



Department
of Health

Review of Access Provisions

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#NHSPensionScheme

Review Background

The Access and new Fair Deal stakeholder agreement included a commitment to review the arrangements in the light of the original policy aims and provide:

- An evaluation of the revised Access policy to date
- An assessment of how successfully the arrangements have been implemented
- A summary of the feedback from all stakeholder groups
- Where necessary, further recommendations for how the new arrangements could evolve, and
- Identification of any barriers to the policy.

HM Treasury recommended that the reviews be conducted at 1 and 5 year intervals.

Policy Aims

- Delivery of fair playing field in pension access
- Enable a good standard of occupational pension across providers of NHS contracts
- Continued viability of the NHS Pension Scheme
- Continued access to the NHS Pension Scheme for staff delivering NHS services enabling portability of pension
- Support and build on the Treasury New Fair Deal policy

Scope of the review

- Coverage and effectiveness of the regulations
- Ease of implementation
- Uptake of access to the NHSPS
- Impact on existing NHS access arrangements
- Effectiveness of new control mechanisms
- Instances of disputes/challenges
- Impact on the government's balance sheet
- Impact of the new Hutton arrangements

Review Data

- What data is required?
- What format is required?
- Implications for commissioners, providers?
- Gathering soft intelligence?
- How do we gather intelligence from those not engaging in the policy?

Timings

- The main review work will take place between October 2014 and March 2015
- The final report will be available in May 2015
- A further review will be carried out in year 5 to allow for both a short and longer term assessment of their effectiveness