

Premature Retirement Factsheet

If your employer decides you are redundant (for example following re-organisation) and



- you have reached minimum pension age; and
- you have at least 2 years' membership,

we can pay you a pension for life and a lump sum or an optional lump sum as an alternative to you receiving a severance (redundancy) payment from your employer.

How much will I get?

These benefits are worked out in the same way as normal retirement benefits but will not be reduced to take account of early payment. Your employer will meet any additional costs using your redundancy payment (if you would otherwise be entitled to one) and paying any balance to you.

What happens if I am paying additional contributions?

1995 section

If you are:

- buying added years or a bigger lump sum for Scheme membership before 25 March 1972 by paying extra contributions from your pay and/or;
- buying Additional Pension (AP) by instalments

then you cannot have those payments back if you are forced to leave NHS employment early. You will be credited with the extra benefits you have already paid for but if you choose to claim your pension, the benefits you get from the additional contributions will be reduced because your benefits are being paid before your expected retirement date.

If this applies to you ask NHS Pensions for a quotation of how much will be payable.

2008 section

If you are buying Additional Pension (AP) by instalments you cannot have those payments back if you are forced to leave NHS employment early. You will be credited with the extra benefits you have already paid for but if you choose to claim your pension, the benefits you get from the additional contributions will be reduced because your benefits are being paid before your expected retirement date.

If this applies to you ask NHS Pensions for a quotation of how much will be payable.

What if I have more than one NHS job?

1995 section

You may:

- take your benefits in respect of all your pensionable NHS jobs. If you do this, you must leave all your jobs for at least one day unless they total no more than 16 hours per week. If you choose to take your benefits from all your jobs, you will not be able to be a member of the 1995 Section of the Scheme or join the the 2008 Section in respect of any further employment in the NHS; or
- if you are **age 55 or over** you could take your benefits for Scheme membership in the job from which you are retiring prematurely and remain a member of the 1995 Section of the Scheme in respect of your other pensionable jobs but your pension may be abated, you can get more information from the Retirement Booklet available from the website at: www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pensions

2008 section

You may either:

- take your benefits for Scheme membership in all your jobs. If you do this, you must leave all your jobs for at least one day unless they total no more than 16 hours per week; or
- take your benefits for Scheme membership in the job from which you are retiring prematurely only.

Important notice

If you are a general medical, dental or ophthalmic practitioner in one of your other NHS jobs ask NHS Pensions for details of your options.

What if I return to NHS work?

1995 section

You can return to NHS work on a non-pensionable basis, however if you do so before age 60 your pension may be abated. You can get more information about this in the Retirement Booklet available from the website at: www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pensions

2008 section

Regardless of whether you choose to take your benefits from all your jobs or just the job from which you are retiring prematurely, you will be able to continue to be a member of the 2008 Section of the Scheme in respect of any further employment in the NHS, subject to the usual rules. However if you do so before age 65 your pension may be abated. You can get more information about this in the Retirement Booklet available from the website at: www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pensions

Index linking

Your NHS pension will be fully index-linked to protect it against inflation. This means that we will increase it each year in line with the cost of living, for as long as it is paid. The increases are paid from April. In the first year of your retirement the amount of increase you get will depend on the date you retire.

If you are a member of the 1995 Section of the Scheme and you are made redundant before age 55, your pension will not attract cost of living increases until you reach age 55. Then your pension will be increased to take account of the rise in the cost of living since the date it was awarded.