

*These notes refer to the Pensions Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (c.1)*

---

## **EXPLANATORY NOTES**

### **PENSIONS ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2008**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **BACKGROUND AND POLICY OBJECTIVES**

#### **CONSULTATION**

#### **OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

#### **OVERVIEW**

#### **COMMENTARY ON SECTIONS**

##### **PART 1: STATE PENSION**

###### **Entitlement to Category A and B retirement pensions**

Section 1: Category A and B retirement pensions: single contribution condition

Section 2: Category B retirement pension: removal of restriction on entitlement

Section 3: Contributions credits for relevant parents and carers

Section 4: Category A and C retirement pensions: abolition of adult dependency increases

Section 5: Up-rating of basic pension etc. and standard minimum guarantee by reference to earnings

Section 6: Preservation of link with prices in case of other benefits

Section 7: Deemed earnings factors for purposes of additional pension

Section 8: Additional pension: removal of accrual band from 2010-11

Section 9: Additional pension: simplified accrual rates as from flat rate introduction year

Section 10: Additional pension: upper accrual point

Section 11: Increase in pensionable age for men and women

## **PART 2: OCCUPATIONAL AND PERSONAL PENSION SCHEMES**

### **Contracting-out**

Section 12: Conversion of guaranteed minimum pensions

Section 13: Abolition of contracting-out for defined contribution pension schemes

Section 14: Dispute resolution arrangements

Section 15: Removal of Department's role in approving actuarial guidance

## **PART 3: PERSONAL ACCOUNTS DELIVERY AUTHORITY**

Section 16: Initial function of the Personal Accounts Delivery Authority

Section 17: Management of the Authority

## **PART 4: GENERAL**

Section 18: Review of operation of Act

Section 19: Consequential etc. provision, repeals and revocations

Section 20: Interpretation

Section 21: Commencement

## **SCHEDULES**

Schedule 1 - State Pension: Consequential and Related Amendments

### **PART 1 - CATEGORY A AND B RETIREMENT PENSIONS: SINGLE CONTRIBUTION CONDITION**

### **PART 2 - CATEGORY B RETIREMENT PENSION: REMOVAL OF RESTRICTION ON ENTITLEMENT**

### **PART 3 - CONTRIBUTIONS CREDITS FOR RELEVANT PARENTS AND CARERS**

**PART 4 - CATEGORY A AND CATEGORY C RETIREMENT PENSIONS: ABOLITION OF ADULT DEPENDENCY INCREASES**

**PART 5 - UP-RATING OF BASIC PENSION ETC. AND STANDARD MINIMUM GUARANTEE BY REFERENCE TO EARNINGS**

**PART 6 - DEEMED EARNINGS FACTORS FOR PURPOSES OF ADDITIONAL PENSION**

**PART 7 - ADDITIONAL PENSION: SIMPLIFIED ACCRUAL RATES**

**PART 8 - INCREASE IN PENSIONABLE AGE FOR MEN AND WOMEN**

Schedule 2 - Additional pension: simplified accrual rates

**PART 1 - NEW SCHEDULE 4B TO THE CONTRIBUTIONS AND BENEFITS ACT**

**PART 2 - REVALUATION OF FLAT RATE ACCRUAL AMOUNT**

**PART 3 - CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS**

Schedule 3 - Increase for pensionable age for men and women

Schedule 4 - Abolition of contracting-out for defined contribution pension schemes

**PART 1**

**The 1995 Order**

**The 1999 Order**

**The 2005 Order**

**PART 2**

**The Contributions and Benefits Act**

**PART 3 - SAVINGS**

Schedule 5 - Removal of Department's role in approving actuarial guidance

**DEFINITIONS**

*These notes refer to the Pensions Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (c.1)*

**Glossary**

**State pensions**

**Pension categories**

**Earnings Limits**

**Occupational and personal pensions**

**HANSARD REFERENCES**