Appointments of Independent Registered Medical Practitioners

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# Introduction

When an Employer participates in the LGPS it must appoint an Independent Registered Medical Practitioner (IRMP). An IRMP has a key involvement when a member seeks early retirement on ill health grounds.

The decision as to who an Employer wishes to use is a matter for the Employer’s discretion, subject to authorisation by the East Sussex Pension Fund (the Fund).

This policy covers the expectations on both the Employer and the Fund for the appointment of an IRMP.

# What is an IRMP?

An IRMP must hold a diploma in occupational health medicine (D Occ Med) or an equivalent qualification issued by a competent authority in an EEA State. A competent authority is defined by s.55(1) Medical Act 1983.

Additionally, the IRMP must be an Associate, a Member or a Fellow of the Faculty of Occupational Medicine or an equivalent institution of an EEA state.

When a member seeks to retire early on the grounds of ill health the employer will seek the input of an IRMP. The details of this are covered in our policies covering ill health early retirement.

# Who appoints an IRMP?

An IRMP is appointed by Participating Employers. Whilst the Fund will want to know who is being appointed this is at the discretion of the Employer.

When an appointment is made the Fund retains the right to expect the Employer to demonstrate that the proposed appointment meets the requirements listed below.

# When is an IRMP appointed?

An IRMP should be appointed when an Employer joins the Fund and within 90 days of doing so. Additionally, the appointment must be reviewed at least every 3 years.

The Employer should inform the Fund about the decision it has taken within these timeframes to allow it to authorise the appointment.

# What limits apply to appointing an IRMP?

To qualify as an IRMP the person appointed must:

1. Have a diploma in occupational health medicine (D Occ Med) or the equivalent from an EEA state
2. Be an Associate, a Member or a Fellow of the Faculty of Occupational Medicine or the equivalent of an EEA state.

Additionally, an IRMP must be independent. This means an Employer should not seek advice from someone who is already involved in an Ill Health Early Retirement decision.