
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2015 No. 2006

The Welfare Reform (Northern Ireland) Order 2015

PART 2 N.I.

Universal credit

CHAPTER 1 N.I.

Entitlement and awards

Introductory

Universal credit N.I.

- 6.—(1) A benefit known as universal credit is payable in accordance with this Part.
- (2) Universal credit may, subject as follows, be awarded to—
- (a) an individual who is not a member of a couple (a “single person”), or
 - (b) members of a couple jointly.
- (3) An award of universal credit is, subject as follows, calculated by reference to—
- (a) a standard allowance,
 - (b) an amount for responsibility for children or young persons,
 - (c) an amount for housing, and
 - (d) amounts for other particular needs or circumstances.

Commencement Information

- I1** [Art. 6](#) in operation at 27.9.2017 for specified purposes by [S.R. 2017/190](#), [art. 4\(3\)-\(6\)](#), [Sch. 1](#) (with [art. 5](#))
- I2** [Art. 6](#) in operation at 15.11.2017 and 13.12.2017 for specified purposes by [S.R. 2017/216](#), [art. 3](#) (with [art. 6](#)) (as amended (15.1.2018) by [S.R. 2018/1](#), [art. 7](#))
- I3** [Art. 6](#) in operation at 17.1.2018 and further specified dates for specified purposes by [S.R. 2018/1](#), [art. 3](#) (with [art. 6](#))

Claims N.I.

- 7.—(1) A claim may be made for universal credit by—
- (a) a single person, or
 - (b) members of a couple jointly.
- (2) Regulations may specify circumstances in which a member of a couple may make a claim as a single person.

Status: Point in time view as at 17/01/2018.

Changes to legislation: The Welfare Reform (Northern Ireland) Order 2015, CHAPTER 1 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 25 June 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)

Commencement Information

- I4** Art. 7 in operation at 2.5.2016 for specified purposes by S.R. 2016/215, **art. 2(2)(a)**
- I5** Art. 7 in operation at 27.9.2017 for specified purposes by S.R. 2017/190, **art. 4(3)-(6), Sch. 1** (with **art. 5**)
- I6** Art. 7 in operation at 15.11.2017 and 13.12.2017 for specified purposes by S.R. 2017/216, **art. 3** (with **art. 6**) (as amended (15.1.2018) by S.R. 2018/1, **art. 7**)
- I7** Art. 7 in operation at 17.1.2018 and further specified dates for specified purposes by S.R. 2018/1, **art. 3** (with **art. 6**)

Entitlement

Entitlement **N.I.**

- 8.—**(1) A single claimant is entitled to universal credit if the claimant meets—
- (a) the basic conditions, and
 - (b) the financial conditions for a single claimant.
- (2) Joint claimants are jointly entitled to universal credit if—
- (a) each of them meets the basic conditions, and
 - (b) they meet the financial conditions for joint claimants.

Commencement Information

- I8** Art. 8 in operation at 27.9.2017 for specified purposes by S.R. 2017/190, **art. 4(3)-(6), Sch. 1** (with **art. 5**)
- I9** Art. 8 in operation at 15.11.2017 and 13.12.2017 for specified purposes by S.R. 2017/216, **art. 3** (with **art. 6**) (as amended (15.1.2018) by S.R. 2018/1, **art. 7**)
- I10** Art. 8 in operation at 17.1.2018 and further specified dates for specified purposes by S.R. 2018/1, **art. 3** (with **art. 6**)

Basic conditions **N.I.**

- 9.—**(1) For the purposes of Article 8, a person meets the basic conditions who—
- (a) is at least 18 years old,
 - (b) has not reached the qualifying age for state pension credit,
 - (c) is in Northern Ireland,
 - (d) is not receiving education, and
 - (e) has accepted a claimant commitment.
- (2) Regulations may provide for exceptions to the requirement to meet any of the basic conditions (and, for joint claimants, may provide for an exception for one or both).
- (3) For the basic condition in paragraph (1)(a) regulations may specify a different minimum age for prescribed cases.
- (4) For the basic condition in paragraph (1)(b) the qualifying age for state pension credit is that referred to in section 1(6) of the State Pension Credit Act (Northern Ireland) 2002.
- (5) For the basic condition in paragraph (1)(c) regulations may—

- (a) specify circumstances in which a person is to be treated as being or not being in Northern Ireland;
 - (b) specify circumstances in which temporary absence from Northern Ireland is disregarded;
 - (c) modify the application of this Part in relation to a person not in Northern Ireland who is by virtue of sub-paragraph (b) entitled to universal credit.
- (6) For the basic condition in paragraph (1)(d) regulations may—
- (a) specify what “receiving education” means;
 - (b) specify circumstances in which a person is to be treated as receiving or not receiving education.
- (7) For the basic condition in paragraph (1)(e) regulations may specify circumstances in which a person is to be treated as having accepted or not accepted a claimant commitment.

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** Art. 9(1)(a) modified (coming into force in accordance with reg. 1 of the amending Rule) by [The Universal Credit Regulations \(NorthernIreland\) 2016 \(S.R. 2016/216\), regs. 1, 12\(1\)](#)
- C2** Art. 9(1)(a) modified (coming into force in accordance with reg. 1 of the amending Rule) by [The Universal Credit Regulations \(NorthernIreland\) 2016 \(S.R. 2016/216\), regs. 1, 8\(1\)](#)
- C3** Art. 9(1)(d) excluded (coming into force in accordance with reg. 1 of the amending Rule) by [The Universal Credit Regulations \(NorthernIreland\) 2016 \(S.R. 2016/216\), regs. 1, 14](#)
- C4** Art. 9(1)(e) modified (coming into force in accordance with reg. 1 of the amending Rule) by [The Universal Credit Regulations \(NorthernIreland\) 2016 \(S.R. 2016/216\), regs. 1, 15\(1\)](#)

Commencement Information

- I11** Art. 9 in operation at 2.5.2016 for specified purposes by [S.R. 2016/215, art. 2\(2\)\(a\)](#)
- I12** Art. 9 in operation at 27.9.2017 for specified purposes by [S.R. 2017/190, art. 4\(3\)-\(6\), Sch. 1](#) (with [art. 5](#))
- I13** Art. 9 in operation at 15.11.2017 and 13.12.2017 for specified purposes by [S.R. 2017/216, art. 3](#) (with [art. 6](#)) (as amended (15.1.2018) by [S.R. 2018/1, art. 7](#))
- I14** Art. 9 in operation at 17.1.2018 and further specified dates for specified purposes by [S.R. 2018/1, art. 3](#) (with [art. 6](#))

Financial conditions **N.I.**

- 10.**—(1) For the purposes of Article 8, the financial conditions for a single claimant are that—
- (a) the claimant's capital, or a prescribed part of it, is not greater than a prescribed amount, and
 - (b) the claimant's income is such that, if the claimant were entitled to universal credit, the amount payable would not be less than any prescribed minimum.
- (2) For those purposes, the financial conditions for joint claimants are that—
- (a) their combined capital, or a prescribed part of it, is not greater than a prescribed amount, and
 - (b) their combined income is such that, if they were entitled to universal credit, the amount payable would not be less than any prescribed minimum.

Commencement Information

- I15** Art. 10 in operation at 2.5.2016 for specified purposes by [S.R. 2016/215, art. 2\(2\)\(a\)](#)

Status: Point in time view as at 17/01/2018.

Changes to legislation: The Welfare Reform (Northern Ireland) Order 2015, CHAPTER 1 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 25 June 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)

- I16** Art. 10 in operation at 27.9.2017 for specified purposes by S.R. 2017/190, art. 4(3)-(6), Sch. 1 (with art. 5)
- I17** Art. 10 in operation at 15.11.2017 and 13.12.2017 for specified purposes by S.R. 2017/216, art. 3 (with art. 6) (as amended (15.1.2018) by S.R. 2018/1, art. 7)
- I18** Art. 10 in operation at 17.1.2018 and further specified dates for specified purposes by S.R. 2018/1, art. 3 (with art. 6)

Restrictions on entitlement **N.I.**

- 11.**—(1) Entitlement to universal credit does not arise—
- in prescribed circumstances (even though the requirements in Article 8 are met);
 - if the requirements in Article 8 are met for a period shorter than a prescribed period;
 - for a prescribed period at the beginning of a period during which those requirements are met.
- (2) A period prescribed under paragraph (1)(b) or (c) may not exceed 7 days.
- (3) Regulations may provide for exceptions to paragraph (1)(b) or (c).

Commencement Information

- I19** Art. 11 in operation at 2.5.2016 for specified purposes by S.R. 2016/215, art. 2(2)(a)
- I20** Art. 11 in operation at 27.9.2017 for specified purposes by S.R. 2017/190, art. 4(3)-(6), Sch. 1 (with art. 5)
- I21** Art. 11 in operation at 15.11.2017 and 13.12.2017 for specified purposes by S.R. 2017/216, art. 3 (with art. 6) (as amended (15.1.2018) by S.R. 2018/1, art. 7)
- I22** Art. 11 in operation at 17.1.2018 and further specified dates for specified purposes by S.R. 2018/1, art. 3 (with art. 6)

Awards

Basis of awards **N.I.**

- 12.**—(1) Universal credit is payable in respect of each complete assessment period within a period of entitlement.
- (2) In this Part an “assessment period” is a period of a prescribed duration.
- (3) Regulations may make provision—
- about when an assessment period is to start;
 - for universal credit to be payable in respect of a period shorter than an assessment period;
 - about the amount payable in respect of a period shorter than an assessment period.
- (4) In paragraph (1) “period of entitlement” means a period during which entitlement to universal credit subsists.

Commencement Information

- I23** Art. 12 in operation at 2.5.2016 for specified purposes by S.R. 2016/215, art. 2(2)(a)
- I24** Art. 12 in operation at 27.9.2017 for specified purposes by S.R. 2017/190, art. 4(3)-(6), Sch. 1 (with art. 5)

- I25** Art. 12 in operation at 15.11.2017 and 13.12.2017 for specified purposes by S.R. 2017/216, art. 3 (with art. 6) (as amended (15.1.2018) by S.R. 2018/1, art. 7)
- I26** Art. 12 in operation at 17.1.2018 and further specified dates for specified purposes by S.R. 2018/1, art. 3 (with art. 6)

Calculation of awards **N.I.**

- 13.**—(1) The amount of an award of universal credit is to be the balance of—
- (a) the maximum amount (see paragraph (2)), less
 - (b) the amounts to be deducted (see paragraph (3)).
- (2) The maximum amount is the total of—
- (a) any amount included under Article 14 (standard allowance),
 - (b) any amount included under Article 15 (responsibility for children and young persons),
 - (c) any amount included under Article 16 (housing costs), and
 - (d) any amount included under Article 17 (other particular needs or circumstances).
- (3) The amounts to be deducted are—
- (a) an amount in respect of earned income calculated in the prescribed manner (which may include multiplying some or all earned income by a prescribed percentage), and
 - (b) an amount in respect of unearned income calculated in the prescribed manner (which may include multiplying some or all unearned income by a prescribed percentage).
- (4) In paragraph (3)(a) and (b) the references to income are—
- (a) in the case of a single claimant, to income of the claimant, and
 - (b) in the case of joint claimants, to combined income of the claimants.

Commencement Information

- I27** Art. 13 in operation at 2.5.2016 for specified purposes by S.R. 2016/215, art. 2(2)(a)
- I28** Art. 13 in operation at 27.9.2017 for specified purposes by S.R. 2017/190, art. 4(3)-(6), Sch. 1 (with art. 5)
- I29** Art. 13 in operation at 15.11.2017 and 13.12.2017 for specified purposes by S.R. 2017/216, art. 3 (with art. 6) (as amended (15.1.2018) by S.R. 2018/1, art. 7)
- I30** Art. 13 in operation at 17.1.2018 and further specified dates for specified purposes by S.R. 2018/1, art. 3 (with art. 6)

Elements of an award

Standard allowance **N.I.**

- 14.**—(1) The calculation of an award of universal credit is to include an amount by way of an allowance for—
- (a) a single claimant, or
 - (b) joint claimants.
- (2) Regulations are to specify the amount to be included under paragraph (1).
- (3) Regulations may provide for exceptions to paragraph (1).

Status: Point in time view as at 17/01/2018.

Changes to legislation: The Welfare Reform (Northern Ireland) Order 2015, CHAPTER 1 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 25 June 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)

Commencement Information

- I31** Art. 14 in operation at 2.5.2016 for specified purposes by S.R. 2016/215, **art. 2(2)(a)**
- I32** Art. 14 in operation at 27.9.2017 for specified purposes by S.R. 2017/190, **art. 4(3)-(6)**, **Sch. 1** (with **art. 5**)
- I33** Art. 14 in operation at 15.11.2017 and 13.12.2017 for specified purposes by S.R. 2017/216, **art. 3** (with **art. 6**) (as amended (15.1.2018) by S.R. 2018/1, **art. 7**)
- I34** Art. 14 in operation at 17.1.2018 and further specified dates for specified purposes by S.R. 2018/1, **art. 3** (with **art. 6**)

Responsibility for children and young persons **N.I.**

15.—(1) The calculation of an award of universal credit is to include an amount for each child or qualifying young person for whom a claimant is responsible.

[^{F1}(1A) But the amount mentioned in paragraph (1) is to be available in respect of a maximum of two persons who are either children or qualifying young persons for whom a claimant is responsible.]

(2) Regulations may make provision for the inclusion of an additional amount [^{F2}for each] child or qualifying young person [^{F3}for whom a claimant is responsible who] is disabled.

(3) Regulations are to specify, or provide for the calculation of, amounts to be included under paragraph (1) or (2).

(4) Regulations may provide for exceptions to paragraph (1) [^{F4}or (1A)] .

(5) In this Part, “qualifying young person” means a person of a prescribed description.

Textual Amendments

- F1** Art. 15(1A) inserted (11.3.2017) by The Welfare Reform and Work (Northern Ireland) Order 2016 (S.I. 2016/999), **arts. 2(1), 10(2)**; S.R. 2017/46, **art. 2(b)**
- F2** Words in **art. 15(2)** substituted (11.3.2017) by The Welfare Reform and Work (Northern Ireland) Order 2016 (S.I. 2016/999), **arts. 2(1), 10(3)(a)**; S.R. 2017/46, **art. 2(b)**
- F3** Words in **art. 15(2)** inserted (11.3.2017) by The Welfare Reform and Work (Northern Ireland) Order 2016 (S.I. 2016/999), **arts. 2(1), 10(3)(b)**; S.R. 2017/46, **art. 2(b)**
- F4** Words in **art. 15(4)** inserted (11.3.2017) by The Welfare Reform and Work (Northern Ireland) Order 2016 (S.I. 2016/999), **arts. 2(1), 10(4)**; S.R. 2017/46, **art. 2(b)**

Commencement Information

- I35** Art. 15 in operation at 2.5.2016 for specified purposes by S.R. 2016/215, **art. 2(2)(a)**
- I36** Art. 15 in operation at 27.9.2017 for specified purposes by S.R. 2017/190, **art. 4(3)-(6)**, **Sch. 1** (with **art. 5**)
- I37** Art. 15 in operation at 15.11.2017 and 13.12.2017 for specified purposes by S.R. 2017/216, **art. 3** (with **art. 6**) (as amended (15.1.2018) by S.R. 2018/1, **art. 7**)
- I38** Art. 15 in operation at 17.1.2018 and further specified dates for specified purposes by S.R. 2018/1, **art. 3** (with **art. 6**)

Housing costs **N.I.**

16.—(1) The calculation of an award of universal credit is to include an amount in respect of any liability of a claimant to make payments in respect of the accommodation the claimant occupies as his or her home.

- (2) For the purposes of paragraph (1)—
 - (a) the accommodation must be in Northern Ireland;
 - (b) the accommodation must be residential accommodation;
 - (c) it is immaterial whether the accommodation consists of the whole or part of a building and whether or not it comprises separate and self-contained premises.
- (3) Regulations may make provision as to—
 - (a) what is meant by payments in respect of accommodation for the purposes of this Article (and, in particular, the extent to which such payments include mortgage payments);
 - (b) circumstances in which a claimant is to be treated as liable or not liable to make such payments;
 - (c) circumstances in which a claimant is to be treated as occupying or not occupying accommodation as his or her home (and, in particular, for temporary absences to be disregarded);
 - (d) circumstances in which land used for the purposes of any accommodation is to be treated as included in the accommodation.
- (4) Regulations are to provide for the determination or calculation of any amount to be included under this Article.
- (5) Regulations may—
 - (a) provide for exceptions to paragraph (1);
 - (b) provide for inclusion of an amount under this Article in the calculation of an award of universal credit—
 - (i) to end at a prescribed time, or
 - (ii) not to start until a prescribed time.

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C5** Art. 16(1) excluded (coming into force in accordance with reg. 1 of the amending Rule) by The Universal Credit Regulations (NorthernIreland) 2016 (S.R. 2016/216), reg. 1, **Sch. 4 para. 4**
- C6** Art. 16(1) excluded (coming into force in accordance with reg. 1 of the amending Rule) by The Universal Credit Regulations (NorthernIreland) 2016 (S.R. 2016/216), reg. 1, **Sch. 5 para. 4(1)**

Commencement Information

- I39** Art. 16 in operation at 2.5.2016 for specified purposes by S.R. 2016/215, **art. 2(2)(a)**
- I40** Art. 16 in operation at 27.9.2017 for specified purposes by S.R. 2017/190, art. 4(3)-(6), **Sch. 1** (with art. 5)
- I41** Art. 16 in operation at 15.11.2017 and 13.12.2017 for specified purposes by S.R. 2017/216, **art. 3** (with art. 6) (as amended (15.1.2018) by S.R. 2018/1, art. 7)
- I42** Art. 16 in operation at 17.1.2018 and further specified dates for specified purposes by S.R. 2018/1, **art. 3** (with art. 6)

Other particular needs or circumstances **N.I.**

17.—(1) The calculation of an award of universal credit is to include amounts in respect of such particular needs or circumstances of a claimant as may be prescribed.

(2) The needs or circumstances prescribed under paragraph (1) may include—

^{F5}(a)

Status: Point in time view as at 17/01/2018.

Changes to legislation: The Welfare Reform (Northern Ireland) Order 2015, CHAPTER 1 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 25 June 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) the fact that a claimant has limited capability for work and work-related activity;
 - (c) the fact that a claimant has regular and substantial caring responsibilities for a severely disabled person.
- (3) Regulations are to specify, or provide for the determination or calculation of, any amount to be included under paragraph (1).
- (4) Regulations may—
- (a) provide for inclusion of an amount under this Article in the calculation of an award of universal credit—
 - (i) to end at a prescribed time, or
 - (ii) not to start until a prescribed time;
 - (b) provide for the manner in which a claimant's needs or circumstances are to be determined.

Textual Amendments

- F5** Art. 17(2)(a) omitted (27.9.2017) by virtue of The Welfare Reform and Work (Northern Ireland) Order 2016 (S.I. 2016/999), arts. 2(1), **11**; S.R. 2017/166, art. 3(a)

Commencement Information

- I43** Art. 17 in operation at 2.5.2016 for specified purposes by S.R. 2016/215, **art. 2(2)(a)**
- I44** Art. 17 in operation at 27.9.2017 for specified purposes by S.R. 2017/190, art. 4(3)-(6), **Sch. 1** (with art. 5)
- I45** Art. 17 in operation at 15.11.2017 and 13.12.2017 for specified purposes by S.R. 2017/216, **art. 3** (with art. 6) (as amended (15.1.2018) by S.R. 2018/1, art. 7)
- I46** Art. 17 in operation at 17.1.2018 and further specified dates for specified purposes by S.R. 2018/1, **art. 3** (with art. 6)

Status:

Point in time view as at 17/01/2018.

Changes to legislation:

The Welfare Reform (Northern Ireland) Order 2015, CHAPTER 1 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 25 June 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.