

Pensions Update – NHS Scotland Superannuation Scheme and NEST

Pensionable Earnings Bands and Contribution Rates 2021/22

The Scottish Public Pensions Agency (SPPA) has issued a notification to NHS Scotland Employers advising of the pensionable earnings bands and employee contribution rates which are effective from 1 April 2021.

The pensionable earnings bandings, which have been uplifted to reflect the NHS Scotland pay uplift for 2020/21, are to be applied for all sections within the NHS Scotland Superannuation Scheme i.e. 1995, 2008 and 2015 CARE sections. There is no change to the contribution percentage rates.

Pensionable earnings band in 2020/2021	Contribution percentage rate in 2021/2022
Up to £20,605	5.2%
£20,606 to £24,972	5.8%
£24,973 to £31,648	7.3%
£31,649 to £64,094	9.5%
£64,095 to £89,731	12.7%
£89,732 to £119,560	13.7%
£119,561 and above	14.7%

The employer contribution rate continues to be 20.9% from 1 April 2021.

My Pension – Online Services

Members are encouraged to register for SPPA Online services, which allows them access to

- View or print previous and current pension statements
- Use the online calculators to calculate pension and lump sum options
- Record details of their death benefits nominee, or advise of any changes
- Contact SPPA with any pension enquiries

In order to register for these services, please visit

<https://pensions.gov.scot/online-services>

CARE Scheme(2015) Revaluation

The NHS Pension Scheme 2015 Regulations provide for annual revaluation by reference to changes in prices. For active members this is at the rate of CPI plus 1.5%; for deferred members at the rate of CPI included in any Pension Increase (Review) Order.

As a result of the increase for CPI, the in-service revaluation for the 2015 NHS Pension Scheme (Scotland) in respect of 2020/21 will be 2.0%

Pensions Indexation

Public service pensions in payment, together with those that are deferred for payment at a future date, are indexed annually based on the annual change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) measured as at the previous September.

In the 12 months to September 2020, CPI was 0.5%. As a result, an increase of 0.5% is to be applied from 12 April 2021 for pensions in payment and deferred pensions.

Full details of all SPPA Circulars can be accessed via their website
<http://www.sppa.gov.uk>

NEST (National Employee Savings Trust)

The Pensions Regulator has advised of the minimum contribution rates for employees and employers from 1 April 2019. The employee rate will increase from 3% to 5%, whilst the employer rate will increase from 2% to 3%.