

Employers Newsletter – January 2019

1: Sharing our performance

The Awards recovery plan is now complete and we would like to thank everyone for their patience and understanding during the time taken to recover. The overall work on hand for pension applications continues to reduce with the current outstanding volume at 4927 at the end of December, this is also taking into account that December is considered one of our busier periods.

During December 3785 pension applications have been processed and of those 87% were processed in time for the persons retirement date.

During the month of November we completed 6497 pension applications. Again, a great month in terms of increasing our monthly clearance volume.

Additional Compendia development for Awards was released at the start of December which offers great benefits in terms of efficiency for staff in this area and included the ability to return to routine processing of cases where Trivial Commutation is requested.

As mentioned in the last update, Phase 2 of our Awards improvement plan will commence in earnest in January.

POL will be unavailable the first weekend of January (5/6) to prepare for the opening of the Greenbury window on the 7 January 2019.

We will keep you informed of developments on sub awards and provide you with more details regarding our plans, including volumes and timescales as they progress over the coming months. The compendia functionality is still in development and is on plan to be delivered in the March release. In the meantime we will continue to process on demand cases.

Calls coming through the Contact Centre have all stabilised over the last couple of weeks, with all four lines being reported as within tolerance. The main queries being reported across the member and employer lines continue to be in relation to awards and estimates.

2: TRS mid-year refresh

The mid-year refresh is now complete. All updated statements became available on Wednesday 12 December. Please advise your staff to view their statement. You can find some helpful materials to promote TRS on [our website](#).

3: Verify update

The Government Gateway route to access your Total Reward Statement (TRS) or Annual Benefit Statement (ABS) was decommissioned on the 12 December 2018 and replaced by the Government-wide GOV.UK Verify service.

GOV.UK Verify has been developed by the Government Digital Service (GDS) and meets the highest levels of international standards for security and data protection.

If you do not have access to ESR Self Service, in order to continue to view your statement you will need to register through GOV.UK/Verify. Once registered online you will be able to view your TRS or ABS and other Government services with the same details.

[Click here for more information or to register with GOV.UK Verify.](#)

4: The NHS Pension Scheme for England and Wales - consultation on draft regulations

The NHS Pension Scheme for England and Wales - Consultation on draft regulations: The National Health Service Pension Schemes, Additional Voluntary Contributions and Injury Benefits (Amendment) Regulations 2019.

Subject to parliamentary procedure and the outcome of the current consultation, the employer rate is due to rise from 14.3% to 20.6%. This will be collected at the same time as the admin levy of 0.08%. Therefore, subject to the outcome of the consultation, a total of 20.68% for employer contributions and admin levy will be collected from 1 April 2019. More details in relation to funding will be provided following the consultation outcome.

The consultation documents are now available to view on the [GOV.UK website](#). The **consultation ends at the close of business on Monday 28 January 2019**. The Department of Health and Social Care welcomes any comments or views on the proposals set out.

5. GP Practice stakeholder events

The Stakeholder Team has now completed the second round of GP Practice stakeholder events which started in May 2018. The team has hosted events at the following locations during 2018:

- Birmingham
- Leeds
- Crewe
- London
- Brighton
- Exeter
- Newcastle
- Cardiff
- Manchester

Here's what some of our attendees had to say:

"Excellent day, great sessions, superb facilities"

“It was a very well organised event and the topics covered were extremely informative”

“This has been the most useful day I have spent in a long time. The team had such sound knowledge and great presenting style, thank you so much!”

“I’m new to my role and to the NHS so I found all of the sessions most useful”

“I felt all of the sessions had something to offer, were well organised and on a level we could understand.”

“The professional, friendly team who deliver the training makes it such a worthwhile event to attend. This is the second event I have attended and each time I came away learning things that I didn’t know before”

The next round of GP Practice stakeholder events will commence in April 2019. More information will be published in upcoming employer newsletters.



6. Non Pensions Online (POL) events 2019

We are hosting two events for our employers that do not have access to POL with the format similar to the events we hosted in 2018.

During the events we will be discussing how Non POL employers will submit the 2018/19 year end data. We will also be looking at the lessons learnt from the changes implemented last year.

The venues and dates for the events are listed below:

- 5 February - Leeds
- 14 February - London

Please add these dates to your diary. Invitations will be sent out to the relevant employers in due course.

7. Final Salary Linking Guide

A new technical guide is now available on our website for employers to use. The new employer guide, '**Final Salary Linking**' provides technical guidance, examples of how member's benefits are assessed and which pay we use. We are planning to release further employer technical guides over the coming months.

8. Re-employment forms

Employers can now send both the RE08 and Re-employment form electronically to NHS Pensions provided we can identify the employer through the signature line of the email.

These can be emailed directly to our Pensioner Admin team at nhsbsa.pensioneradminteam@nhs.net.

9. Transfers from another NHS Scheme (Scotland or Northern Ireland)

Where a member meets the time limit and wishes to transfer in from another NHS Scheme (Scotland or Northern Ireland) they should obtain the 'Transfer-in Guide' and application pack which can be found on [our website](#). **Please note:** we only require completion of **Form A**, Form B is not required.

Form A should be completed and sent to NHS Pensions as soon as possible.

10: Ask us articles

Pensions Employer		Pensions Member		TRS	
What should I do if I have paid the incorrect amount of contributions to NHS Pensions?	128	Where can I find my SD number?	3661	How can I access my Total Reward Statement?	950
What is my EA code?	120	How can I get an estimate of my NHS pension benefits?	1165	How is my 1995 Section pension revalued each year on my Total Reward Statement/Annual Benefit Statement?	253
How can I calculate the notional whole time salary for a part time staff member?	112	How do I apply for my NHS Pension?	962	Why don't I have a pension estimate on my Total Reward Statement?	232
How does an employer pay their pension contributions to NHS Pensions?	98	What are the reduction factors for Actuarially Reduced Early Retirement in the 1995 section?	876	How often is my Total Reward Statement/Annual Benefit Statement updated?	147
When would it be necessary for me to post a retirement benefit claim form (AW8) to NHS Pensions?	96	How will my NHS Pension be paid?	798	What is a Annual Benefit Statement (ABS)?	117
Do I need to submit the SD55 and SD55T when a member is retiring?	83	Can I return to NHS work after retiring from the 1995 section of the Scheme?	687	What is the Hypothetical Annuity Cost?	85
How can I apply for Mental Health Officer (MHO) status?	83	How long does a pension award take to process?	521	What is a Total Reward Statement?	78

What are the joiner and leaver forms?	73	What is a deferred benefits claim form (AW8P) and when should it be completed?	494	What should I do if there is missing or incorrect information on my Total Reward Statement / Annual Benefit Statement?	74
How should I submit an AW8 application form if I do not have access to Pensions Online (POL)?	67	What is Mental Health Officer status and who is entitled to it?	475	Does my Total Reward Statement update annually if I am no longer working for the NHS?	73
Ethnicity codes	65	How can I notify NHS Pensions of my change of address?	422	Can I view a Total Reward Statement from a previous year?	62