

Minutes
<b>Flexibility, Technical Sub Committee Update, and Long-Term Carers</b>
Meeting of 19 <sup>th</sup> May 2021

## Pensions Commission

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### Minutes

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*Meeting held on Webex – start time 10am.*

*In Attendance:*

**Commission Members:** Josephine Feehily (Chair), Aedín Doris, Anne Vaughan, Ethel Buckley, Ian Power, Ita Mangan, Jackie Maguire, John McGrane, Roma Burke, Seamus Coffey, Tony Donohue

**Secretariat:** Roshin Sen, Louise Banable, Brian Purcell, Margaret Mulhall, Kasey Treadwell Shine

**Observers:** Alan Flynn (DSP), Felix O’Kane (DETE), Dympna McCorry (DPER), Sorsha Foran (DFIN)

**External participants (for item 2):** Dr Anne-Marie McGauran and Dr Helen Johnston, NESC

#### 1. Minutes and Matters Arising

- The minutes from meeting 11 were approved.
- The Chair and members expressed their appreciation for the contribution made by Dr. Kasey Treadwell Shine who was leaving the Secretariat on promotion.

#### 2. National Economic and Social Council Presentation: NESC’s Future of the Irish Social Welfare System: A focus on financial sustainability

- NESC policy analyst, Dr Anne-Marie McGauran, gave a presentation to Members on the recently published report *The Future of the Irish Social Welfare System: Participation and Protection*.
- The presentation focused on the financial sustainability of the social welfare system.

- Members expressed their appreciation for the insights provided by the speakers.

### **3. Technical Sub-Committee Update**

- The Technical Sub-Committee's Chair, Roma Burke, provided an update on its work, including a summary of population and labour force projections and the impact of the state pension on reducing poverty, which the members were invited to consider and endorse.
- It was agreed that the sub-committee's papers will be published with the Commission's Report.

### **4. Flexibility and the Total Contributions Approach**

- Secretariat introduced a Strawman paper on reform options.
- It was agreed that Members would discuss this topic further.

### **AOB**

- It was agreed that a sub-committee would consider the updated policy options for Long-Term Carers and report back to the Commission at a future meeting.

### **Documents to be published**

PC1101 *Meeting 11 Minutes* (Approved)

PC1200 *Meeting Agenda* (Approved)

## 5. Specific Action Points

Colour Code:

Closed/Agreed ■

In progress ■

Ongoing/Repeated Action ■

Not Started ■

**NB** Actions not included: 1) closed by previous meeting; 2) ongoing but with no change since previous meeting. See action log for full details.

ID	Action	Lead	Deadline	Status
PCA0102	Commission website to be published	Secretariat	Jan-21	Completed. See <a href="https://www.pensionscommission.gov.ie">PensionsCommission.gov.ie</a>
PCA0105	Generate note of Media coverage, recent developments and items of interest	Secretariat	Ongoing	Ongoing
PCA0109	Add 'checkpoints' at meeting 5 and periodically thereafter to sense-check if work and deliberations are interlinking issues systematically. Reframe meeting schedule as needed.	Chair with Secretariat	Meeting 5/then TBD	Ongoing
PCA0110	Establish whether the Widow/er's and Surviving Civil Partner's Pension is within the remit of the Commission's work	Secretariat	Meeting 3	See PQ circulated, Mtg 3. Decision still to be made
PCA0112	Consider, as part of labour market input in Meeting 4, a summary note on the prevalence of private contracts specifying a retirement age <66; produce descriptive statistics etc. position of 65-year-olds	DETE/Secretariat	Meeting 4	Closed see <a href="#">PCA0112Sec_LabourMarket_StatSnte</a>
PCA0113	Liaise with DETE colleagues to determine if there is a need for research around retirement age, the gap to pension age and issues arising	Secretariat	Meeting 4	Closed – see documents produced for Meeting 4 and findings from public consultation process.
PCA0114	Liaise with DFIN to determine the current position with respect to proposals to amalgamate USC and PRSI	DFIN	Meeting 9	Closed see <a href="#">PCA0114_USC-PRSI Amalgamation_Snte</a>
PCA0216	Provide age-breakdowns of those with no pensions cover from CSO Pension Coverage Survey	Secretariat		Closed see <a href="#">PCA0216Sec_AgeRangesPensCov_StatsNte</a>
PCA0317	Scope venues for a physical meeting dependent on Government advice	Secretariat	Early January 2021	Closed [venues checked, but no face to face meetings while under Level 5 restrictions]
PCA0318	Establish whether Government as employers pay PRSI	Secretariat	Meeting 4	Note generated. See <a href="#">PCA0318_StatePRSI Payments_SNte</a>

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PCA0319	Generate broader note on the examples of Social Insurance Systems in other countries, and, in particular, the structure of their Social Insurance Fund equivalent where relevant.	Secretariat	Meeting 5	Completed. See PCA0319_EUSIFCosts_Snte
PCA0320	Gather further data on the gap between effective retirement age and pension age	Secretariat	Meeting 4	Included in Meeting 4 Secretariat Labour Market note
PCA0321	Generate a detailed proposal for the first stage of the consultation process	Secretariat	Meeting 5	Completed. See PC0541CheckptConsult_ConsultationInfo_Sppr
PCA0322	Generate a high-level overview of the evolution of current schemes, rates and contributions	Secretariat	Meeting 5	Closed see PCA0322Sec_KeyDevelopStatePensionsArrangements_policybrf
PCA0323	Contact DETE in relation to consultation on mandatory sick pay	Secretariat	Meeting 4	Contact established
PCA0424	Draft note giving an overview of the Total Contributions Approach, implementation challenges	Secretariat	Meeting 6	Completed Meeting 6 – Please see:  PC0631 Secretariat Note: Overview of Calculation Methods and the Total Contributions Approach  PC0630 Secretariat Presentation on the Calculation Methods and the Total Contributions Approach
PCA0425	Provide overview and update of Automatic Enrolment	Secretariat	Meeting 5	Completed. See PCA0425Sec_AutoEnrolmentOverview_Snte
PCA0426	Follow up with ESRI on availability of data for Ireland on prevalence involuntary retirement versus involuntary work	Secretariat		In progress
PCA0427	Source labour force projections by age	Secretariat		Completed. See PCA0427_LabourForceProjections_SNte
PCA0428	Determine the extent to which WRC mediation services are used for mandatory retirement age cases, seek WRC data or professional inputs on these cases	Secretariat		Completed. See PCA0428_WRCMediation_SNte
PCA0429	Further information on duration of social welfare schemes by age and practices for 65-year olds	Secretariat		Completed. See PC0429_IllnessPayments_SNte
PCA0430	Note on tax arrangements by age in decumulation phase of occupational arrangements	Secretariat		Completed. See PCA0430_TaxDecumulation_SNte
PCA0431	Provide report and summary of the November 2020 Interdepartmental Pensions Reform and Taxation Group	Secretariat		Completed. See PCA0431_IDPRTGReportSummary_SNte
PCA0532	Generate Note on Universal Pensions	Secretariat	Meeting 6	Completed. See PCA0532_UniversalPensionOverview_Snte
PCA0533	Generate Note on Value for Money of the State Pension	Secretariat	Meeting 6	Completed. See PC0533Sec_CalcPolLvrS_Value

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PCA0634	Further information on applicants who are not eligible for SPC but qualify for SPNC	Secretariat		In progress
PCA0635	Generate note on the policy commitment re benchmarking and indexation of State Pension Rates	Secretariat	Meeting 7	Completed. See PCA0635_BenchmarkingIndexationRoadmap_Snte
PCA0736	Generate note on PAYG vs. Funded system	Secretariat		Completed. See PCA0736_PAYGvFunded_SNte.pdf
PCA0737	Revise Fiscal Sustainability paper	Secretariat		Not Started
PCA0738	Generate note on tax take from those aged 66 and over	Secretariat		Completed. See PCA0738_IncomeTax66_SNte
PCA0739	Note on the difference in approaches used by the IFAC and DSP in estimating the cost of not increasing the State pension age to 67	Secretariat		Completed. See PCA739_SPACostings_SNte
PCA0740	An updated note on the UK's default retirement age.	Secretariat		Completed. See PCA0740_UKRetAgeRepeal_SNte
PCA0841	Upload submissions to Decision Time	Secretariat		Completed.
PCA0842	Further information on the Benchmarking process.	Secretariat		Completed. See PCA0842_BenchIndex_IllustrativeApproach_revised.pdf
PCA0843	Note on labour market attachment of younger people	Secretariat		Not Started
PCA0844	Note on the introduction of the Single Public Service Pension Scheme	DPER		Completed. See PCA0844_SinglePublicServicePension_PolicyBrf
PCA0845	Note on public service retirement age of 70	DPER		Completed. See PCA0845_PublicServiceRetirementAge_PolicyBrf
PCA0946	Note on employment supports for carers provided through Dormant Accounts Fund			Completed. See PCA0946_CarersDormantAccountsFund_PolicyBrf
PCA0946	Generate note on pension age costing over time	Secretariat	Meeting 10	Completed. See PC1041_FundPenAgeCarers_SPAFiscallImpacts_SNte.
PCA0947	Note on Means Test for Carer's Allowance	Secretariat		Completed. See PCA0947_MeansTestCarersAllowance_SNte
PCA0948	Further information on demographic changes	Secretariat	Meeting 10	Completed. Members agreed the establishment of a Technical sub-committee at Meeting 10
PCA0949	Note on why women born before 1 September 1946 cannot benefit from interim TCA	Secretariat		Completed. See PCA0949_1946InterimTCA_SNte
PCA0950	Note on categorisation or arduous/hazardous jobs	Secretariat		Completed. See PCA0950_ArduousWorkandPensionsOptions_SNte
PCA1051	Note on non-cash benefits for pensioners	Secretariat		Not Started

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