

24 November 2008

All LGPS Pension Managers
in England and Wales

Our Ref:
Your Ref:

Dear Pension Manager

Local Government Pension Scheme - Ill Health Statutory Guidance

I attach a copy of the Local Government Pension Scheme Ill Health Statutory Guidance. **Please pass a copy of this guidance to every employer participating in your Fund, your appointed independent registered medical practitioners, and other interested parties who need to use the guidance.**

This guidance is issued, under Regulation 56(3) of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Administration) Regulations 2008, to all administering authorities, employing authorities, other employers who are admitted to the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS), Independent Registered Medical Practitioners (IRMP) and other relevant interested parties in England and Wales with statutory responsibilities under the new LGPS that came into effect on 1 April 2008.

Employers, administering authorities and IRMPs must have regard to this guidance when carrying out their functions under Regulation 20 of the LGPS (Benefits, Membership and Contributions) Regulations 2007 (SI 2007/1166) as amended by the LGPS (Amendment) Regulations 2008 (SI 2008/1083), and Regulation 56 of the LGPS (Administration) Regulations 2008.

In this guidance, the term 'employer' relates to local authority employing authorities and other employers participating in the Scheme.

This guidance includes details of the relevant statutory provisions and an explanation of the operation of the new ill-health retirement benefit provisions as they apply from 1 April 2008. The background and policy development for the new ill health framework is at Annex A. Two model ill health certificates are provided at Annex B and C to assist employers participating in the scheme, and independent doctors will need to complete a certificate for each ill health retirement case.

The Ill Health Monitoring Group (IHMG) has been set up to evaluate the effectiveness of the new LGPS ill health framework, and the Group will ask for relevant data about the application of the new regulations to inform their work. The IHMG is able to make recommendations for changes to the regulatory framework in the light of experience of implementing the new ill health provisions.

The Secretary of State will keep the content of the guidance under review and will update it as necessary, in the light of recommendations from the IHMG, or experience of administering authorities, employers, IRMPs and others, in the application of this guidance.

The guidance will shortly be available on the website at <http://www.xoq83.dial.pipex.com/index.htm>

Yours faithfully

Lynda Jones

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