

Freedom of Information Request

Request:

1. Can I have all information on Ill-health retirement and what the criteria is to qualify e.g. Disability
2. Criteria within which your medical examiners will determine whether an NHS employee could qualify for Ill Health Retirement

Status: Complete**Response Date:** 16/07/2009

1. If you go onto our website www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pensions and look down the column on the left hand side of the page, then click on the link 'Retirement', then click on 'Ill Health Retirement' - when the new page opens you should find what you are looking for. Back on the first page there is also a link for our Scheme Guide and there is a section in the guide covering illness.

If you need more information then you need to speak to either your employer's Human Resources Section or your employer's Pension Officer (if there is one they will probably come under your employer's Finance Section).

There are a variety of rules surrounding ill health retirement from work but as a minimum you have to show that you are permanently (to at least age 60) incapable of efficiently carrying out your current NHS duties by reason of ill health. Applications to NHS Pensions are made on Form AW33E which can be obtained from your employer. You both need to complete the form. Applications are considered by our medical advisers (Atos Healthcare) whose recommendations inform NHS Pension's decisions. You need a minimum of two year's scheme membership to access your pension early because of illness.

2. Under section 21 of the Act, we are not required to provide information in response to a request if it is already reasonably accessible to you. The information you requested is available on the NHS Pensions website www.nhspa.gov.uk under "ill health", including a comprehensive FAQ section. Alternatively, the June payslip drop leaflet for NHS Employees deals with ill health.