

Freedom of Information Request

Requests and Responses:

GMP Queries

1) How many people have been overpaid?

NHS Pensions are working with other agencies to determine who has not been paid correctly. This includes interaction between H M Revenue and Customs, Department of Work and Pensions and NHS Pensions payroll provider.

The work is labour, requiring checks for the five schemes against individual pensioner records. It is not expected that full information will be known before the end of February when the checks have been completed.

2) How long has this been going on?

Until investigations and individual pensioner information has been fully reviewed the extent of this matter for NHS pensioners will not be known. Timescales will vary from individual to individual affected.

As noted under question 1 above, it is not expected that the complete picture of information will be known before the end of February.

3) How much in total has been overpaid?

Until work with the other agencies has been completed to determine who has not been paid correctly, figures on incorrect payments will not be known. It is not expected that this information will be known before the end of February.

4) How many people will have to make have to make repayments, and of what sums?

Pensioners who are affected and have been overpaid will not need to repay any overpaid pension up to 5 April 2009.

5) Will pensions be cut to compensate in the future?

Correct pension payments will be put in payment from 6th April 2009 moving forward. There will be no other adjustments made to pension payments in relation to this issue.

6) What impact has this had on the balance of the NHS pension scheme?

The full extent of the incorrect indexation application of GMP against NHS pensioners will not expected to be known until the end of February.

You may wish to note however that the NHS Pension Scheme is an unfunded scheme with no actual fund value. Benefit payments are guaranteed by the Exchequer.

7) Will the overpayment be sorted out by 5 April?" response 16 April 2009

A decision was made based on advice of the Accounting Officers of the five schemes involved in this review. This advice suggested that it is unlikely to be cost-effective to attempt recovery of these monies from individuals of the schemes that had been overpaid. Based on this advice an announcement was made on 16 December 2008 that any overpaid money would not be recovered.

Status: Complete

Response Date: 21/01/2009