



**Isle of Man
Government**

Reiltys Ellan Vannin



Manx National Insurance Fund Account

For the Year Ended 31 March 2015

Treasury, Income Tax Division

Presented to Tynwald pursuant to Section 161(2) of the Social Security Administration Act 1992
(as applied to the Isle of Man)

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1. Foreword

1.1. Statutory Background

- 1.1.1. The National Insurance Scheme ("the Scheme") was established in 1948 to provide unemployment benefit, sickness benefit, retirement pensions and other benefits in cases where individuals meet contribution and other qualifying conditions. The Manx Pension Supplement has also been provided under the Scheme since 1993. The Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992 (as applied to the Isle of Man) sets out the conditions for entitlement to most benefits and the basis for assessing liability to pay National Insurance Contributions ("NICs").
- 1.1.2. The Social Security Administration Act 1992 (as applied to the Isle of Man) provides that benefits due under the Scheme are payable out of the Manx National Insurance Fund ("the Fund"). The principal source of income for the Fund is NICs payable by employees, employers and others.
- 1.1.3. Section 161(1) of the Social Security Administration Act 1992 (as applied to the Isle of Man) places the control and management of the Fund with the Treasury. From April 2014 the control and management of the fund has come under the Social Security Division ("SSD") as a sub-division of Treasury, for the previous year it was with the Department of Social Care ("DSC").
- 1.1.4. Section 161(2) of the Social Security Administration Act 1992 (as applied to the Isle of Man) requires Treasury to lay the accounts of the Fund before Tynwald.

1.2. Financial Performance

- 1.2.1. The balance of the Fund was £681,294,079 at 31 March 2015 compared with £671,684,960 at 31 March 2014: an increase of £9,609,119.
- 1.2.2. The Fund operates essentially on a 'pay-as-you-go' basis with NICs income in each year previously matching or exceeding benefit expenditure. For a number of reasons it is prudent to have a surplus in the Fund. In the United Kingdom, the Government Actuary's Department ("GAD") recommended a minimum surplus amounting to $\frac{1}{6}$ th of annual benefit expenditure. A GAD report for the Isle of Man Government in 2002 recommended that the Fund should have a surplus of twice annual expenditure, although no formal policy was put in place as a result. At April 2015, the overall value of the Fund was four and a half times annual benefit expenditure.

1.3. Risks to the Fund

- 1.3.1. Expenditure from the Fund is in large part determined by United Kingdom Government policy, which sets most contributory benefits and their rates. By virtue of a long-standing reciprocal arrangement, the Scheme in the Isle of Man mirrors that in the United Kingdom. The exception is the Manx Pension Supplement which is set by Tynwald. Thus, changes in United Kingdom policy have an impact on the Fund.
- 1.3.2. Prior to April 2012 the combination of income from NICs and the Agency Payment from the United Kingdom Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) (see 3.4 below) exceeded expenditure on benefits and other associated items. However, expenditure in the year to 31 March 2015 exceeded income by £18,511,696 and this shortfall was financed from the Fund's investment income.

- 1.3.3. The United Kingdom will reform the state retirement pension by introducing in April 2016 a single tier flat rate pension (the 'new state pension') for all set at a rate which will be no less than £151.25 per week. The Treasury has determined that this change will not be introduced in the Island. A sustainable single tier pension suited to the requirements of the Isle of Man has been proposed and will be developed over the coming years.
- 1.3.4. Despite the overall balance of the Fund increasing, investment income for the year has fallen to £29,808,139 from £37,405,202 the previous year. During the 2013/14 tax year the investment income was comprised of £14,378,520 from investments, £22,176,098 from the realisation of investments and £850,583 from currency transfers. During the tax year 2014/15 the corresponding figures were £14,398,704 from investments, £15,167,951 from the realisation of investments and £241,484 from currency transfers.
- 1.3.5. Treasury are seeking to progress reform of state pension and benefits. The recommendations focus on five key areas – the future of state pensions, National Insurance, working age benefits, workplace pensions and the Island's relationship with the United Kingdom.
- 1.3.6. The Income Tax Division are updating the National Insurance Information Technology (IT) infrastructure via migration of data to the Income Tax system and reviewing current processes. Specialist IT support is still required for the outgoing system.

1.4. Non-Matching Contribution Items

- 1.4.1. The annual returns made by employers occasionally include NICs which cannot be matched to employee records for a number of reasons. During the 2013-14 tax year, the Income Tax Division posted NIC paid in respect of the previous tax year to employee records. In relation to NIC paid in respect of the 2013-14 tax year, £42,879 of Class 1 NICs could not be matched, representing 0.03% (2012-13: £96,213, 0.06%) of the total NICs paid during that year. The United Kingdom non-match figures are no longer published, in the HM Revenue & Customs National Insurance Fund Account document, for comparison.
- 1.4.2. Non-matched NICs are kept 'on file' until such time as new information becomes available (for example when a person claims a benefit), which enables the Income Tax Division to match the contributions to an individual's National Insurance record.

2. Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Account

2.1. Treasury's Responsibilities

- 2.1.1. The Chief Financial Officer is responsible for the preparation of the Manx National Insurance Fund Account.
- 2.1.2. In preparing the Account, the Chief Financial Officer observes relevant accounting and disclosure requirements, and applies appropriate accounting policies on a consistent basis.
- 2.1.3. In preparing this Statement of Account, the Chief Financial Officer has:
- selected suitable accounting policies and then applied them consistently; and
 - made judgements and estimates which were reasonable and prudent.
- 2.1.4. The Chief Financial Officer has also:
- kept proper accounting records which are up to date; and
 - taken reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

2.2. Transfer of Responsibilities

- 2.2.1. For the period previous to these accounts, the Department of Social Care (DSC) was responsible for the awarding and payment of benefits payable from the Fund. Entitlement to benefit is determined by the claimant satisfying qualifying conditions. The DSC was also responsible for making statutory redundancy payments and contracted-out rebate payments.
- 2.2.2. From 1 April 2014, and therefore for the period of these accounts, these responsibilities have been transferred to the Treasury under the Social Security Division (SSD).

2.3. Certificate

- 2.3.1. I certify that the Statement of Account properly present the receipts and payments relating to the Manx National Insurance Fund for the year ended 31 March 2015.
- 2.3.2. The information in this Statement of Account has been extracted from the audited Annual Government Accounts.



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Sheila Lowe
Chief Financial Officer
Treasury Department
December 2015

3. National Insurance Operating Account Receipts and Payments

Prepared in accordance with Section 161 of the Social Security Administration Act 1992

	Notes	2014-15	2013-14
Receipts			
National Insurance Contributions (Gross)	3.1	£174,612,983	£169,366,853
State Scheme Premiums	3.2	£2,694	£27,825
Income from Investment Account	3.3	£20,500,000	£12,000,000
Other Income	3.4	£42,679,966	£48,849,702
Total		£237,795,643	£230,244,380
Less			
Payments			
Benefit Payments	3.5	£193,643,607	£182,750,726
National Health Service Contribution	3.6	£36,453,000	£36,345,000
Contracted-Out Rebates	3.7	£1,648	£3,761
Administrative Costs	3.8	£3,277,267	£4,011,216
Refunds	3.9	£593,791	£546,946
Bad Debts	3.10	£412,320	£506,415
Transfer to United Kingdom National Insurance Fund	3.11	£1,425,706	£4,514,076
Total		£235,807,339	£228,678,140
Excess of Receipts over Payments	3.12	£1,988,304	£1,566,240

Notes

The Notes from Page 7 onwards form part of this Account.


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Sheila Lowe
Chief Financial Officer
December 2015

Notes to the Account

3.1. National Insurance Contributions

	Note	2014-15	2013-14
Class 1 (employed earner)	i	£169,487,051	£164,043,277
Class 2 (self-employed flat rate)	ii	£765,049	£738,408
Class 3 (voluntary contribution)	iii	£155,650	£232,224
Class 4 (self-employed earnings related)	iv	£4,205,233	£4,352,944
Total		£174,612,983	£169,366,853

Different groups of people pay different classes of contributions.

- i. Class 1 contributions are divided into: primary contributions payable by employees and secondary contributions payable by employers.
- ii. Self-employed people pay flat rate weekly Class 2 contributions.
- iii. Class 3 voluntary flat-rate contributions are paid to maintain a contributor's National Insurance record for certain benefit and/or pension purposes.
- iv. Self-employed people also pay earnings related Class 4 contributions. This figure includes interest charged on the late payment of Class 4 contributions.

3.2. State Scheme Premiums

	2014-15	2013-14
State Scheme premiums	£2,694	£27,825

State Scheme Premiums are payable to the Fund in respect of employed people who cease to be covered by a contracted-out pension scheme. The premiums buy back the person's additional pension entitlement in the state additional pension scheme.

3.3. Investment Income

The National Insurance Fund Investment Account is invested by external investment managers on behalf of the Treasury. During the 2014-15 fiscal year, the investment account received £29,808,139 in investment income: of which £20,500,000 was transferred from the investment account to the operating account.

3.4. Other Income

	Note	2014-15	2013-14
Agency Payment from the United Kingdom	i	£42,609,825	£48,778,022
Rental Income	ii	£70,000	£71,680
Other Services	iii	£141	
Total		£42,679,966	£48,849,702

- i. The agency payment from the United Kingdom relates to the net settlement in respect of individuals who have paid NICs into one fund, but have received benefit from the other fund.
- ii. The Fund owns Nivison House, Prospect Hill, Douglas, and receives rent from its tenants.

- iii. Other Services – letter forwarding service. The Treasury provide a letter forwarding service to pension schemes to help them trace members.

3.5. Benefit Payments

	Notes	2014-15	2013-14
State Pension	i	£134,839,225	£125,277,415
Manx Pension Supplement	ii	£37,481,383	£35,794,726
Incapacity Benefit	iii	£10,602,386	£10,031,202
Contributory Jobseeker's Allowance	iv	£458,181	£589,281
Christmas Bonus	v	£953,235	£1,947,498
Nursing Care Contribution Scheme	vi	£2,369,278	£2,209,956
Maternity Benefit	vii	£3,817,644	£3,900,994
Bereavement Benefits	viii	£866,150	£822,320
Disablement Benefit	ix	£342,707	£359,413
Carers Allowance	x	£1,009,092	£884,967
Other Benefits	xi	£904,119	£932,954
Total		£193,643,400	£182,750,726

- i. State pension is made up of different elements. The largest is the basic state retirement pension, followed by the additional state pension, the graduated pension scheme retirement premium and the age addition. This figure includes pensions which the SSD pays on behalf of the United Kingdom (see Note 3.4 above).
- ii. The Manx Pension Supplement is primarily paid to those pensioners who have paid sufficient contributions into the Scheme and are resident in the Isle of Man. The supplement is also paid to those in receipt of either Widow's or Bereavement Benefit and to individuals who claimed Incapacity Benefit before 6 April 2008 (the supplement has not been paid since then in respect of new claims).
- iii. Incapacity Benefit is paid at different rates, dependent on age and the length of incapacity, to persons who have paid either Class 1 or Class 2 NICs.
- iv. Contributory Jobseeker's Allowance is payable to individuals who are capable of working, available for work and actively seeking work, who have paid or are treated as having paid NICs: and is payable for 26 weeks.
- v. The Christmas Bonus is a tax-free payment of £40 to individuals in receipt of a qualifying benefit. In the United Kingdom the amount is £10 and is paid only to pensioners.
- vi. Nursing Care Contribution is paid to qualifying individuals who reside in a nursing home.
- vii. Maternity Benefit is paid for up to 39 weeks at a standard weekly rate, depending upon a woman's level of earnings and whether they are employed or self-employed.
- viii. Bereavement Benefits consist of Bereavement Allowance, which is a regular payment for 52 weeks; and Bereavement Payment, which is a lump-sum. This figure includes Widowed Parent's Allowance; which is a regular payment whilst the individual has dependent children in respect of whom they receive Child Benefit. These benefits are all based on the NICs of the deceased spouse. Also included in this figure are Widow's Benefit payments.

- ix. Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit is payable to an individual who was employed and suffered a loss of faculty due to an accident at work or from a prescribed disease.
- x. Carers Allowance is paid to persons not in full-time work caring for someone in receipt of a disability benefit. Prior to 6 April 2013 this benefit was funded from general revenue.
- xi. Other Benefits include the Old Person's Pension, Funeral Payments, Paternity Allowance, Insolvency Payments, Redundancy Rebates, Adoption Allowance and Guardian's Allowance.

3.6.NHS Contribution

The Social Security Administration Act 1992 (as applied to the Isle of Man) provides for a proportion of NICs collected each year to be transferred directly to the Department of Health to contribute to the costs of the National Health Service.

The National Health Service allocation is paid monthly and is based on the NICs which have been received. During the 2014-15 fiscal year the NHS allocation was £36,453,000 (2013-14: £36,345,000) made up as follows:

	2014-15	2013-14
Class 1	£34,786,000	£34,719,000
Class 2	£116,000	£113,000
Class 3	£35,000	£34,000
Class 4	£1,516,000	£1,479,000
Total	£36,453,000	£36,345,000

3.7.Contracting-Out Rebates

The Pension Schemes Act 1993 entitles employed earners with an 'Appropriate Personal Pension Scheme' to a minimum contribution from the Fund.

This contribution is based on earnings between the lower and upper earnings level and the age of the member. From 1997, members of Contracted- Out Money Purchase ("COMP") Schemes are entitled to a payment of age-related rebate based on the age of the member and calculated using the earnings on which the contracted out rate of NICs has been paid. During 2014-15, £1,648 (2013-14: £3,761) in contracted-out rebates was paid to pension schemes.

These schemes ceased with effect from 6th April 2012, and therefore the last year on which payments are calculated will be 2011-12. Further payments continued until April 2015 where contribution information is received late or has been adjusted, after which time no further payments will be made.

3.8.Administrative Costs

Administrative costs relate to services directly attributable to the Fund and are reimbursed to the department, division or organisation providing those services. During the 2014-15 fiscal year, the SSD received £2,562,680 (2013-14: £4,011,216 to DSC) to cover costs relating to the awarding and payment of contributory benefits. £497,296 was paid in respect of services provided by external consultants. £217,291 was paid for maintenance of the computer systems. It should be noted that although not included in this account a further £1,687,326 is charged against the investment account for Investment Management and Custodian Fees.

3.9. Refunds

There is a maximum amount of NICs that an individual can pay in any given tax year, and any amount paid which exceeds this limit is refunded to the individual.

3.10. Bad Debt

Robust enforcement procedures, which include the Courts of Justice and the Coroners, aim to ensure that individuals and employers pay the correct amount of NICs. Occasionally, it is not possible to recover unpaid NICs, and this leads to amounts being written off.

As at August 2014, the balance of unpaid NICs owed to Treasury was £1,611,823: with this debt relating to tax years from 2004/05 to 2015/16. Treasury are currently working with the Courts of Justice to identify debt that the Coroners have not been able to recover from companies so that where practicable action can be taken against the individual directors of these companies for the outstanding debt.

3.11. Transfer to United Kingdom National Insurance Fund

Where an individual is employed in the Isle of Man but their National Insurance record is held in the United Kingdom, the NICs paid in the Isle of Man are transferred to the United Kingdom after a deduction is made for the Isle of Man National Health Service allocation. HM Revenue and Customs ("HMRC") make a similar deduction from contributions sent to the Isle of Man from the United Kingdom. Depending on the amounts involved, either the United Kingdom or Isle of Man will need to make a balancing payment each year. This settlement is made 20 months after the end of the fiscal year it relates to.

3.12. Excess of Payments over Receipts

The year to 31 March 2015 is the third during which Fund income, excluding investments, was insufficient to meet benefit payments made during the year: with the deficit being £18,511,696. During the year £20,500,000 was transferred into the operating account from investment income, leaving a closing balance of £1,988,304 in the operating account.

It should be noted that during the 2014/15 tax year the sum of £3,238,845 was transferred into the operating account, this money was part of a sum that was collected by the Treasury in relation to a court case. This money was paid to the UK HMRC in 2013/14 and should have been transferred into the fund during that year.

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Government**

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The information in this booklet can be provided in large print or audio tape on request

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