



Borderwise:

Retirement

This information sheet aims to provide a general overview of the entitlements and benefits available to retired people resident in the Republic of Ireland.

Retirement Age

There is no official retirement age in the Republic of Ireland, however 65 is generally regarded as the age when most people retire at.

Pensions

There are three types of pensions you may be entitled to. There are two types of pension available which are based on the National Insurance contributions you have paid; State Pension (Transition) and State Pension (Contributory). If you do not have enough contributions you may apply for the means tested State Pension (Non-Contributory).

State Pension (Transition)

The State Pension (Transition) is payable to people in Ireland aged 65 who have retired from work and who have enough social insurance contributions. It is not means tested. In general you must have been an employee and paying full-rate social insurance contributions. You cannot be employed while receiving a State Pension (Transition), however at 66, you will transfer to the State Pension (Contributory) after which you may earn an income from any source. You should apply four months before reaching 65 and application forms are available from you local social welfare office.

State Pension (Contributory)

The State Pension (Contributory) is payable to people in Ireland from the age of 66 who have enough social insurance contributions. It is not means tested and you may have income from any other source while receiving it. You must contact your local social welfare office to clarify exactly how much you may be entitled to.

State Pension (Non-Contributory)

State pension (Non-Contributory) is a means tested payment for people aged 66 or over who do not qualify for the State Pension (Contributory) based on their social security record. In order to qualify you must:

- Be ordinarily resident in Ireland
- Be aged 66 or over
- Have a valid Personal Public Service Number (PPS No.)
- Satisfy a means test

In order to apply for a State Pension (Non-Contributory) you must complete an application form available from your local post office, social welfare office or the Department of Social and Family Affairs.



Personal Retirement Savings Account (PRSA)

PRSA are generally low cost, easy access private pension savings accounts. They are designed to allow you to save for retirement. You are entitled to invest in a PRSA regardless of your employment status. For further information contact the Pensions Board +353 1 613 1900 or www.pensionboard.ie

Taxation

In general, when you are retired, you have to pay tax as you did when you were in employment. If you are aged 65 or over and live in Ireland, you are liable to pay income tax in the normal way. However, the tax exemption limits are much higher and there are some extra tax credits. Many pensioners do not actually have to pay tax because their income is too low. For more information contact your local social welfare office.

Farm Retirement Scheme

This scheme is for farmers aged over 55 who transfer their land to a younger farmer. Apply to the Department of Agriculture and Food. The Early Retirement Scheme (ERS 3) 2007 was introduced on 13 June 2007. Farmers who retire early under the Scheme and who transfer their land to a younger farmer may be eligible for a pension of up to €15,000 a year for up to 10 years. The Scheme also provides a pension for retiring farm workers, in certain circumstances. For more information www.agriculture.gov.ie

Benefits for Older People

Free Travel: This is available to everyone aged 66 and over and to people who are receiving certain benefits and for people with disabilities.

Household Benefits Package: This includes the Free Electricity Allowance, Free TV Licence and Free Telephone Rental Allowance. These are also available to people aged 66 and over who are receiving certain social welfare payments or whose income is below certain limits and to certain people with disabilities. If you are resident in the South, aged 66 or over, and in receipt of a UK Retirement Pension you may qualify for this package.

National Fuel Scheme

This scheme provides a weekly fuel allowance for 29 weeks from the end of September to the middle of April. It is a means tested allowance available to low income households in receipt of certain qualifying payments.

Winter Fuel Payment(s)

If you move to ROI and previously qualified for a winter fuel payment in the North or another part of the UK you may be able to continue to receive the payments in the South. The payments are made automatically to you if you are receiving State Retirement Pension from the UK. Winter Fuel Payments Helpline: 08459 151515

Contact Details

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