



Circular Letter Pen 11/04

**To: The Chief Executive Officer of each
Vocational Education Committee**

**Admission of Vocational Education Committees to membership of
the Public Sector Transfer Network**

1. Introduction.

- 1.1 Prior to the Transfer of Functions Order made by Government in January 2001, SI number 14 of 2001, the question of transferring service to and from VECs fell to be dealt with on the basis of the Local Government Transfer Network.
- 1.2 The Transfer of Functions Order had the effect of transferring membership of VEC staff from the Local Government Superannuation Scheme to the Education Sector Superannuation Scheme. Following consultations with the Department of Finance, it has been agreed that transfers of service to and from VECs will, with effect from 30 January 2001, be dealt with on the basis of the Public Sector Transfer Network.

2. Additional categories of transferable service.

- 2.1 The main difference between the Networks is that, where an organisation operates more than one pension scheme, the LG Network may not designate all of the pension schemes for transfer purposes. The PS Network, on the other hand will recognise all of the pension schemes in an organisation which meets broad public service requirements. The effect of the change of Networks, therefore, is that certain service which was not transferable under the Local Government Transfer Network has now, with effect from 30 January 2001, become transferable.
- 2.2 [Appendix 1](#) attached is a list organisations which participate in the LG Transfer Network on the basis of the designation of specified superannuation schemes. This list should be brought to the attention of all staff who are currently in service with the VEC, or who have retired from service with the VEC and who have served in the organisations in question. Where they have had service in those organisations which has not been transferred, the question whether the service may now be transferred should be considered.
- 2.3 Where the service was given as a member of one of the organisation's staff pension schemes, it will be transferable.

2.4 Where the service was not pensionable at the time it was given but the organisation confirms that it would now be reckonable for pensions purposes as a result of an amendment to the relevant pension scheme, it will be transferable provided:-

- (1) the person in question is currently in pensionable service with the VEC, or
- (2) the person in question has retired from service with the VEC but was in pensionable service with the VEC on or after the date from which the amendment to the relevant pension scheme became effective.

2.5 **NB: Until further notice, where the VEC considers that service may be transferable in accordance with the terms of this Circular, the question should be cleared with this Department.**

2.6 Application to retired staff.

Where, in the case of a **retired member of staff**, service which was not previously transferable has become transferable in accordance with the terms of this Circular, the service in question will be reckonable as follows:-

Retirement since 30 January 2001 The service will reckon for pension and lump sum purposes. Arrears of pension will be due with effect from date of retirement.

Retirement prior to 30 January 2001 The service will be reckonable for pension purposes only. Arrears of pension will be due with effect from 30 January 2001, (the operative date of the Public Sector Transfer Network to VECs)

3. **Clarification of the basis on which certain organisations will transfer service.**

The only other significant difference between the Networks is that a small number of organisations participate in the Local Government Transfer Network on a different basis from that in which they participate in the Public Service Transfer Network. Where they participate in the LG Network on a knock-for-knock basis, it is proposed that transfers between the organisations in question and the Institutes will continue to be on that basis. Otherwise, it is proposed that transfers between the organisations in question and the VEC will be on the same basis as transfers between those organisations and existing members of the PS Transfer Network.

A list of the organisations in question is attached as [Appendix 2](#). The Department now proposes to write to each of the organisations involved with a view to confirming the basis on which transfers to and from the VECs will be dealt with. When this matter has been clarified a further circular will be issued, enclosing a complete list of the members of the Public Sector Transfer Network.

4. Circulation.

This Circular, together with [Appendix 1](#) of the Circular, should be brought to the attention of all staff who are currently in service with the VEC, or who have retired from service with the VECs, and who have served in any of the organisations listed in [Appendix 1](#).

The circular is also available on the Department's website, www.education.ie

5. Enquiries.

Enquiries by VECs regarding the provisions of this Circular should be addressed to the Department at the address given below.

PENSIONS (VEC),
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION,
CORNAMADDY,
ATHLONE

Enquiries by phone should be made to 090 64 84004 or 090 64 74621 extensions 3657 or 3658

John Feeney
Principal Officer
Pensions Unit

30 April 2004

Appendix 1 of Circular PEN 11/04

Organisations which participate in the Local Government Transfer Network on the basis of the designation of specified superannuation schemes

Organisation

Designated Superannuation Schemes

Bord Iascaigh Mhara Bord na Mona	Bord Iascaigh Mhara Staff Schemes (1) Bord na Mona (Members) Scheme 1959, as amended (2) Turf Development Act (General Employees) Scheme 1956, as amended
Bord Pleanála	(1) BP (Chairman and Members) Scheme 1956 (2) BP Staff Scheme 1986
Coras Iompair Éireann	(1) CIE Scheme 1951 (2) CIE Salaried Officers and Clerks (GNR, CDR and IRCH) Scheme 1977 (3) CIE Salaried Officers and Clerks (GSR) Scheme
Custom House Docks Development Authority	(1) Chairman's scheme 1990 (2) Staff Scheme 1996
Electricity Supply Board	(1) ESB General Employees Scheme (2) ESB Manual Workers' Scheme
National University of Ireland NUI	Pension Scheme established under Statute LXXXVI
Raidió Teilifís Éireann	RTE Scheme as constituted by Regulations made pursuant to Section 15 of the Broadcasting Authority Act 1960
Agricultural Schools or Colleges	Agricultural Colleges Staff Scheme 1985
University College Cork	UCC Pension Scheme 1966
University College Dublin	UCD Pension Scheme established under Statute XCVI
University College Galway	UCG Pension Scheme established under Statute CLXI
Voluntary Hospitals and Nursing Organisations	(1) Voluntary Hospitals Scheme 1969 (2) Voluntary Hospitals (Non-officers) Scheme 1985

Appendix 2

Organisations which participate in the Local Government Transfer Network on a different basis from that in which they participate in the Public Sector Transfer Network

Organisation

Aer Lingus (Irish Airlines
Superannuation Scheme)

Aer Rianta (Irish Airlines
Superannuation Scheme)

An Bord Bainne

Bord Gais Eireann

Bord Na Mona

Coras Iompair Eireann

Cork Harbour Commissioners

Dublin District Milk Board

Dublin Docklands Development Authority

Dublin Port & Docks Board

ESRI

ESB

Housing Finance Agency

Organisation

IDA

IPA

Irish National Petroleum
Corporation (INPC)

INTO

National Building Agency Ltd

NCAD

Nuclear Energy Board

Pigs and Bacon Commission

RTE

Royal College of Surgeons
in Ireland

Royal Irish Academy

Shannon Free Airport
Development Co. Ltd.

VHI