

Human Tissue Authority
151 Buckingham Palace Road
London
SW1W 9SZ

██████████
By email to ██████████

Tel 020 7269 1900
Web www.hta.gov.uk
Email enquiries@hta.gov.uk
Date 12 November 2019

Dear ██████████

Freedom of Information request

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), which was received by the Human Tissue Authority (HTA) on 23 October 2019. Your email outlined the following request:

I am writing to request information relating to the pension tax relief issue that is currently impacting a significant number of NHS employees across the country. I would be grateful if you could respond to the following questions. Please advise if you need any clarification and I would be happy to provide this.

1. Whether your organisation has a policy of offering payment equivalent to the employer pension fund contributions to employees who opt out of the scheme? And if so:

a) when was this policy adopted?

b) is this option offered to all employees by default, or is it considered on a case by case basis following requests?

c) how many employees have taken advantage of this policy since its adoption?

d) what was the total value of payments made until the end of July 2019?

2. Whether your organisation has made an assessment of the number of employees who are likely breach the annual allowance? If so, assessment was made?

3. How many employees have left employment as a result of pension taxation issues?

4. How many employees have applied to reduce their working hours as a result of pension taxation issues? And how many such applications were successful?

5. Whether an internal briefing or assessment on the impact of changes to pension taxation has been provided? If so, could a copy of that document be provided?

Response

In response to your request for information relating to pension tax relief:

1. The HTA does not have a policy of offering payment equivalent to employer pension contributions. Therefore questions a-d are not applicable.
2. The HTA has not conducted a formal assessment of the number of employees that could breach the annual allowance.
3. No employees have left employment as a result of pension tax.
4. No employees have applied to reduce their working hours as a result of pension tax.
5. An internal briefing is planned for quarter one of the 2020/21 business year.

Further information

If you are unhappy with the way the HTA has handled your request for information in this case, you may in the first instance ask us for an internal review by writing to us at the above postal or email address.

If you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request or complaint, you have the right to appeal directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision, at the address below. There is no charge for making an appeal.

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire SK9 5AF

Telephone: 08456 30 60 60 or 01625 54 57 45

Website: www.ico.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

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