



Pensions Act 1995

1995 CHAPTER 26

PART I

OCCUPATIONAL PENSIONS

Functions of trustees

[^{F1}37 Payment of surplus to employer.

- (1) This section applies to a trust scheme if—
- (a) apart from this section power is conferred on the employer or any other person to make payments to the employer out of funds held for the purposes of the scheme, and
 - (b) the scheme is not being wound up.

[But this section does not apply in the case of any of the payments listed in paragraphs ^{F2}(1A) (c) to (f) of section 175 of the Finance Act 2004 (authorised employer payments other than public service scheme payments or authorised surplus payments).]

- (2) Where the power referred to in subsection (1)(a) is conferred by the scheme on a person other than the trustees—
- (a) it cannot be exercised by that person but may instead be exercised by the trustees, and
 - (b) any restriction imposed by the scheme on the exercise of the power shall, so far as capable of doing so, apply to its exercise by the trustees.
- (3) The power referred to in subsection (1)(a) may only be exercised if—
- (a) the trustees have obtained a written valuation of the scheme's assets and liabilities prepared and signed by a prescribed person;
 - (b) there is a certificate in force—
 - (i) stating that in the opinion of that person the prescribed requirements are met as at the date by reference to which the assets are valued and the liabilities are calculated, and

Changes to legislation: Pensions Act 1995, Section 37 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 12 April 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

- (ii) specifying what in the opinion of that person is the maximum amount of payment that may be made to the employer;
 - (c) the payment does not exceed the maximum amount specified in the certificate;
 - (d) the trustees are satisfied that it is in the interests of the members that the power is exercised in the manner proposed;
 - (e) where the power is conferred by the scheme on the employer, the employer has asked for the power to be exercised, or consented to its being exercised, in the manner proposed;
 - (f) there is no freezing order in force in relation to the scheme under section 23 of the Pensions Act 2004; and
 - (g) notice of the proposal to exercise the power has been given, in accordance with prescribed requirements, to the members of the scheme.
- (4) Provision may be made by regulations as to—
- (a) the requirements (which may be alternative requirements) that must be met, in relation to any proposed payment to the employer out of funds held for the purposes of a scheme, with respect to the value of the scheme’s assets and the amount of its liabilities;
 - (b) the assets and liabilities to be taken into account for that purpose and the manner in which their value or amount is to be determined, calculated and verified;
 - (c) the maximum amount of the payment that may be made to the employer, having regard to the value of the scheme’s assets and the amount of its liabilities;
 - (d) the giving of a certificate as to the matters mentioned in paragraphs (a) and (c); and
 - (e) the period for which such a certificate is to be in force.
- (5) The trustees must also comply with any other prescribed requirements in connection with the making of a payment under this section.
- (6) If the trustees—
- (a) purport to exercise the power referred to in subsection (1)(a) without complying with the requirements of this section, or
 - (b) fail to comply with any requirement of regulations under subsection (5),
- section 10 applies to any of them who has failed to take all reasonable steps to secure compliance.
- (7) If a person other than the trustees purports to exercise the power referred to in subsection (1)(a), section 10 applies to him.
- (8) Regulations may provide that in prescribed circumstances this section does not apply, or applies with prescribed modifications, to schemes of a prescribed description.]

Textual Amendments

- F1** S. 37 substituted (9.3.2006 for specified purposes, 6.4.2006 in so far as not already in force) by [Pensions Act 2004 \(c. 35\)](#), ss. **250**, 322(1) (with s. 313); S.I. 2006/560, art. 2(1)(a)(b), Sch. Pt. 1
- F2** S. 37(1A) inserted (6.4.2009) by [Pensions Act 2008 \(c. 30\)](#), ss. **130**, 149(1); S.I. 2009/82, art. 2(2)(c)

Changes to legislation: Pensions Act 1995, Section 37 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 12 April 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** S. 37 excluded (31.12.2000) by The Occupational Pension Schemes (Republic of Ireland Schemes Exemption) Regulations 2000 (S.I. 2000/3198), regs. 1(1), 2, **Sch.**
- C2** S. 37 modified (6.4.2006) by The Occupational Pension Schemes (Payments to Employer) Regulations 2006 (S.I. 2006/802), regs. 1, **2(2)(a)**
- C3** S. 37 excluded (6.4.2006) by The Occupational Pension Schemes (Payments to Employer) Regulations 2006 (S.I. 2006/802), regs. 1, **12(1)**
- C4** S. 37 modified (6.4.2006) by The Occupational Pension Schemes (Payments to Employer) Regulations 2006 (S.I. 2006/802), regs. 1, **14**
- C5** S. 37 modified (6.4.2006) by The Occupational Pension Schemes (Payments to Employer) Regulations 2006 (S.I. 2006/802), regs. 1, **18(6)**
- C6** S. 37 excluded (24.7.2014) by The Pensions Act 2011 (Transitional, Consequential and Supplementary Provisions) Regulations 2014 (S.I. 2014/1711), regs. 1(1), **37(1)(a)**

Commencement Information

- I1** S. 37 in force at 6.4.1996 for specified purposes by S.I. 1996/778, art. 2(5)(a), **Sch. Pt. V**
- I2** S. 37 in force at 6.4.1997 in so far as not already in force by S.I. 1997/664, art. 2(3), **Sch. Pt. 3**

Changes to legislation:

Pensions Act 1995, Section 37 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 12 April 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations.

[View outstanding changes](#)

Changes and effects yet to be applied to :

- s. 37(1A) word inserted by [2015 c. 8 Sch. 2 para. 7\(a\)](#)

Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

- Blanket amendment words substituted by [S.I. 2011/1043 art. 36](#)

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 37(1A)(b) inserted by [2015 c. 8 Sch. 2 para. 7\(b\)](#)
- s. 51(5A)-(5C) inserted by [2015 c. 8 s. 43\(1\)](#)
- s. 51(7A) inserted by [2015 c. 8 s. 41\(1\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 51(9)(10) inserted by [2015 c. 8 s. 42\(3\)](#)
- s. 67A(3)(aa)-(ac) inserted by [2015 c. 8 s. 45\(3\)](#)
- s. 67A(9)(a)(viii)-(x) inserted by [2015 c. 8 s. 45\(6\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 67A(9)(b)(vi)-(viii) inserted by [2015 c. 8 s. 45\(6\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 73(2)(2A) substituted for s. 73(2) by [2015 c. 8 Sch. 2 para. 11](#)
- s. 75(1)-(1B) substituted for s. 75(1) by [2015 c. 8 Sch. 2 para. 12](#)
- s. 175(2)(ca) inserted by [2004 c. 35 s. 240\(2\)](#)
- s. 175(2)(za) inserted by [2015 c. 8 s. 43\(2\)](#)