of lump sum, that will cost: $2,000 \times 0.96 = \mathbf{€1,920}$

The maximum value of lump sum referable amounts that can be purchased by Lisa is €36,093.75.

This would cost $36,093.75 \times 0.96 = \mathbf{€34,650}$

EXAMPLE 2: Transfer - full time member

John has benefits in a PRSA that conforms with the conditions set out in Para 5 of the Circular. These benefits have a transfer value of €15,000. He wants to transfer this value into the Single Scheme.

- Date of birth: 1 January 1956
- Date of application: 5 January 2018
- Age on date of application: 62
- Normal Retirement Age [NRA]: 67 (born between 1 January 1955 and 31 December 1960)
- Work pattern: 100%
- FTE Salary: €30,000
- Previously purchased referable amounts: None
- Date of entry to Single Scheme: 1 December 2016

1) Eligibility

John is not vested, but he is eligible to transfer benefits into the Scheme. There is no requirement for a Scheme member to be vested at the time of transfer, but they must have the potential to become vested before reaching their NRA. There is also no requirement for a Scheme member who wishes to purchase by way of transfer to have the potential to complete 9 FTE years as a Scheme member.

Eligibility Condition for Transfer	
Does the member have the potential to become vested in the Scheme?	Yes
Is the member in one of the excluded categories (Section 20 or 26(1)(b) of the 2012 Act)?	No

2) Limits

Figures A - G are based on the “most recent year”. As John is applying in January 2018, the “most recent year” is Jan-Dec 2017.

Information Needed to Calculate Transfer Limits		
A	Scheme member’s annual pensionable remuneration, calculated on a full time basis (FTE)	€30,000
B	Annual maximum personal rate of the Contributory State Pension payable to a person who has no adult or child dependent	€12,434.49 on 31/12/17
C	Total of pension referable amounts (both accrued and previously purchased) by scheme member	€188.50
D	Pension referable amount accrued by scheme member in most recent year	€174
E	Total of lump sum referable amounts (both accrued and previously purchased) by scheme member	€1,218.75
F	Lump sum referable amount accrued by scheme member in most recent year	€1,125
G	Period of time <u>from end of most recent year</u> to the member’s NRA (whole years only). This is not an FTE figure.	5 years

Calculating limit of pension referable amounts:

In the case of purchase by way of transfer of pension referable amounts, only one formula applies.

$$\boxed{A/2 - B - C - (D \times G)}$$
$$30,000 / 2 - 12,434.49 - 188.50 - (174 \times 5) = \text{€}1,507.01$$

Calculating limit of lump sum referable amounts:

In the case of purchase by way of transfer of lump sum referable amounts, only one formula applies.

$$\boxed{(A \times 1.5) - E - (F \times G)}$$
$$(30,000 \times 1.5) - 1,218.75 - (1,125 \times 5) = \text{€}38,156.25$$

On this occasion, John is eligible to use his transfer payment to purchase up to a maximum of €1,507.01 in pension referable amounts **and** up to a maximum of €38,156.25 in lump sum referable amounts.

3) Cost of referable amounts

Factors that determine cost	
NRA of Scheme member	67
Age next birthday	63

To calculate the cost of purchasing pension and lump sum referable amounts for John, we refer to the appropriate purchase tables in the appendices to this Circular, which in John's case are tables 3 & 4.

i) Cost of purchasing pension referable amounts:

From Table 3 we can see that the cost of purchasing €1 pension referable amount for a member with NRA 67, who is 63 at next birthday, is **€23.17**.

The cost of calculating any amount, X, of pension referable amounts for John is $\boxed{X \times 23.17}$

ii) Cost of purchasing lump sum referable amounts:

From Table 4 we can see that the cost of purchasing €1 lump sum referable amount for a member with NRA 67, who is 63 at next birthday, is **€0.99**.

The cost of calculating any amount, Y, of lump sum referable amounts for John is $\boxed{Y \times 0.99}$

4) Convert the transfer payment into Single Scheme referable amounts

John must transfer the whole benefit - €15,000 - from the PRSA into the Single Scheme in one transaction.

What is the value of John's €15,000 transfer payment in terms of Single Scheme referable amounts?

Pension

Transfer value/ Cost of €1 pension referable amount = $15,000 / 23.17 = \text{€}647.39^*$

* less than the limit of €1,507.01 calculated above for John

Lump Sum

Transfer value/ Cost of €1 lump sum referable amount = $15,000 / 0.99 = €15,151.52^*$

*Less than the limit of €38,156.25 calculated above for John

John can choose to use the transfer payment to purchase only pension referable amounts, only lump sum referable amounts, or a combination of both (e.g. use €5,000 to purchase pension and €10,000 to purchase lump sum).