



Department  
of Health

# Consultation Summary of Responses

The draft National Health Service Pension Scheme,  
Additional Voluntary Contributions, Compensation for  
Premature Retirement and Injury Benefits (Amendment)  
Regulations 2014

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# Consultation

The Department of Health published for consultation a draft Statutory Instrument titled The National Health Service Pension Scheme, Additional Voluntary Contributions, Compensation for Premature Retirement and Injury Benefits (Amendment) Regulations 2014.

The consultation ran from 11 November 2013 to 9 December 2013, with responses invited by email or post.

The draft SI proposed changes to NHS Pension Scheme regulations to:

- Re-introduce provisions requiring the Scheme actuary to undertake an actuarial valuation of the NHS Pension Scheme as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012
- Implement the first phase of changes arising from and related to the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2013.

Background information is provided in the consultation document on the Gov.uk web page <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/nhs-pension-scheme-proposed-changes-to-regulations> or via NHS Pensions' website: <http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pensions>

## Consultation responses

Consultation on the draft amending regulations ended on 9 December 2013.

Those consulted included NHS trade unions, the NHS Employers organisation, scheme administrators, HM Treasury and other public service schemes.

The Department received four responses, but no objections to the draft regulations, from:

- The Federation of Clinical Scientists (FCS)
- NHS Employers organisation
- The Scheme administrators
- A scheme member

The response, on behalf of the FCS, advised that the Federation was content with the amendments.

*"FCS is content with the draft regulation amendments"*

NHS Employers, in their position as the voice of workforce leaders in the NHS, and NHS Pensions, the Scheme administrators, helpfully suggested some minor technical changes to the draft regulations.

The Department has taken the technical changes into account in the final version of the amending regulations.

The scheme member commented that she had found the content of the consultation document difficult to read but had found the regulations clear and easy to follow.

*“This paper is unnecessarily complicated to read and the use of jargon makes it impossible to follow the government’s intentions with this proposal. The application of Plain English would ensure full understanding of the planned changes to NHS pensions. In marked contrast the changes in Appendix A are clear and easily followed.”*

The Department acknowledged that much of the background detail included in the consultation document was technical and will endeavour to make future documentation easier to follow.