

Appointment to Pensions Council under the aegis of the

Department of Social Protection

Information Booklet

The Minister for Social Protection, Joan Burton, T.D., invites Expressions of Interest from suitably qualified and experienced persons for unpaid positions on the Pensions Council.

The Pensions Council is a newly established Council and will operate under the aegis of the Department of Social Protection.

The Pensions Council will be expected to provide the Minister for Social Protection with advice, information and assistance in relation to the development of pensions policy as requested or on its own initiative.

These are unpaid positions. It is expected that the Pensions Council will meet six times per year and that meetings will take place at the offices of the Pensions Authority during office hours.

Legislative Provisions and Functions.

The relevant legislative measures to implement these changes have been provided for in the Social Welfare and Pensions (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 2013.

As provided for in the Act, the functions of the Pensions Council will be to advise the Minister, either on its own initiative or at the Minister's request, on matters relating to pensions generally.

The Pensions Council will consist of a Chairperson and no fewer than 8 and no more than 12 ordinary members all appointed by the Minister for Social Protection. The post of Chairman will be designated by the Minister for Social Protection.

The Minister will determine the period of time a person shall serve on the Pensions Council and the period will not exceed 5 years from date of appointment. A member of the Pensions Council may serve for two terms. Within the numbers appointed to the Pensions Council and as provided for in the legislation, the following persons are de facto members of the Pensions Council;

- the Pensions Regulator,
- a representative of the Department of Social Protection,
- a representative of the Central Bank nominated by the Minister for Finance,
- a representative of the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform.

In addition, not fewer than 4, and not more than 8, other members will be appointed, each of whom the Minister considers to have the relevant skills, specialist knowledge, experience or expertise to enable him or her to carry out his or her functions under this Act.

The Minister shall determine the procedures of the Pensions Council.

Common Competencies considered in making appointments to a State Board/Agencies under the aegis of the Department of Social Protection.

The Government requires the highest standard of probity and integrity from all who are nominated to serve on organisations established under the aegis of this Department.

Your suitability to serve as a member of the on the Pensions Council will be considered in line with your level of experience in **each** of the following general competency areas:

Analytical Strategic Perspective:

- An ability to take a broad perspective on pension related issues and to analyse information and put forward options for consideration

Integrity and a focus on governance:

- A strong sense of ethics, integrity and good governance with a good understanding of what may constitute or be seen as a conflict of interests and an appreciation of the State and the public as key stakeholder

Teamwork:

- An ability to work effectively with others as part of the Pensions Council and to work with people with different perspectives to identify common ground and mutually acceptable solutions to problems

Communication:

- The ability to communicate clearly orally and in writing

Financial literacy:

- An ability to understand broad financial and pensions principles and data

Essential:

Specifically in relation to pensions, candidates should have one or more of the following:

- Knowledge and experience in one or more of the main pension areas, (State, occupational or other private pension vehicles),
- An ability to take a broad perspective on pension issues in the context of pension regulation or consumer regulation,
- Knowledge and experience of older people's issues.

Desirable:

In addition to the general competencies outlined above, your experience in **one or more** of the following areas is considered desirable for appointment to the Pensions Council:

- Employer and/or workplace experience with reference to pensions
- Trustee responsibilities
- Actuarial expertise with reference to pensions
- Financial knowledge of pension products
- Pension law
- International pensions experience

Points which will be considered in filling of vacancies to the Pensions Council

Decisions in relation to appointments to the Pensions Council will be to ensure that a broad range of expertise is available in the Council at the time of its establishment.

Such requirements for specific expertise may require specific targeting of persons to ensure the Council contains:

1. Sufficient representation of consumer interest in line with the policy intent of this change programme.
2. Persons with proven track record in the area of pension policy
3. Persons with proven track record in the area of pension provision
4. Persons with proven track record acting as a trustee of a pension scheme
5. Persons with experience of an outward perspective on the needs of major stakeholders.
6. A gender balance in line with the provision of the governing legislation and other relevant Government decisions.

In making appointments, the Minister is not restricted to those who have responded to this invitation.

In submitting expressions of interest, a person should also set out clearly any actual or potential conflicts of interest that may arise should they be appointed to the Pensions Council.

Registering an Expression of Interest

How to Apply

Anyone interested in being considered for appointment as a member should submit an application via the following link www.stateboards.ie together with a cover letter, CV and expression of interest form.

If you are already registered on www.publicjobs.ie you can log in using your username and password.

If you have not previously registered on www.publicjobs.ie you will need to register your details.

You must go to “Choose a Job Category” on the left side of the screen.

Click on “Membership of a State Board” and then click “Apply for this job”.

Please note that documents a) – c) below should be submitted as one attachment and should be saved in one document before commencing the application process.

Step 1 - Complete the Online Application Form. Most of this will be pre-filled from your registration profile.

Step 2- Attach a) -c) listed below

- (a) A cover letter/ personal statement outlining your suitability for a board member position **specifically targeting the contribution** you would make in relation to the general competency areas outlined in page 2 of this booklet.
- (b) Your Curriculum Vitae.
- (c) Expression of Interest form (**Available [here](#)**)

Applications will be accepted up to and including **Friday, 23rd May 2014**.

