

## Transferring rights into the Scottish NHS or Teachers' pension schemes

You may apply to transfer your previous pension rights into the NHS Pension Scheme Scotland (NHSPS(S) or Scottish Teachers Pension Scheme (STPS).

If you have been a member of another HMRC registered pension scheme you can apply to transfer your pension rights into the scheme to buy a pension credit.

In most cases the transfer process is broken into 2 stages. The first stage involves us writing to your previous pension provider for a transfer quote. We will then write to you to advise what pension credit you can expect if you elect to proceed with the transfer. We will also provide you with an options form which must be returned if you want the transfer to go ahead.

The second stage starts when we receive your completed option form. This gives us authorisation to request the transfer payment from your previous provider. This option form must be received by us within 12 months from the date you joined the scheme. If the form is received late, the transfer may be completed on less favourable terms, and in some cases, the transfer application may be rejected.

Some providers will guarantee the transfer value for a specific period. If you do not return all the completed forms within the specified period, the final transfer value may be recalculated by your former provider which could produce a different service credit from the one previously quoted.

### Transfers into the NHSPS(S) from NHS England or NHS Northern Ireland

Members who elect to transfer in pension rights from another NHS pension scheme will receive like for like benefits providing they apply to transfer within 12 months of joining and have not had a break in service between the schemes exceeding 5 years.

If an application is made within the first 12 months and without a break in service exceeding 5 years the transfer will be completed without the need for an estimate. This is because the benefits you had in your previous scheme will be replicated within the NHSSS.

If a break of more than 5 years exists between the schemes, we will be required to ask for a quotation before proceeding with the transfer.

### Transfers into the STPS from other Teachers Pension Schemes within the UK

Applications to transfer other UK Teachers Pension Service into the STPS must be received within 12 months from the date of joining the STPS.

The only exception is for members who joined prior to 01/04/2015 with previous UK Teachers Pension Scheme service. These members can transfer on day for day terms providing they have elected to transfer prior to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017. In this scenario, we would not require a quotation.

### How long does it take?

The transfer process can take several months from application to completion. Any correspondence you receive from either the SPPA or your former pension provider should be acted upon and returned as quickly as possible as delays may be detrimental to the pension credit offered.