

An Coimisiún Pinsean The Pensions Commission

Closing Date for Submissions to the Public Consultation on State Pensions is Tuesday 9th March

- **Consultation has been ongoing for the past four weeks**
- **Number of options available for those wishing to take part**
- **Appeal to young people to participate**
- **Take part at www.pensionscommission.gov.ie**

Friday, 5th March, 2021

The deadline for submissions to the Pensions Commission's Public Consultation on State Pensions is on Tuesday 9th March 2021.

The Consultation, which has been running for the last four weeks, is an opportunity for people to have their say on the future of State Pensions in Ireland.

Submissions have been received from a wide range of people and backgrounds, and the Commission is appealing to any member of the public, including workers, self-employed, unemployed and retired people, employers and representative groups, carers and young people to participate if they have not already done so.

The submissions received will help inform the Commission's work and the future of State Pensions in Ireland.

People who are interested in taking part in the Consultation can still make a submission to the Commission, or they can complete an online survey. Written submissions can be sent in by email or post.

Ms. Josephine Feehily, Chair of the Pensions Commission said:

"The Pensions Commission looks forward to reviewing the submissions received as part of this Public Consultation. This is an important component of the work of the Commission, and the views from the public will inform our work."

"I am keen that as many as people as possible make a submission, or complete the online survey. Any reforms to the State Pension arrangements can potentially affect everyone in Ireland, in particular young people who may not have considered their pensions yet. It is important that we hear as wide a range of views as we can."

Further information and guidelines for preparing submissions is available in the *Have Your Say: Pensions Commission Consultation Paper* on the Pension Commission's website: <https://www.gov.ie/en/consultation/0a525-the-pensions-commission-consultation/>

Details about how to submit responses (by email or post, for written submissions; or through an online survey) are also available at this link.

For those wishing to respond to the 'Have Your Say' Pensions Commission Consultation Survey online, please go to <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/PensionsCommissionSurvey2021>

The closing date for written submissions or for the online survey is Tuesday 9th March 2021.

ENDS

Notes to the Editor:

In line with a Programme for Government commitment, the Commission has been asked to examine sustainability and eligibility issues in respect of State Pension arrangements and to develop options for the Government to address issues such as qualifying age, contribution rates, total contributions and eligibility requirements.

Action 5 of the Commission's terms of reference asked it to, "Seek views of recognised experts and representative/advocacy groups by inviting submissions and/or presentations."

The full terms of reference of the Pensions Commission are available on its website here: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/02859-about-the-pensions-commission/#terms-of-reference>

Consultation questions

The Pensions Commission seeks views on current State Pensions arrangements and how best to ensure that they are fiscally and socially sustainable into the future, in particular asking individuals and organisations to consider the following questions:

- 1. What do you expect from State Pensions?**
- 2. What's working with current State Pension arrangements?**
- 3. What concerns you with respect to current State Pension arrangements?**
- 4. How best to accommodate those who provided long-term care for most of their working lives?**
- 5. What specific policy, provision or other changes are needed to make State Pension arrangements sustainable into the future?**
- 6. What are your reform proposals for sustainable State Pension arrangements?**

There will also be the opportunity for people to include any other suggestions they might have to improve the sustainability of State Pensions.

Sustainability Challenges

- The deferral of the increase in the State Pension age will cost €221 million in 2021 and €453 million in a full year.
- Some €8.8 billion has been allocated to the department for pension payments in 2021 compared to €6.1 billion in 2011. This represents an increase from 29% of the overall social welfare budget in 2011 to 38% in 2021.

Further information

When people say the 'State Pension', they are usually referring to the main State Pension Contributory scheme (SPC) (previously the Old Age Pension). Along with the SPC there are several other State Pension schemes (collectively we call these 'State Pensions'). The SPC is the largest in terms of spend.

The term 'State Pension arrangements' is used to distinguish those aspects of the Irish State Pension system that directly relate to why, how much and in what way pension payments are made and to whom. Different State Pension schemes will have different arrangements.

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