

Reference No: Letter to Personnel Officers; **Date:** 02/11/2004

02/11/2004 LP:- Reckoning of Service given by former Secondary Teachers

Ref P18/148/04

2 November 2004

To All Personnel Officers

Dear Personnel Officer

Reckoning of Service given by former Secondary Teachers

As Departments will be aware, service given by an individual in a public sector organisation which was not pensionable at the time it was given may subsequently become pensionable and thus reckonable in the calculation of superannuation benefits. In cases where such service was given in a former organisation (i.e. in a public sector organisation different from the one in which the person is currently serving) it may be possible to have that service made reckonable and transferable within the Public Sector Transfer Network. This situation has arisen in the case of certain former teachers as a result of an amendment made to the Secondary Teachers' Superannuation Scheme.

Amendment to the Secondary Teachers' Superannuation Scheme

Certain persons who formerly served as teachers in Secondary, Community and Comprehensive schools may have served in a non-pensionable capacity because membership of the secondary teachers' pension scheme did not become compulsory until **1 March 1996** and, furthermore, only permanent teachers generally and temporary wholetime teachers in voluntary Secondary Schools could join the scheme. Former teachers were precluded from transferring any teaching service that was non-pensionable to a subsequent employer because only service which is, or later becomes, pensionable can be transferred under the transfer network rules.

Arrangements were introduced under the Programme for Competitiveness and Work which allowed teachers serving on or after 1 March 1996 (or, in certain cases, 1 August 1996) to "buy back" for pension purposes such non-pensionable teaching service, as well as certain non-pensionable part-time teaching service. As a result, it is open to former teachers now giving pensionable service in organisations which are members of the public sector transfer network or who retired or resigned from pensionable service in such an organisation on or after **1 March 1996** to transfer such non-pensionable teaching service by paying appropriate contributions in order to make it reckonable.

Discussions have taken place between this Department and the Department of Education and Science regarding the practical steps necessary in order to transfer such service under the Public Sector Transfer Network. Following agreement on the necessary measures, the

Department of Education and Science will shortly communicate the details to all Government Departments – the Department of Education and Science Circular PEN 17-04 refers.

The contents of this letter should be brought to the attention of all officers in your Department. Furthermore, this letter should be forwarded to all public sector organisations under the aegis of your Department/Office.

All enquiries regarding these provisions should be addressed to the Department of Education and Science at the address given below.

SECONDARY PENSIONS SECTION,
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE,
CORNAMADDY,
ATHLONE

Enquiries by phone should be made to 090-6474621; or 01-8734700, extensions 3644 or 3651

Yours sincerely

Lorcan O'Toole