



24<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Deputy John McGuinness  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

Email: [john.mcguinness@oireachtas.ie](mailto:john.mcguinness@oireachtas.ie)

Dear Deputy

**RE: PQ 16654/25: To ask the Minister for Health if she will outline the process by which retired nurses were informed of the overpayment of their pensions; if those affected can arrange to repay the amount over time or appeal the outcome; if all retired nurses were given comprehensive information in hard copy to explain how and when the overpayments occurred, and why the overpayments were not identified from annual employee returns; and if she will make a statement on the matter.**

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, submitted by you to the Minister for Health. This matter has been referred to me for response on behalf of the HSE.

Where an overpayment of pension is identified it is addressed in accordance with the HSE National Financial Regulation B3 – Employee Administration and Payroll. When an overpayment to a HSE pensioner is discovered the initial engagement with the pensioner is completed by the party responsible for addressing the overpayment with a view to resolving with the Pensioner. A hardcopy letter issues to the pensioner setting out the following:

- Gross or net value of the overpayment
- Reason for the overpayment
- Period to which the overpayment relates
- Proposed repayment schedule. The pensioner may request a change to the method or time period for repayment
- Pensioner obligations
- Procedure if the pensioner questions the amount of the overpayment
- Any change in future income when negotiating a repayment schedule
- Revenue implications to be notified and explained upon request

The options for repayment include:

- Repayment of a single lump sum
- Part payment by a single lump sum and remainder by deduction from pension over an agreed period
- Deductions from pension
- Offset against arrears due
- Direct Debit or Standing Order with HSE bank account over an agreed period of time

Repayment options can be discussed with HSE National Pension Payments but must be in accordance with Revenue rules. Different repayment processes apply if an overpayment, or part of an overpayment, is repaid in subsequent years to the year the overpayment occurred.



HSE National Pension Payments will provide a copy of the overpayment calculations and are available to provide clarity on any questions which may arise.

If the pensioner believe that the terms of the pension scheme have been misapplied then they can initiate an application for a review under the Internal Disputes Resolution procedure. If unhappy with the outcome of the review they can proceed with a complaint to the Financial Services & Pensions Ombudsman.

An overpayment can arise for a variety of reasons, however, it generally pertains to the late notification of a change in an individual's circumstances. The HSE acts on the information returned on the annual pension declarations as soon as possible after receipt.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Eileen Winnington  
Assistant National Director of HR