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New Regulations

On page 2 of your statement, we mentioned that the Scheme is under review.

New Regulations called the Local Government Pension Scheme (Miscellaneous) Regulations 2009 came into effect on 31 December 2009. They are on our website.

These Regulations include some new provisions relating to survivor's pensions, which we have explained below.

Nominated Cohabiting Partners

On page 6 of your statement, we explained about cohabiting partners and how you can nominate them to receive benefits.

Previously, a partner would have received a survivor's pension based on membership built up from 6 April 1988. It is now possible to pay Additional Survivor Benefit Contributions (ASBCs) to increase the survivor's pension to include any membership you may have built up to 5 April 1988.

If you wish to apply to pay ASBCs, you must complete a form that is available from our website or by calling the Pensions Helpline.

You must apply before 31 March 2011.

Civil Partners

In previous statements, we have explained that the Scheme includes survivor's pensions for registered Civil Partners. Pensions were based on membership built up from 6 April 1988.

Survivor's pensions for civil partners are now based on all membership. This makes them equal to widow's and widower's pensions.

No action is required to receive this extra benefit.

Possible Further Changes

CLG has issued draft Regulations that include proposals for changes to how previous periods of membership in the Scheme may be joined together.

These are the Local Government Pension Scheme (Miscellaneous) Regulations 2010 and are on our website.

Consultation on these Regulations ends on 18 March 2010.

We will inform you of any changes to the Scheme.