



Social Security Contributions and Benefits (Northern Ireland) Act 1992

1992 CHAPTER 7

PART VII

INCOME-RELATED BENEFITS

Income support

123 Income support.

- (1) A person in Northern Ireland is entitled to income support if—
- (a) he is of or over the age of 18 or, in prescribed circumstances and for a prescribed period, of or over the age of 16 or he is a person to whom section 124(1) below applies;
 - (b) he has no income or his income does not exceed the applicable amount;
 - (c) he is not engaged in remunerative work and, if he is a member of a married or unmarried couple, the other member is not so engaged; and
 - (d) except in such circumstances as may be prescribed—
 - (i) he is available for, and actively seeking, employment;
 - (ii) he is not receiving relevant education.
 - [^{F1}(e) he falls within a prescribed category of person; and
 - (f) he is not entitled to a jobseeker's allowance and, if he is a member of a married or unmarried couple, the other member of the couple is not entitled to an income-based jobseeker's allowance.]
- (2) In subsection (1)(a) above “period” includes—
- (a) a period of a determinate length;
 - (b) a period defined by reference to the happening of a future event; and
 - (c) a period of a determinate length but subject to earlier determination upon the happening of a future event.

Status: Point in time view as at 24/09/1996.

Changes to legislation: *Social Security Contributions and Benefits (Northern Ireland) Act 1992, Cross Heading: Income support is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 14 July 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)*

- (3) Circumstances may be prescribed in which a person must not only satisfy the condition specified in subsection (1)(d)(i) above but also be registered in the prescribed manner for employment.
- (4) Subject to subsection (5) below, where a person is entitled to income support, then—
 - (a) if he has no income, the amount shall be the applicable amount; and
 - (b) if he has income, the amount shall be the difference between his income and the applicable amount.
- (5) Where a person is entitled to income support for a period to which this subsection applies, the amount payable for that period shall be calculated in such manner as may be prescribed.
- (6) Subsection (5) above applies—
 - (a) to a period of less than a week which is the whole period for which income support is payable; and
 - (b) to any other period of less than a week for which it is payable.

Textual Amendments

- F1** S. 123(1)(e)(f) inserted (5.2.1996 for the purpose only of authorising the making of regulations and *prosp.* otherwise) by S.I. 1995/2705, art. 40(1), **Sch. 2 para. 13(5)**; S.R. 1996/26, art. 2(b), **Sch.**

124 Severe hardship cases.

- (1) If it appears to the Department—
 - (a) that a person of or over the age of 16 but under the age of 18 is not entitled to income support; and
 - (b) that severe hardship will result to that person unless income support is paid to him,
 the Department may direct that this subsection shall apply to him.
- (2) Any such direction may specify a period for which subsection (1) above is to apply to the person to whom the direction relates.
- (3) The person to whom such a direction relates shall be treated in accordance with it, but if at any time it appears to the Department that there has been a change of circumstances as a result of which failure to receive income support need no longer result in severe hardship to him, the Department may revoke the direction.
- (4) The Department may also revoke the direction if—
 - (a) it is satisfied that the direction was given in ignorance of some material fact or was based on a mistake as to some material fact; and
 - (b) it considers that but for its ignorance or mistake it would not have determined that failure to receive income support would result in severe hardship.
- (5) In this section “period” includes—
 - (a) a period of a determinate length;
 - (b) a period defined by reference to the happening of a future event; and
 - (c) a period of a determinate length but subject to earlier determination upon the happening of a future event.

Status: Point in time view as at 24/09/1996.

Changes to legislation: Social Security Contributions and Benefits (Northern Ireland) Act 1992, Cross Heading: Income support is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 14 July 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

125 Trade disputes.

- (1) This section applies to a person, other than a child or a person of a prescribed description—
 - (a) who is disqualified under section 27 above for receiving unemployment benefit; or
 - (b) who would be so disqualified if otherwise entitled to that benefit, except during any period shown by the person to be a period of incapacity for work^{F2} . . . or to be within the maternity period.
- (2) In subsection (1) above “the maternity period” means the period commencing at the beginning of the 6th week before the expected week of confinement and ending at the end of the 7th week after the week in which confinement takes place.
- (3) For the purpose of calculating income support—
 - (a) so long as this section applies to a person who is not a member of a family, the applicable amount shall be disregarded;
 - (b) so long as it applies to a person who is a member of a family but is not a member of a married or unmarried couple, the portion of the applicable amount which is included in respect of him shall be disregarded;
 - (c) so long as it applies to one of the members of a married or unmarried couple—
 - (i) if the applicable amount consists only of an amount in respect of them, it shall be reduced to one-half; and
 - (ii) if it includes other amounts, the portion of it which is included in respect of them shall be reduced to one-half and any further portion of it which is included in respect of the member of the couple to whom this section applies shall be disregarded;
 - (d) so long as it applies to both the members of a married or unmarried couple—
 - (i) if neither of them is responsible for a child or person of a prescribed description who is a member of the same household, the applicable amount shall be disregarded; and
 - (ii) in any other case, the portion of the applicable amount which is included in respect of them and any further portion of it which is included in respect of either of them shall be disregarded.
- (4) Where a reduction under subsection (3)(c) above would not produce a sum which is a multiple of 5p, the reduction shall be to the nearest lower sum which is such a multiple.
- (5) Where this section applies to a person for any period, then, except so far as regulations provide otherwise—
 - (a) in calculating the entitlement to income support of that person or a member of his family the following shall be treated as his income and shall not be disregarded—
 - (i) any payment which he or a member of his family receives or is entitled to obtain by reason of the person to whom this section applies being without employment for that period; and
 - (ii) without prejudice to the generality of sub-paragraph (i) above, any amount which becomes or would on an application duly made become available to him in that period by way of repayment of income tax deducted from his emoluments in pursuance of section 203 of the^{M1}Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988 (PAYE); and

Status: Point in time view as at 24/09/1996.

Changes to legislation: Social Security Contributions and Benefits (Northern Ireland) Act 1992, Cross Heading: Income support is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 14 July 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

- (b) any payment by way of income support for that period or any part of it which apart from this paragraph would be made to him, or to a person whose applicable amount is aggregated with his—
- (i) shall not be made if the weekly rate of payment is equal to or less than the relevant sum; or
 - (ii) if it is more than the relevant sum, shall be at a weekly rate equal to the difference.
- (6) In respect of any period less than a week, subsection (5) above shall have effect subject to such modifications as may be prescribed.
- (7) Subject to subsection (8) below, “the relevant sum” for the purposes of subsection (5) above shall be [^{F3}£26.00].
- (8) If an order under section 132 of the Administration Act (annual up-rating) has the effect of increasing payments of income support, from the time when the order comes into operation there shall be substituted, in subsection (5)(b) above, for the references to the sum for the time being mentioned in it references to a sum arrived at by—
- (a) increasing that sum by the percentage by which the personal allowance under paragraph 1(1) of Part I of Schedule 2 to the ^{M2}Income Support (General) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1987 for a single person aged not less than 25 has been increased by the order; and
 - (b) if the sum as so increased is not a multiple of 50p, disregarding the remainder if it is 25p and, if it is not, rounding it up or down to the nearest 50p, and the order shall state the substituted sum.

Textual Amendments

- F2** Words in s. 125(1) repealed (13.4.1995) by S.I. 1994/1898 (N.I. 12), art. 13(1)(2), Sch. 1 Pt. I para. 31, Sch. 2; S.R. 1994/450, art. 2(d), Sch. Pt. IV
- F3** Sum in s. 125(7) substituted (with effect as mentioned in art. 1(1)(h) of the amending S.R.) by S.R. 1996/73, arts. 1(1)(h), 20

Marginal Citations

- M1** 1988 c. 1.
- M2** S.R. (N.I.) 1987 No. 459.

126 Effect of return to work.

If a person returns to work with the same employer after a period during which section 125 above applies to him, and whether or not his return is before the end of any stoppage of work in relation to which he is or would be disqualified for receiving unemployment benefit—

- (a) that section shall cease to apply to him at the commencement of the day on which he returns to work; and
- (b) until the end of the period of 15 days beginning with that day, section 123(1) above shall have effect in relation to him as if the following paragraph were substituted for paragraph (c)—

“(c) in the case of a member of a married or unmarried couple, the other member is not engaged in remunerative work; and”;

Status: Point in time view as at 24/09/1996.

Changes to legislation: *Social Security Contributions and Benefits (Northern Ireland) Act 1992, Cross Heading: Income support is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 14 July 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)*

- (c) any sum paid by way of income support for that period of 15 days to him or, where he is a member of a married or unmarried couple, to the other member of that couple, shall be recoverable in accordance with the regulations from the person to whom it was paid or from any prescribed person or, where the person to whom it was paid is a member of a married or unmarried couple, from the other member of the couple.

Status:

Point in time view as at 24/09/1996.

Changes to legislation:

Social Security Contributions and Benefits (Northern Ireland) Act 1992, Cross Heading: Income support is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 14 July 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations.