

Section IV

The General Provisions Section

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Part A

Interpretation

A.1 Interpretation: general

- (1) This Part applies for the interpretation of this Section.
- (2) In accordance with section 23 of the Interpretation Act 1978, that Act applies for the interpretation of the rules of this Section as it applies to an Act of Parliament.
- (3) In these rules, unless the context otherwise requires, the following expressions have the following meanings—

“the 1972 Section” means Section II of the Scheme;

“the 2002 Section” means Section I of the Scheme;

“the 2007 Section” means Section III of the Scheme;

“active member” has the meaning given in section 124(1) of the Pensions Act 1995;

“Actual Average Employer Contribution” has the meaning set out in rule B.6;

“Capped Employer Cost” has the meaning set out in rule B.4;

“CCSU” means the Council of Civil Service Unions;

“Effective Date” in relation to an actuarial review means the date as at which the Standard Contribution Rate and the Overall Scheme Cost for that review are assessed;

“Final Actuarial Report” means the report produced by the Scheme Actuary in accordance with rule B.2(6);

“Final Overall Scheme Cost” has the meaning set out in rule B.8;

“Governance Group” means the group established in accordance with Part C of this Section;

“Implementation Plan” means the plan that requires one or more scheme changes to be made to eliminate the Residual Cost Pressure and is prepared by the Minister under rule B.2(4)(b);

“Minister” means the Minister for the Civil Service;

“Movement in Scheme Costs” has the meaning set out in rule B.1(10);

“Notional Average Employer Contribution” has the meaning set out in rule B.5;

“Overall Scheme Cost” has the meaning set out in rule B.1(6);

“Pre-Fresh Start prison officer” means a prison officer who has a pension age of 55 under rule 2.27 of the 1972 Section;

“Residual Cost Pressure” has the meaning set out in rule B.7;

“Scheme” means the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme;

“Scheme Actuary” means the actuary appointed by the Minister for the time being to provide a consulting service on actuarial matters relevant to the Scheme;

“Standard Contribution Rate” has the meaning set out in rule B.1(7);

“Statement of Movement in Scheme Costs” has the meaning set out in rule B.1(9).

Part B

Cost sharing and cost capping

B.1 Requirement for periodical actuarial reviews of the Scheme

- (1) The Minister must periodically instruct the Scheme Actuary to carry out an actuarial review of the Scheme.
- (2) The review will be based on actuarial assumptions determined by the Minister, after consultation with the Scheme Actuary, the Treasury and the Governance Group.
- (3) The Effective Date of the first actuarial review will be 31st March 2010.
- (4) The Effective Date of each subsequent actuarial review will be determined by the Minister, but must be no later than four years after the Effective Date of the previous review.
- (5) The Minister must instruct the Scheme Actuary to produce an initial report on the actuarial review setting out—
 - (a) the Overall Scheme Cost (see paragraph (6)), and
 - (b) a Statement of Movement in Scheme Costs (see paragraph (9)).
- (6) The Overall Scheme Cost is the Standard Contribution Rate (see paragraph (7)) at the Effective Date of the actuarial review—
 - (a) reduced to reflect the rate of contributions payable by active members at the Effective Date of the actuarial review, and
 - (b) increased (or reduced) to reflect the elimination of any notional deficit (or notional surplus) in the Scheme at the Effective Date of the actuarial review over a period, set by the Minister after consultation with the Scheme Actuary but not exceeding 15 years.

The calculation of the Overall Scheme Cost will be by reference to all of Sections I, II and III of the Scheme, except that future accrual of benefits provided to or in respect of, and contributions payable by or in respect of, Pre-Fresh Start prison officers will be excluded from the calculation.

- (7) The Standard Contribution Rate is the rate, expressed as a percentage of pensionable payroll, that would be sufficient to finance future benefits under the Scheme (except benefits provided to or in respect of Pre-Fresh Start prison officers) in the absence of any notional surplus

or deficit and assuming that actual experience is in line with the assumptions determined under rule B.1(2).

- (8) In paragraphs (6) and (7) “notional surplus” or “notional deficit” means an amount of notional surplus or deficit determined by the Scheme Actuary as being the amount by which the Scheme’s notional assets are more or less than the Scheme’s actual past service liabilities.
- (9) The Statement of Movement in Scheme Costs sets out—
- (a) the Movement in Scheme Costs (see paragraph (10)), and
 - (b) in a form agreed by the Minister and the Scheme Actuary to be sufficient to enable the Minister to carry out the Minister’s duty under rule B.2(3)(a)—
 - (i) a list of the elements which the Scheme Actuary determines have contributed to the Movement in Scheme Costs, and
 - (ii) the amount of the Movement in Scheme Costs that, in the Scheme Actuary’s view, relates to each listed element.
- (10) The Movement in Scheme Costs is equal to—

OSC – LFOSC

Where—

OSC is the Overall Scheme Cost for the current actuarial review, and

LFOSC is the Final Overall Scheme Cost from the previous actuarial review or, in relation to the first actuarial review, 18.9%.

B.2 Action required by the Minister following each actuarial review

- (1) After each actuarial review the Minister must take the steps required by paragraphs (3) to (8) of this rule.
- (2) The Minister may take advice from the Scheme Actuary in connection with any of the steps required by this rule.
- (3) Within 11 months of the Effective Date of the actuarial review the Minister must—
- (a) attribute each element listed in the Statement of Movement in Scheme Costs (see rule B.1(9)(b)) to one or more Cost Categories (see rule B.3) in such proportions as the Minister may decide. This sub-paragraph is subject to rules B.3(2), (3) and (4);

- (b) determine the following amounts—
 - (i) the Capped Employer Cost (see rule B.4),
 - (ii) the Notional Average Employer Contribution (see rule B.5),
 - (iii) the Actual Average Employer Contribution (see rule B.6), and
 - (iv) the Residual Cost Pressure (see rule B.7); and
- (c) inform the Governance Group and the CCSU of—
 - (i) the Cost Categories into which each element listed in the Statement of Movement in Scheme Costs has been attributed under paragraph (3)(a), and
 - (ii) the amounts determined under paragraph (3)(b).
- (4) If the Residual Cost Pressure is a positive amount—
 - (a) the Minister must consider any report presented by the Governance Group to the Minister on options for handling the Residual Cost Pressure but only if the report is presented to the Minister within 15 months of the Effective Date of the actuarial review,
 - (b) after consultation with the Scheme Actuary and the CCSU or such other persons appearing to the Minister to represent persons likely to be affected by those scheme changes and within 21 months of the Effective Date of the actuarial review, the Minister must prepare an Implementation Plan which requires one or more scheme changes to be made to eliminate the Residual Cost Pressure, and
 - (c) the Minister must take steps to ensure that any scheme changes required by the Implementation Plan take effect no later than 24 months after the Effective Date of the actuarial review.
- (5) If the Residual Cost Pressure is a negative amount it must be held in reserve and offset from the Residual Cost Pressure arising at the next actuarial valuation in accordance with rule B.7(1).
- (6) The Minister must instruct the Scheme Actuary to produce a Final Actuarial Report that includes—
 - (a) the Overall Scheme Cost,
 - (b) the Statement of Movement in Scheme Costs,

- (c) the Capped Employer Cost,
 - (d) the Notional Average Employer Contribution,
 - (e) the Actual Average Employer Contribution,
 - (f) the Residual Cost Pressure,
 - (g) where the Residual Cost Pressure is a positive amount, details of the steps taken to eliminate the Residual Cost Pressure,
 - (h) where the Residual Cost Pressure is a negative amount, details of the amount held in reserve in accordance with rule B.2(5), and
 - (i) the Final Overall Scheme Cost (see rule B.8).
- (7) The Minister must arrange for the Final Actuarial Report to be published no later than 21 months after the Effective Date of the actuarial review.
- (8) The Minister must, where necessary, adjust the rates of employers' contributions payable to the Scheme under rule 15.1 of the 1972 Section, rule C.3 of the 2002 Section or rule D.3 of the 2007 Section so that, no later than 24 months after the Effective Date of the actuarial review, the average rate of contributions payable by the employers of active members (other than contributions payable in relation to Pre-Fresh Start prison officers) is estimated to be at or no less than the level of the Actual Average Employer Contribution.

B.3 Cost Categories

- (1) The Cost Categories are—
- (a) Cost Sharing and Cost Capping,
 - (b) Cost Capping Only,
 - (c) Employers Only,
 - (d) Members Only, and
 - (e) Elements Outside the Scope of Cost Sharing and Cost Capping.
- (2) The Minister must attribute to Cost Capping Only any of the Movement in Scheme Costs that the Scheme Actuary has listed in the Statement of Movement in Scheme Costs as relating to the admission of new members into the 2007 Section rather than the 2002 Section.

- (3) The Minister must attribute to Employers Only any of the Movement in Scheme Costs that the Scheme Actuary has listed in the Statement of Movement in Scheme Costs as relating to the following—
- (a) changes to scheme administration costs,
 - (b) changes to financial assumptions,
 - (c) changes to actuarial methodology, and
 - (d) the effect of overpayments by employers.
- (4) The Minister must attribute to Members Only any of the Movement in Scheme Costs that the Scheme Actuary has listed in the Statement of Movement in Scheme Costs as relating to the effect of overpayments by active members.

B.4 The Capped Employer Cost

- (1) The Capped Employer Cost is the greater of—
- (a) 20%, and
 - (b) the amount obtained by applying the following formula—

$$\mathbf{PCEC + EO.}$$

- (2) In paragraph (1)—

PCEC is the Capped Employer Cost stated in the Final Actuarial Report from the previous actuarial review or, in the case of the first actuarial review, 20%, and

EO is the amount of Movement in Scheme Costs from the current actuarial review attributed by the Minister to Employers Only but excluding any such amount listed in the Statement of Movement in Scheme Costs as relating to the effect of overpayments by employers.

B.5 The Notional Average Employer Contribution

- (1) The Notional Average Employer Contribution is the lesser of—
- (a) the amount obtained by applying the following formula—
- $$\mathbf{PAEC + EO + CC + \frac{1}{2} SC,}$$
- and
- (b) the Capped Employer Cost (see rule B.4).

- (2) In paragraph (1)—

PAEC is the Notional Average Employer Contribution stated in the Final Actuarial Report from the previous actuarial review or, in the case of the first actuarial review, 18.9%,

EO is the amount of the Movement in Scheme Costs from the current actuarial review attributed by the Minister to Employers Only,

CC is the amount of the Movement in Scheme Costs from the current actuarial review attributed by the Minister to Cost Capping Only, and

SC is the amount of the Movement in Scheme Costs from the current actuarial review attributed by the Minister to Cost Sharing and Cost Capping.

B.6 The Actual Average Employer Contribution

- (1) The Actual Average Employer Contribution is the greater of—
- (a) the Actual Average Employer Contribution stated in the Final Actuarial Report from the previous actuarial review or, in the case of the first actuarial review, 18.9%, and
 - (b) the Notional Average Employer Contribution.

B.7 The Residual Cost Pressure

- (1) The Residual Cost Pressure is the amount obtained by applying the following formula—

$$\mathbf{MO} + \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{SC} + \mathbf{CB} + \mathbf{NRCP}.$$

- (2) In paragraph (1)—

MO is the amount of the Movement in Scheme Costs from the current actuarial review attributed by the Minister to Members Only,

SC is the amount of the Movement in Scheme Costs from the current actuarial review attributed by the Minister to Cost Sharing and Cost Capping,

CB is—

- (a) the amount obtained by applying the formula set out in rule B.5(1)(a) less the Capped Employer Cost (see rule B.4), or
- (b) where (a) is a negative number, zero, and

NRCP is the amount of any negative Residual Cost Pressure held in reserve from the previous actuarial review under rule B.2(5).

B.8 The Final Overall Scheme Cost

- (1) Unless paragraph (2) applies, the Final Overall Scheme Cost for an actuarial review is the Notional Average Employer Contribution for that review.
- (2) This paragraph applies where rule B.2(5) applies to the actuarial review (Residual Cost Pressure is a negative amount). In that case, the Final Overall Scheme Cost is the Notional Average Employer Contribution for that review reduced by the amount of the negative Residual Cost Pressure.

Part C

The Governance Group

C.1 Establishment and role of the Governance Group

- (1) The Minister may establish a Governance Group to come into effect on 1 October 2008 or at such other date as the Minister may decide.
- (2) The role of the Governance Group will be determined by the Minister from time to time, following consultation with the CCSU.

C.2 Composition of the Governance Group and appointments, resignations and removals

- (1) The Governance Group will consist of—
 - (a) five persons appointed by the Minister (each known as a “Cabinet Office appointee”),
 - (b) five persons appointed by the CCSU (each known as a “union appointee”), and
 - (c) an independent chairperson appointed by the Minister after consultation with the CCSU.
- (2) Subject to paragraph (3), each appointment apart from the chairperson’s will last until the earliest of—
 - (a) 3 years after the date of appointment,
 - (b) resignation by the appointee (see paragraph (4)), or
 - (c) removal of the appointee (see paragraph (5)).
- (3) The terms of office of the first 10 appointees to the Governance Group shall be as follows—
 - (a) the first Cabinet Office appointee and the first union appointee shall hold office for 3 years (or, if earlier, until resignation or removal),
 - (b) the second and third Cabinet Office and union appointees shall each hold office for 4 years (or, if earlier, until resignation or removal), and
 - (c) the fourth and fifth Cabinet Office and union appointees shall each hold office for 5 years (or, if earlier, until resignation or removal).

- (4) An appointee to the Governance Group may resign by giving notice in writing to the chairperson, with a copy to the Cabinet Office and the CCSU. The chairperson may resign by giving notice in writing to the Cabinet Office.
- (5) A Cabinet Office appointee may be removed by notice in writing from the Minister. A union appointee may be removed by notice in writing from the CCSU.
- (6) Where there are less than 5 Cabinet Office appointees at any time, the Minister may appoint further persons but there must be no more than 5 Cabinet Office appointees (excluding the chairperson) at any time.
- (7) Where there are less than 5 union appointees at any time, the CCSU may appoint further persons but there must be no more than 5 union appointees at any time.
- (8) The Minister must review the appointment of the chairperson from time to time and may remove the chairperson or appoint a replacement at any time after consultation with the CCSU.

C.3 Payment of fees and expenses

The Minister may—

- (a) pay fees to or in respect of the chairperson of such amounts as the Minister may determine, and
- (b) reimburse the chairperson in respect of any expenses incurred by the chairperson in the performance of the chairperson's functions.

C.4 Procedure

- (1) The Governance Group may determine its own procedure (including quorum).
- (2) The Governance Group may establish committees and sub-committees and may determine the procedure (including quorum) for any such committees or enable those committees to regulate their own procedures.
- (3) The Governance Group may take advice from the Scheme Actuary in connection with preparing a report for the Minister on options for handling the Residual Cost Pressure (see rule B.2(4)(a)).
- (4) The Cabinet Office will meet the costs of the advice provided by the Scheme Actuary under paragraph (3) to the extent that the Governance Group has acted reasonably in requesting such advice.”.