

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO
THE OCCUPATIONAL PENSIONS (REVALUATION) ORDER 2007

2007 No. 3369

1. 1.1 This explanatory memorandum has been prepared by the Department for Work and Pensions and is laid before Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

2. Description

2.1 This instrument sets out the percentages by which preserved pensions are to be revalued in occupational pension schemes.

3. Matters of special interest to the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments

3.1 None.

4. Legislative Background

4.1 The Secretary of State is required by law to lay an Order each year which sets out the minimum required level of revaluation for pension rights (excluding Guaranteed Minimum Pensions) of people who were early leavers from salary related occupational pension schemes on or after 1 January 1986 where the accrued rights have been left in the scheme.

5. Territorial Extent and Application

5.1 This instrument applies to Great Britain.

6. European Convention on Human Rights

As the instrument is subject to negative resolution procedure and does not amend primary legislation, no statement is required.

7. Policy Background

7.1 Sections 83-86 of, and Schedule 3 to, the Pension Schemes Act 1993 provide for preserved pension rights to be revalued. The revaluation provisions, first introduced in the Social Security Act 1985, are designed to protect early leavers from the effects of inflation. The requirement applies to rights of members who leave pensionable service on or after 1 January 1986 where there is at least a year between the date of leaving and the member attaining their scheme's normal pension age.

7.2 The Order sets out the revaluation required (over and above Guaranteed Minimum Pension rights) for people who will reach their scheme's normal pension age in 2008.

7.3 The increase must be at least in line with the full RPI increase over the whole period of deferment or 5% compound per annum whichever is the lower.

7.4 People who left pensionable employment on or after 1 January 1991 have all deferred rights revalued, including pre-1986 service. People who left between 1 January 1986 and 31 December 1990 have a right to a revaluation only of the rights accrued from pensionable service on or after 1 January 1985.

7.5 An example of revaluation follows. A person leaves an employment in 1996. When he leaves, the pension rights he has accrued in his occupational pension scheme are preserved within the scheme. At the time he leaves in 1996 the value of his pension is £30 per week. In 2008, the person reaches the normal pension age of his former scheme and is therefore entitled to a pension. Before the pension is put into payment, the scheme will revalue it using the appropriate percentage from the Order. For a person who ceased pensionable service in 1996 the appropriate percentage is 35.3%. (No revaluation applies for part years, so the revaluation period starts from 1 January 1997.) The original amount of the pension, £30, will therefore be uplifted by this percentage to give a new pension entitlement of £40.59.

7.6 The Order should not be contentious. It has negligible impact on business costs because the scheme actuary will have built in provision for revaluation when working out a scheme's funding requirement.

7.7 There is no requirement in sections 182 to 186 of the Pension Schemes Act 1993 to consult on the Order. It does not amend other legislation.

8. Impact

8.1 This Order amends an existing regulatory regime by a pre-determined formula such as the rate of inflation. Publication of a full Impact Assessment is not necessary for such legislation.

9. Contact

Tim Found at the Department for Work and Pensions Tel: 020 7962 8564 or e-mail: tim.found@dwp.gsi.gov.uk can answer any queries regarding the instrument.