

## **I am a member of the JPS Scheme - Am I entitled to Added Years?**

The Governing Authority has the absolute discretion to grant added years (to Statutory, Lecturer, Professor, Admin Officers upwards) and may do so at the date of your retirement. In the meantime, we estimate your potential added years' entitlement.

We have been instructed by the HEA to advise the following in relation to added years:

***“The Financial Measures (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009 has not altered the rights and obligations of members under Scheme rules. Where the Scheme rules provide for discretion in relation to members' rights and benefits that discretionary power now vests in the Minister for Education & Skills and the Minister for Finance. Please note that an Added Years award is one of the benefits subject to the discretion of the Minister for Education & Skills and the Minister for Finance and any decision on the granting of added years will only be made at retirement. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this Statement. However, as this is not a contractual document, it bears no right to benefit. All benefits from the pension scheme are governed by the scheme rules as set out in S.I. No. 98 of 2010 which is referenced in the Transfer Order (S.I. No. 125 of 2010) and by legislation in place at the date of the award. It should also be noted that this statement is not suitable for use in Family Law cases”.***

As required by the Ministers since March 2010 Added Years are calculated as follows:

The greater of:

1. 1/3 of service (University of Galway). This is further reduced by transferred / transferable service and
2. Gross Potential Years using the following formulae:  $Q + E$ , but only if  $Q+E+18$  is greater than 25. This is further reduced by an adjustment for retirement prior to age 65 and by transferred / transferable service and previous reckonable service in University of Galway

Any award at 1 or 2 is subject to:

- Reduction for retained benefits from other employments and, if on modified PRSI, any Social Welfare entitlements.
- A maximum of 10 added years being awarded and
- Overall pensionable Service from all employments not being greater than 40 years.

(Members are advised to inform the Pensions Office of such retained benefits in a previous employment - otherwise your estimated additional years will be incorrect)