

Circular 13/2007

12th October 2007

To; CEO's, Superannuation Officers

Schemes: The Local Government Superannuation Scheme (Health Sector)
The Nominated Health Agencies Superannuation Scheme
The Voluntary Hospitals Superannuation Scheme
Model Superannuation Schemes of Agencies
Under the Aegis of the Department of Health and Children

Part-time public health service employees
Extension of time limits for access and reckoning prior service

I am directed by the Minister for Health and Children to refer to Circulars 23/2005 issued on 22 December 2005 and Circular 20/2006 issued on 5th October 2006.

Within the public health sector the Schemes covered by this circular include;

- The Local Government Superannuation Scheme (LGSS)
- The Nominated Health Agencies Superannuation Scheme (NHASS)
- The Voluntary Hospitals Superannuation Scheme (VHSS)
- Schemes with public sector superannuation terms in Agencies under the aegis of the Department of Health and Children.

I refer, in particular, to the original time limits set out in paragraphs 27 and 33 of Circular 23/2005. As you will be aware Circular 20/2006 provided for an extension for access to the scheme and for the payment of all outstanding contributions due in this regard. While significant progress has been made in all public health sector bodies in providing access and facilitating payments as provided for in 23/2005 it is clear that not all relevant employees have been afforded the opportunity to avail of the option open to them.

In consultation with scheme administrators and the various public health sector unions the following extension was sought and is hereby approved.

Access

Paragraph 27 of Circular 23/2005 set an option deadline of ...

*The option of access to a scheme offered on foot of paragraph 24 above will be available until **31 October 2006**.*

This date was extended to **31 October 2007** under Circular 20/2006.

This time limit is hereby further extended to **30 July 2008**.

Reckoning of prior part time service

Paragraphs 27 and 33 of Circular 23/2005 set a deadline for reckoning prior service ...for serving employees, the arrangements at paragraph 26(a), 32(a)(iii) or 32(b)(iii), as appropriate, regarding payment of 'back' contributions will be available **until 30 June 2008** or the date of retirement, if earlier.

This date was extended to **30 June 2009** under Circular 20/2006.

The time limit for payment of all 'back' contributions is hereby further extended to **30 March 2010** or the date of retirement, if earlier.

Circular 23/2005 states:

"In the case of former part-time employees who were serving on or after 01 April 1996 / 20 December 2001, as appropriate, and who had retired before the date of issue of this circular (December 2005), the 'back' contributions must be paid at the time of opting into the relevant scheme" **There is no change in this provision.**

All other conditions remain as set out in Circular 23/2005.

Queries

Any queries relating the implementation of this circular should be referred by employers, in writing, to the Pension Policy Unit, Department of Health and Children, Hawkins House, Hawkins Street, Dublin 2.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patsy Carr". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P' and 'C'.

Patsy Carr
Assistant Principal
Pension Policy Unit