

To: Chief Executives  
 Salaries and Wages  
 Human Resources  
 Pension Contacts

Circular 08/2014

27 June 2014

At: All Employing Authorities

Dear Colleagues,

**Employer Training Event - Policy Discretions for the 2015 Scheme  
 22 and 23 January 2015**

The purpose of this circular is to give employers advance notice of two employer training seminars that will be held in Belfast on the 22 and 23 January 2015.

**Background**

We expect that regulations for the new Scheme, effective from 1 April 2015, will be made shortly. The draft regulations set out the discretionary functions on which each employer must have a published policy statement. Some of these discretions will be new and the new policy statements must be in place by 31 July 2015.

In order to help employers comply with the legal requirements we have organised two training seminars that will help employers prepare their policy statements for the new Scheme well in advance of the deadline.

**Details of the seminars**

The employer training seminars will be as follows:

Date	Venue	Time
Thursday 22 January 2015	Park Avenue Hotel 158 Hollywood Road Belfast, BT4 1PB	Times to be confirmed – afternoon
Friday 23 January 2015	Park Avenue Hotel 158 Hollywood Road Belfast, BT4 1PB	Times to be confirmed – morning

## **Intended Audience and Content**

These seminars are aimed at staff who have responsibility for drafting the policies and exercising the many discretions open to employers under the Local Government Pension Scheme (NI) and the associated Compensation provisions. It will be assumed that delegates will have some working knowledge of the LGPS (NI) and the compensation provisions.

## **Presenter**

The seminars will be presented by Tim Hazlewood, Pensions Training and Development Manager for the Local Government Association in England and Wales. Tim has recently conducted a similar series of seminars for the local government employers in England and Wales as their new Scheme was operational from 1 April 2014.

## **Booking**

As places are limited at both sessions please respond to our Communications Officer, Sinead O'Neill, at [Sinead.oneill@nilgosc.org.uk](mailto:Sinead.oneill@nilgosc.org.uk) to confirm attendance at either of the seminars, with the name, job title and email address of staff who wish to attend. We will confirm exact times of the seminars closer to January.

## **Reminder – policy statements under the current LGPS (NI) regulations**

Under the current LGPS (NI) regulations each employer must have an up-to-date published policy statement setting out how it will apply its discretions. Please ensure that you have forwarded a copy of your current policy statement to NILGOSC as we will refer to it before paying out any benefits where a discretion is being exercised.

Information and guidance on the current employer discretions is available on our website ([Employer Discretions](#)) along with a copy of NILGOSC's current policy.

Please do not hesitate to contact either our Employer Liaison Officer, Ruth Benson, Sinead or myself if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely



Zena Kee  
Pensions Manager