

**National Health Service Superannuation Scheme  
Circular No 9 / 2007**

Chief Executives, HR Managers and Payroll Managers of:

NHS Health Boards

NHS Quality Improvement Scotland

NHS National Services Scotland

NHS Health Scotland

NHS Education Scotland

Scottish Ambulance Service

Golden Jubilee National Hospital

State Hospital

NHS 24

Mental Welfare Commission

GP Practice Managers

Direction Bodies

Members of the Pensions Technical Working Group

Chair of the NHS HR Forum

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7 November 2007

Dear Sir/Madam,

**SUPERANNUATION (NHS) CIRCULAR No 2007 / 9**

**CHANGES IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE NHS SUPERANNUATION SCHEME**

I have written to you previously to advise you of the work being undertaken by SPPA to procure and implement a new Pension Administration System (PAS) to administer the NHS Superannuation Scheme and the other schemes for which the Agency is responsible. This circular provides an update of progress.

During 2006 the Agency prepared its Requirements for a new PAS and entered into a restricted procurement process. This resulted in five companies submitting a response to the SPPA Requirements. A detailed and robust evaluation of those five responses was carried out by the Agency and in March 2007 Heywood Ltd was selected to supply SPPA with their Pension Administration System which is known as *Axise*.

The Agency is now working closely with Heywood Ltd to develop and test *Axise* so that it fully meets the needs of the NHS Superannuation Scheme. In parallel with this, discussions have also been concluded about the nature of the NHS pension scheme reforms which have been under discussion by the Scottish Pensions Review Group (SPensiR). Scottish Ministers formally agreed the contents of the new scheme with NHS employers and Trades Unions on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2007. Work is now progressing to prepare the regulations to introduce amendments to the current NHS Scheme and a new scheme for those joining the NHS scheme for the first time from 1 April 2008. Employers and staff have been informed of the forthcoming changes in the recent SPPA circular 8/2007 and information has been placed on the SPPA website

The impact of these developments for employing organisations at this moment should be relatively limited. During 2007/08 the Agency will be responsible for making any amendments to the standard information received from NHS employers, and for any changes to the format of that information. However, during 2008/09 the Agency hopes to introduce a number of service enhancements including improved employer interfaces; more robust data validation processes; and a range of web/online services for employers and members - including access to Pension Calculators. This may have an impact on the way in which employing organisations provide member data to the Agency. However the Agency will consult with employing organisations as the services are developed to ensure that their needs are fully considered before any change is made.

To succeed, this project needs the support and engagement of all our key stakeholders within the NHS. This will ensure that the new system provides clear business benefits for employer organisations, pension scheme members and the Agency alike.

If you have any comments or questions then please do not hesitate to contact me at [pcpteam@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:pcpteam@scotland.gsi.gov.uk).

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Neville Mackay". The signature is written in black ink and is flanked by short horizontal lines on both sides.

**Neville Mackay**  
**Chief Executive**  
**Scottish Public Pensions Agency.**

