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| **Consultation Response Form****Consultation closing date: 28 June 2013****Your comments must reach us by that date** |
| Consultation Proposals for implementation of the reformed Teachers’ Pension Scheme in 2015 |

**If you would prefer to respond online to this consultation please use the following link:** [**https://www.education.gov.uk/consultations**](https://www.education.gov.uk/consultations)

Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal information, may be subject to publication or disclosure in accordance with the access to information regimes, primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Data Protection Act 1998.

If you want all, or any part, of your response to be treated as confidential, please explain why you consider it to be confidential.

If a request for disclosure of the information you have provided is received, your explanation about why you consider it to be confidential will be taken into account, but no assurance can be given that confidentiality can be maintained. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on the Department.

The Department will process your personal data (name and address and any other identifying material) in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998, and in the majority of circumstances, this will mean that your personal data will not be disclosed to third parties.

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If your enquiry is related to the DfE e-consultation website or the consultation process in general, you can contact the Ministerial and Public Communications Division by e-mail: consultation.unit@education.gsi.gov.uk or by telephone: 0370 000 2288 or via the Department's ['Contact Us'](file:///C%3A%5Chelp%5Ccontactus) page.

Please mark one box that best describes you as a respondent.

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1 Are the proposed arrangements clear, and, if they are not, what further guidance or support would be helpful?

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2 Are there any further issues the Department needs to consider in deciding whether or not to take account of residential emoluments as part of scheme member’s pensionable salary?

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3 Will the proposals help employers and scheme members to do more to ensure the accuracy of pension-related data and thus benefits?

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4 Are the proposed arrangements for death grants and dependants’ benefits clear and, if not, what further guidance or support would be helpful?

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5 Do you agree that the Department should amend the arrangements for enhancing dependants’ pensions where a scheme member dies in service to better target them to those in most need, in line with the ill-health retirement arrangements?

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| DfE | Comments: |

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6 Will the Department’s proposals for calculating ill-health benefits and short-service serious ill-health grants ensure scheme members continue to be appropriately supported, or is there anything else the Department needs to consider?

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7 Will the Department’s proposals for extending the time limits for making an in-service ill-health retirement application be sufficient to appropriately help those with difficult-to-diagnose or degenerative illnesses?

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8 Are the proposed arrangements sufficiently clear to help ensure that scheme members and employers can effectively manage the transition to the new arrangements?

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9 Do you agree that transitional scheme members who have passed their final salary Normal Pension Age and move within the public service should have the option to transfer their benefits provided their new pension scheme is within the Public Sector Transfer Club?

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10 Do the Department’s proposals for the operation of faster accrual provide scheme members with sufficient flexibility whilst also being practical to administer by employers and payroll providers?

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11 a) Should the option to buy-out the actuarial adjustment feature in the reformed scheme?

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11 b) Do you agree with the Department’s proposals for the operation of this option?

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12 The intention is to ease the administrative burdens on existing arrangements, especially for Multi Academy Trusts. Do the proposals outlined in this section address the main issues?  If not, why not?

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13 Do you agree that the proposed Premature Retirement Compensation arrangements will appropriately assist employers and members where early termination of employment is being considered?

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14 Does the proposed remit, structure and operation of the Board provide scheme members and employers with assurance over the administration of the scheme as recommended by Lord Hutton?

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15 Will the proposals ensure that the TPS continues to help employers to help scheme members manage effectively their careers and retirement?

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16 Will the proposals help scheme members to manage effectively their pension savings and plans?

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17 Are there any additional administrative, equality or practical issues that the Department needs to consider in implementing the new arrangements?

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Thank you for taking the time to let us have your views. We do not intend to acknowledge individual responses unless you place an 'X' in the box below.

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| Textbox | **Please acknowledge this reply.** |

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Here at the Department for Education we carry out our research on many different topics and consultations. As your views are valuable to us, would it be alright if we were to contact you again from time to time either for research or to send through consultation documents?

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All DfE public consultations are required to meet the Cabinet Office [Principles on Consultation](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/consultation-principles-guidance)

The key Consultation Principles are:

* departments will follow a range of timescales rather than defaulting to a 12-week period, particularly where extensive engagement has occurred before
* departments will need to give more thought to how they engage with and consult with those who are affected
* consultation should be ‘digital by default', but other forms should be used where these are needed to reach the groups affected by a policy; and
* the principles of the Compact between government and the voluntary and community sector will continue to be respected.

Responses should be completed on-line or emailed to the relevant consultation email box. However, if you have any comments on how DfE consultations are conducted, please contact Carole Edge, DfE Consultation Coordinator, tel: 0370 000 2288 / email: carole.edge@education.gsi.gov.uk

**Thank you for taking time to respond to this consultation.**

Completed responses should be sent to the address shown below by 28 June 2013

Send by post to:

Ministerial Public Communications Division
Department for Education,
LG36 Mowden Hall
Staindrop Road
Darlington
DL3 9BG

Send by e-mail to: reformedteacherspension.CONSULTATION@education.gsi.gov.uk