

Government Superannuation Fund

Schemes Administration Newsletter

September
2017

Member contact details

It is important members keep their contact details up to date and maintain contact with Datacom. This is particularly important if members have ceased Government service and are not yet in receipt of their entitlement.

Any change in personal details, such as address, must be made in writing by completing a **Change in Personal Details** form, available on the GSF Authority's website, and must be signed by the member.

Spouse Entitlements

If a GSF contributor or annuitant passes away and is survived by a spouse or de facto partner, he or she may be entitled to a spouse allowance payable for their lifetime. The GSF Act also provides options for members to increase the entitlements due to a surviving spouse or dependent either at or after retirement.

To find out more about what your spouse may be entitled to, as well as the requirements and provisions relating to the payment of spouse entitlements, please see the booklets 'Retiring Allowance Options' (GS2) and 'Information' (GS6).

Payment of entitlements

Current contributors to GSF are only eligible for payment of an entitlement on cessation of Government service, regardless of the member's age.

Member elections are subject to certain timeframes. Members should read correspondence carefully to ensure they are complying with the specified timeframe and should contact Datacom if there is any delay in making an election.

Failure to return election forms within the timeframe may result in payments being deferred or certain options ceasing to be available to the member.

Member Update

This is an important update to members of the Government Superannuation Fund (GSF).

It confirms procedures and requirements which relate to future GSF entitlements. Further information can be found on the following websites:

www.datacomgsf.co.nz

www.gsfa.govt.nz

Contribution arrears

Arrears of contributions: Where arrears of a member's contributions are identified, Datacom will advise the member's employer of the arrears and request payment by the employer in the next available pay period. The employer's payroll will then contact the member direct to arrange recovery of the underpaid amounts.

Leave without Pay arrears: Leave without pay arrears will continue to be charged direct to the member.

Historical arrears: If historical arrears are identified, or if a member is no longer employed with the same employer they were with when the underpayment occurred, Datacom will normally contact the member direct requesting payment.

It is GSF policy to charge interest on any amounts owed by members that are not paid when they fall due. This includes contribution arrears and any amounts payable when a member takes a period of leave without pay.

It is essential that when you are advised of any amounts owing to GSF, including any interest then due, you arrange for payment to be made within the timeframe stated to avoid additional interest charges applying.

Changes to your employment

Changes to your employment conditions may mean you are no longer eligible to continue contributing to GSF.

This may include changes such as:

- moving to temporary (fixed-term) or casual contracts;
- moving between full time and part time service, or other changes in your hours of work;
- any period of secondment, whether with the same employer or a different employer;
- commencing with a new employer.

If you are considering changing your employment arrangement, you should contact Datacom before any change takes effect to confirm if and how your GSF membership status and entitlements may be affected. Please note fixed-term employment is not superable for GSF purposes.

All members who wish to recommence or continue contributions on joining a new employer must complete a Cessation of Government Service Form (GS20/1) and a Rejoining Form (GS1).

Election to cease contributions and receive a deferred pension

Members may elect to cease contributing to GSF and receive a deferred pension, provided they are contributing to another registered New Zealand superannuation scheme. The member's contributions remain in GSF and the deferred pension is payable from the later of the member:

- ceasing service with the employer they were with at the time contributions ceased;
- reaching age 50;
- the payment date ticked on their election form;
- 3 months after the election to commence payment of the deferred pension is received by Datacom

The further election to commence payment must be made by completing an **Election for Payment of a Deferred Pension** (GS61R) form, available upon request from Datacom. Note payment can only be made from a future date, at least 3 months in the future, and cannot be backdated.

Deferred retiring allowances

On ceasing Government service, members of some GSF Schemes may, with sufficient contributory service, elect to leave their contributions in GSF and receive payment of a deferred allowance from age 50 or later.

To commence payment of their deferred allowance, members must complete an **Election for payment of a Deferred Retiring Allowance** (GS61S) form, available upon request from Datacom.

The deferred retiring allowance is payable from a future date and cannot be backdated. Members should contact Datacom as soon as they know the date they wish to receive payment of their allowance to commence to ensure it commences from the intended date.

Note that the pension factor, based on the member's age at payment, reaches a maximum at a certain age (New General Scheme: 65, Prisons Scheme: 58, Police Scheme: 55). Members should take this into consideration when deciding whether to defer receipt of their allowance in these circumstances.

Datacom GSF Schemes Administration

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GSF information booklets and forms

Booklets and forms are available on request from Datacom and may be downloaded from the GSF Authority's website: www.gsfa.govt.nz under **Members > Forms and Booklets**. These booklets contain information and forms for GSF members and employers.

Disclaimer

This newsletter is a summary of some of the provisions of the GSF Act, regulations made pursuant to the GSF Act and policy decisions including those set out in the statement of policies. While every effort is made to ensure the information contained in this newsletter is accurate, it is intended as a guide only and is in no way binding on any person, and does not prevail over any applicable law or policy decision. To the fullest extent permitted by law, neither the Authority, Datacom, nor any person accepts any liability for any loss, damage, cost or expense that may arise from any reliance on any information contained in this newsletter. This newsletter does not create any legal or equitable rights exercisable by any person.