

DPE118-004-2015

11 February 2019

To: Public Service Employers (Single Scheme “Relevant Authorities”)

Circular 03/2019: Single Public Service Pension Scheme – Notification of Position on Consumer Price Index (CPI) Uprating of Referable Amounts and Pensions

A. CPI Uprating – latest position

1. I am directed by the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, following release by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) of the December 2018 CPI results, to notify public service employers (“Relevant Authorities”) in relation to:

- the CPI uprating position regarding **referable amounts** accrued up to the **end of 2017** by members of the Single Public Service Pension Scheme (“Single Scheme”); and
- the CPI uprating position regarding Single Scheme **pensions in payment** up to the **end of 2018**.

The relevant CPI change is an **increase of 0.7%** in the twelve months to December 2018.

2. A CPI-based increase of 0.7% should be applied to referable amounts accrued up to the end of 2017. This increase is to be applied at the end of 2018. A 0.7% CPI-based increase should also be applied to Single Scheme pensions awarded up to the end of 2018. This increase should be applied with effect from 1 January 2019. Appendix 1 sets out this position in detail.

B. CPI Uprating since Commencement of Single Scheme

3. The Single Scheme rules require that referable amounts and pensions be increased by reference to CPI increases. The very low inflation conditions of recent years have meant that, in fact, there has been very little CPI-driven movement in either referable amounts or pensions to date.

4. Appendix 2 sets out, for reference and in respect of the period since the Single Scheme’s commencement on 1 January 2013, full details of:

- relevant CPI outturns;
- the correct reflection of those CPI outturns in Single Scheme referable amounts (as reported in Annual Benefit Statements); and
- the correct application of those CPI outturns to Single Scheme pensions in payment.

C: Resources, Circulation and Queries

5. Resources available in Administrator Toolkits on the Single Scheme website have been updated to reflect (a) the increase in CPI notified in this Circular and (b) the change to the rate of the State Pension (Contributory) in March 2019. These can be accessed under the Employers' Section of the Single Scheme website at www.singlepensionscheme.gov.ie

6. This circular is a public domain document and can be given to any interested parties. It is, however, primarily intended as a reference document for pensions, payroll and HR personnel in public service workplaces, and Relevant Authorities should make it available to appropriate personnel in these areas. There is no requirement to send it to employees or pensioners.

7. Queries about this circular may be pursued as follows:

- Individual public servants with queries should raise them with their Relevant Authority / employer.
- Relevant Authorities / employers wishing to raise queries should send them to singleschemequeries@per.gov.ie, writing "DPER Circular 03/2019" in the subject line.

Mise le meas,

Colin Menton
Assistant Secretary
Department of Public Expenditure and Reform

Appendix 1: Details of latest Single Scheme CPI uprating position

A. Referable Amounts

1. Section 40 of the [Public Service Pensions \(Single Scheme and Other Provisions\) Act 2012](#) (“2012 Act”) provides for the **pension referable amounts** and **retirement lump sum referable amounts** of Single Scheme members to be uprated in line with CPI increases. Relevant Authorities are notified that **a CPI-based increase of 0.7% on referable amounts accrued to end-2017 is due at end-2018.**

2. This advice reflects the 0.7% CPI change in the twelve months to December 2018, which is the reference period for CPI-based adjustment of all referable amounts accrued up to end-2017. That means that the appropriate CPI-based increase, due at end-2018, in respect of all referable amounts **accrued up to end-2017 is 0.7%.**

3. Under Single Scheme rules, referable amounts accrued in a given year are not affected by the CPI outturn for that year. This means that the 2018 CPI outturn does not impact on referable amounts accrued in 2018. Annual Benefit Statements issuing in respect of members’ end-2018 position therefore should report referable amounts **accrued in 2018** at their original unadjusted values (no change).

B. Pensions in Payment

4. Section 40 of the 2012 Act also provides for the pensions of retired Single Scheme members to be uprated in line with CPI increases. Relevant Authorities and other pension-paying authorities are notified that **Single Scheme pensions awarded up to the end of 2018 qualify for a CPI-based increase of 0.7% with effect from 1 January 2019.** The application of this increase has been decided on by the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform pursuant to section 40 of the 2012 Act.

Appendix 2: CPI movement to end-2017 as affecting the Single Scheme

1. Relevant changes in CPI:

(a) 12 months to December 2014:	-0.3%
(b) 12 months to December 2015:	0.1%
(c) 12 months to December 2016:	0.0%
(d) 12 months to December 2017:	0.4%
(e) 12 months to December 2018:	0.7%

2. CPI impact on Single Scheme Referable Amounts, reflected in Annual Benefit Statements

Statements of end-2013 position:

- Referable amounts accrued in 2013: no increase, since latest full year not subject to adjustment.

Statements of end-2014 position:

- Cumulative referable amounts up to end-2013: **no increase**, since Single Scheme rules leave referable amounts unchanged when CPI is negative (CPI outturn 1(a) above).
- Referable amounts accrued in 2014: no increase, since latest full year not subject to adjustment.

Statements of end-2015 position:

- Cumulative referable amounts up to end-2014: **0.1% increase** (CPI outturn 1(b) above).
- Referable amounts accrued in 2015: no increase, since latest full year not subject to adjustment.

Statements of end-2016 position:

- Cumulative referable amounts to end-2015: **no increase** (CPI outturn 1(c) above).
- Referable amounts accrued in 2016: no increase, since latest full year not subject to adjustment.

Statements of end-2017 position:

- Cumulative referable amounts to end-2016: **0.4% increase** (CPI outturn 1(d) above).
- Referable amounts accrued in 2017: no increase, since latest full year not subject to adjustment.

Statements of end-2018 position:

- Cumulative referable amounts to end-2017: **0.7% increase** (CPI outturn 1(e) above).
- Referable amounts accrued in 2018: no increase, since latest full year not subject to adjustment.

3. CPI impact on Single Scheme Pensions in Payment

Pensions in payment at end-2015:

- Increase by 0.1% on 1 January 2016 (CPI outturn 1(b) above).

Pensions in payment at end-2016:

- No change due on 1 January 2017 (CPI outturn 1(c) above).

Pensions in payment at end-2017:

- Increase by 0.4% on 1 January 2018 (CPI outturn 1(d) above).

Pensions in payment at end-2018:

- Increase by 0.7% on 1 January 2019 (CPI outturn 1(e) above).