

NHS Superannuation Scheme (Scotland) Circular No. 18/2008

Chief Executives, HR Managers and Payroll Managers of:

NHS Health Boards

NHS Quality Improvement Scotland

NHS National Services Scotland

NHS Health Scotland

NHS Education Scotland

Scottish Ambulance Service

Golden Jubilee National Hospital

State Hospital

NHS 24

Mental Welfare Commission

GP Practice Managers

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Your ref:

Our ref: NHS Circular 18/2008

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Dear Sir/Madam

CHANGES IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE NHS SUPERANNUATION SCHEME

I have written to you previously to advise you of the work being undertaken by SPPA to procure and implement a new Pension Administration System (PAS) to administer the NHS Superannuation Scheme and the other schemes for which the Agency is responsible. This circular provides an update of progress.

During 2006 the Agency undertook a rigorous procurement and evaluation process to ensure it selected the correct supplier to provide their new PAS. Heywood Ltd were the successful company and in March 2007 a contract was agreed to supply SPPA with their PAS which is known as *AX/Se* for a period of 8 years.

Over the past 19 months the Agency has been working closely with Heywood to develop, test and implement the new PAS. This testing has ensured that the system can be used to administer both the new NHS pension scheme introduced on 1 April 2007 as well as the previous scheme.

SPPA is also responsible for administering the Scottish Teachers Superannuation Scheme (STSS) and it was agreed in the early stages of the project that the Teachers scheme would be the first to go-live. I can confirm that the administration of the Teachers scheme successfully switched to Heywood's *AX/Se* system on 26 September 2008.

At a meeting on 6th November 2008 the Agency confirmed that the go-live date for the implementation of *AX/Se* for the NHS scheme will be 4 May 2009. Although a little later than originally planned, the Agency concluded that due to existing and additional business pressures across the Agency, early May 2009 would be a realistic date to aim for and would minimise business risk. In addition a more substantial period between the STSS and NHS

go live dates will enable us to carry out a review of the progress to date and use lessons learned to further improve the process for the NHS implementation.

At present there will be no change to employing organisations in terms of communication, and the way in which they provide the standard information the Agency requires before the start of the next report year i.e. 01/04/2009.

During 2009/10 the Agency aims to introduce a number of service enhancements including improved employer interfaces; more robust data validation processes; and a range of web/online services for employers and members - including access to Pension Calculators. This may have an impact on the way in which employing organisations provide member data to the Agency. However the Agency is committed to consulting with representatives of employing organisations as the services are developed to ensure that their needs are fully considered before any change is made.

To succeed, this project needs the support and engagement of all our key stakeholders within the NHS. This will ensure that the new system provides clear business benefits for employer organisations, pension scheme members and the Agency alike.

If you have any comments or questions then please do not hesitate to contact me at pcpteam@scotland.gsi.gov.uk.

Yours faithfully



Neville Mackay
Chief Executive