



Important notice

Government Actuary's Department: Withdrawal of some GAD Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme Passports

On 16 May 2007 we issued a note explaining that it had become necessary to withdraw all GAD Certificates of Broad Comparability for the Local Government Pension Scheme (England & Wales) issued before 26 April 2007. Since then we have been working with contractors to agree changes to their schemes to allow reissue of a valid certificate.

In our note we gave advance warning that similar action was expected in the near future for the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS). The purpose of this note is to announce the withdrawal of some GAD PCSPS passports.

Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme – Notice of withdrawal of some GAD Passports

A number of the changes agreed for the PCSPS have been confirmed by the laying of scheme amendments for Parliamentary approval in the last few days. The changes announced are twofold.

- A new scheme (called nuvos) is being introduced for new joiners from 30 July 2007
- Existing members of Classic and Premium retiring from 1 October 2007 will have the option to take more cash from the scheme. Further changes to Classic and Premium are expected to be confirmed later in the year

Further details can be found on the Civil Service Pensions website www.civilservice-pensions.gov.uk.

As a result of the introduction of nuvos it is necessary to withdraw those PCSPS GAD passports whose scope is not specifically limited to exclude employees eligible for nuvos. We will be contacting contractors individually to confirm whether or not a particular scheme is affected.

Contracting authorities should contact GAD to determine whether a particular PCSPS passport remains valid.

We will be writing separately to affected contractors and are also notifying consultants, trade bodies and other stakeholders of the passport withdrawal. Queries should be addressed to your normal GAD actuary or to enquiries@gad.gov.uk.

Notes for contractors seeking to obtain a revised certificate

For existing certificates whose scope is not restricted to exclude those eligible for nuvos we will be prepared to reissue with the restricted scope.

To obtain a passport covering new employees eligible for nuvos we expect contractors will need to offer pension arrangements of a similar form ie career average revalued earnings (CARE) in order to fulfil the broad comparability criteria although an alternative form may be acceptable in certain circumstances. As we expect contractors may take a little time to formulate an appropriate CARE arrangement we propose to continue to issue certificates excluding those eligible for nuvos as an interim measure.

Contractors seeking to replace withdrawn certificates should liaise with their normal GAD actuary. General enquiries should be addressed to enquiries@gad.gov.uk.

Further PCSPS passport withdrawals

More changes to Classic and Premium are expected to be confirmed by the laying of further scheme amendments after the Parliamentary recess. When these changes are confirmed we expect it to be necessary to withdraw further PCSPS passports. In particular, those for schemes which limit Pensionable service in line with the existing PCSPS provisions. We will make a further announcement as soon as further scheme amendments are laid and at the time will contact contractors individually to confirm whether or not a particular scheme is affected.

National Health Service Pension Scheme

The National Health Service Pension Scheme is also currently under review and we expect similar action will be necessary in respect of passports for this scheme later in the year.

Andrew Johnston
Deputy Government Actuary
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