

21st December 2020

Deputy Troy
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Email: robert.troy@oireachtas.ie

PQ 43780 / 20 – To ask the Minister for Health if there will be an increase in pensions for retired nursing staff given that this group have not seen an increase in pension rates in over ten years

Dear Deputy Troy,

Many thanks for your query in relation to pension increases for retired nurses.

In 2010 public sector salaries were reduced in accordance with the Financial Emergency Measures in the Public Interest Act 2009 (FEMPI). Former civil and public servants who were in receipt of public service pensions were not affected by these reductions.

In 2017 the Public Service Stability Agreement was introduced which set about unwinding the effects of FEMPI by restoring pay to civil and public servants through a series of salary increases. Any individuals who were in receipt of pensions prior to the introduction of FEMPI were not affected by it and they do not stand to benefit from the restoration.

In addition to pay restoration, the Department of Public Expenditure & Reform (DPER) issued circulars 20/2017, 2/2018 and 19/2019 setting out the treatment of increases to certain public service pensions. Under the provisions of these circulars, a pension increase is applied only in circumstances where the current rate of pay for a serving employee exceeds the pay rate on which the retired staff member's pension is based. In practical terms, this meant that only a small number of pensioners were due an increase with effect from 1 September 2017 (the effective date of the first circular) as their pension was based on a higher rate of pay than the serving employee on that date. As each of the subsequent phases of pay restoration has come into effect, an increasing number of pensioners have become entitled to an increase and this has been applied where relevant.

We are satisfied that most pensioners who were due increases with effect from the following dates have received their increase and any associated arrears:

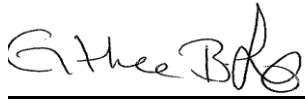
- 01st September 2017
- 01st January 2018
- 01st October 2018

Due to Covid 19 restrictions and the redeployment of pension staff to other department there are two further increases that were due with effect from the following dates :

- 01st September 2019
- 01st October 2020

It is anticipated that these increases and arrears will be paid to all pensioners by the end of March 2021.

I hope this clarifies the position for you.



Yours sincerely.

Eithne Fox
Assistant National Director HBS HR