

S.472/13/11 & S.541

Circular Letter S.13/2001

17th October 2001

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1. Increase in the Age-Limit for Children's Pensions

1.1 I am directed by the Minister for the Environment and Local Government to confirm that the Local Government Superannuation Scheme has been amended to increase the maximum age for the payment of pension, from 21 to 22, to certain children who are undergoing full-time education or training. The change, which applies to the Local Government Contributory and Ex-Gratia Widows and Orphans Pension Schemes and the Contributory Spouses and Childrens Pension Schemes, is effective from 1 January, 1997.

1.2 Accordingly, health boards and bodies are requested to identify those cases where children's pensions were in payment on or after 1 January, 1996 and ceased because the child reached age 21. Where appropriate, the payment of pension should be reinstated to take account of the increased age-limit and/or the payment of arrears should be made.

1.3 Health boards and bodies are also requested to check all awards which were made effective from 1 January, 1996 in order to identify cases which may have been excluded at the time payment of a widow's/spouse's pension commenced. Finally, owing to the fact that children in full-time education or training who were between the ages of 21 and 22 may not have been entered on the application form, health authorities are advised to also contact the spouse or guardian to ascertain if there are any children who would now be eligible following this change.

2. Contributions Liability

2.1 Articles 23(2) and 80(2)(a) of the Local Government (Superannuation) (Consolidation) Scheme, 1998 provide for the payment of contributions in respect of previous temporary wholtime service in the case of pensionable/registered officers covered by the modified rate of social insurance. The relevant provisions provide for the addition of compound interest to the outstanding liability where the contributions are not paid within 3 years of the date of notification of the liability.

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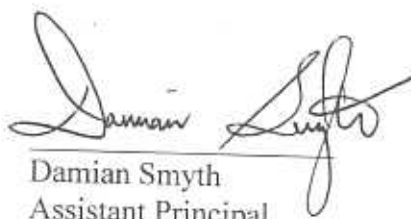
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2.2 In response to a number of queries received from health boards in relation to this issue, it is hereby confirmed that where some, but not all, of the liability is paid within the three year period referred to, compound interest will accrue **on the outstanding balance only**. The interest on such balance will accrue from the date of notification of the original liability to the person concerned until the date on which the liability is fully paid.

3. Queries

Any queries in relation to this Circular Letter should be addressed to the Superannuation Section of the Department, Government Offices, Ballina, Co. Mayo. Telephone enquiries may be made to (096) 24406, 24407, 24408, 24409 and 24410.

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To each health board and health body