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02 March 2009

Circular 04/2009

To: Chief Executives  
Salaries and Wages Departments  
Human Resources Departments  
All Employing Authorities

Dear Colleagues

**Local Government Pension Scheme (Benefits, Membership and Contributions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009**  
**Local Government Pension Scheme (Administration) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009**  
**Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment and Transitional Provisions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009**

The Department of Environment has confirmed that the above regulations, which introduce the new look scheme from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009, were made on the 25<sup>th</sup> February 2009. You should receive a copy of these regulations from the Department of Environment within the next few weeks.

We understand that the new scheme will include the following:

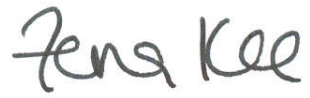
- Seven tier contribution rates.
- Two tier ill-health arrangements with a qualifying period of one year total membership. The top tier provides for an addition of 100% of potential total membership to age 65 providing the Committee's doctor certifies that the member is permanently incapable of their job and has no reasonable prospect of working again. The second tier provides for an addition of 25% of potential total membership to age 65 providing the Committee's doctor certifies that the member is permanently incapable of their job and has a reasonable prospect of obtaining any gainful employment before age 65.
- An employee must have a contract of employment of more than three months' duration to be a member of the scheme.

Employing authorities should now ensure that they inform all active members of the scheme of their new employee contribution rate (effective from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009) before 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009. The regulation regarding this has retrospective effect to 1<sup>st</sup> February 2009.

It is also necessary for employing authorities to establish which members cannot remain in the scheme after 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009, based on the new entry requirement, and inform both the member and NILGOSC (LGS15 Leavers Form).

A more detailed circular will follow once we have had an opportunity to consider the regulations in depth.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Zena Kee". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly informal style.

Zena Kee  
Pensions Manager