



An Roinn Airgeadais  
Department of Finance

## **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

# **CHANGE IN TERMS FOR NEW ENTRANTS TO THE PUBLIC SERVICE**

The Public Service Superannuation (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2004 was signed into law on Thursday 25 March 2004, to give effect to the age-related pension reforms announced by the Minister for Finance in his Budget Speech in December 2003. The Act covers new entrants who become public servants on or after Thursday 1 April 2004. The Act does not affect the current terms of existing public service employees.

The Act covers new entrants appointed to public service posts including those in

- the Civil Service
- Local Authorities
- the Permanent Defence Force
- the Garda Síochána
- the education sector
- the health sector and
- non-commercial State sponsored bodies.

It also covers new entrant members of the Houses of the Oireachtas.

The Act removes the **compulsory retirement age** for new entrants to the public service, with the exception of certain posts in the Permanent Defence Force, the Garda Síochána, the Prison Service and the Fire Service.

The Act lays down a **minimum age of 65 at which pension may be paid** to new entrants to the public service, with the exception of certain posts in the Permanent Defence Force, the Garda Síochána, the Prison Service and the Fire Service.

**Public servants who resigned or whose contract ended in the period 2 October 2003 - 31 March 2004 inclusive should note that they will not be regarded as new entrants if they take up appointment in a public service body (as defined in the Act) within 26 weeks of their last day of service.**

Full details of these and other provisions are given in the Act, including a detailed definition of the term "new entrant". If you are applying for a post in the public service, the organisation to which you are applying will clarify your position for you.

The text of the Act will shortly be available on the Houses of the Oireachtas website [www.gov.ie/oireachtas](http://www.gov.ie/oireachtas) (follow links to Legislative Information) and also on the Department of Finance website [www.finance.gov.ie](http://www.finance.gov.ie)

***This notice is for information only and is not a legal interpretation of the Act.***