Additional Superannuation Contribution (ASC)

ASC was introduced on 1 January 2019 replacing PRD which had been in existence since 1 March 2009. ASC is provided for under Part 4 of the Public Service Pay and Pensions Act 2017, link to Act Public Service Pay and Pensions Act 2017. Whereas PRD was a temporary emergency measure, ASC is a permanent pension contribution payable in addition to existing pension contributions and attracting tax relief at the marginal rate. In general, ASC liabilities are lower than the previous PRD liabilities.

ASC applies to individuals who are accruing pensionable benefits in respect of their current employment. Unlike PRD, ASC only applies to a person who is a member of a public service pension scheme. Thus, for example, anyone retained in a non-pensionable position under temporary Circular 21/2017 which allows for certain Civil Servants to be retained beyond their Compulsory Retirement Age of 65 years until they reach the age of eligibility for the Contributory State Pension, will not be liable for ASC.

ASC only applies to gross pensionable remuneration. A key difference between ASC and PRD is that ASC is chargeable on pensionable income and not taxable income. This means that, unlike PRD, remuneration such as non-pensionable allowances and non-pensionable overtime is not generally subject to ASC, further reducing ASC liability compared to the previous PRD liability.

ASC is applied via multiple tables (thresholds, bands, rates) ASC is charged at different rates with different exemption thresholds and bands depending on pension scheme and pension terms. There are transitional exemption thresholds and bands for 2019 with a permanent set of exemption thresholds and bands being introduced in 2020.

Accounting Procedures
There are no changes to the accounting procedures. The accounting procedures in place for ASC are the same as those that applied to PRD for individual bodies. In this regard it should be noted that various forms will be renamed to ASC60, ASC10 etc. and can be accessed from the following link http://www.cspensions.gov.ie/asc.asp.