
EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

These Regulations amend social security legislation as a consequence of the Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018 ([asp 9](#)) and Regulations made under section 32 of that Act, which make provision for the payment by Scottish Ministers of early years assistance, including maternity and new-baby grants, to qualifying individuals.

Part 1 provides that these Regulations come into operation immediately after the coming into force of the first Regulations made under section 32 of the Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018.

Part 2 contains consequential amendments to the Social Fund Maternity and Funeral Expenses (General) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005 ([S.R. 2005 No. 506](#)) so that recipients of a maternity and new-baby grant are not also eligible to receive a Sure Start Maternity Grant. Part 2 also contains a saving provision in relation to claims for Sure Start Maternity Grant made before the date on which maternity and new-baby grants become available under the Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018.

Part 3 provides for early years assistance to be disregarded as income or capital when determining a claimant's entitlement to benefits under the Income Support (General) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1987 ([S.R. 1987 No. 459](#)), the Jobseeker's Allowance Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1996 ([S.R. 1996 No. 198](#)), the State Pension Credit Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 ([S.R. 2003 No.28](#)), the Housing Benefit Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 ([S.R. 2006 No. 405](#)), the Housing Benefit (Persons who have attained the qualifying age for state pension credit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 ([S.R. 2006 No. 406](#)), and the Employment and Support Allowance Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2008 ([S.R. 2008 No. 280](#)).