

1990 No. 127

SOCIAL SECURITY

**The Social Security (Mobility Allowance) (Amendment)
Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1990**

Made 26th March 1990

Coming into operation 11th April 1990

The Department of Health and Social Services for Northern Ireland, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by section 37A(2) of the Social Security (Northern Ireland) Act 1975(a) and of all other powers enabling it in that behalf, hereby makes the following regulations:

Citation, commencement and interpretation

1.—(1) These regulations may be cited as the Social Security (Mobility Allowance) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1990 and shall come into operation on 11th April 1990.

(2) In these regulations “the principal regulations” means the Social Security (Mobility Allowance) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1975(b).

Amendment of regulation 3 of the principal regulations

2. In regulation 3 of the principal regulations (circumstances in which a person is or is not to be treated as suffering from physical disablement such that he is unable or virtually unable to walk) for paragraph (1) there shall be substituted the following paragraphs—

“(1) A person shall be treated, for the purposes of section 37A, as suffering from physical disablement such that he is either unable to walk or virtually unable to do so only if—

(a) his physical condition as a whole is such that, without having regard to circumstances peculiar to that person as to place of residence or as to place of, or nature of, employment—

(i) he is unable to walk,

(ii) his ability to walk out of doors is so limited, as regards the distance over which or the speed at which or the length of time for which or the manner in which he can make progress on foot without severe discomfort, that he is virtually unable to walk, or

(a) 1975 c. 15; section 37A(2) was inserted by Article 24(1) of the Social Security Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 1975 (S.I. 1975/1503 (N.I. 15)) and amended by Article 72(1) of the Social Security (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 (S.I. 1986/1888 (N.I. 18))

(b) S.R. 1975 No. 280; the relevant amending regulations are S.R. 1979 No. 47

- (iii) the exertion required to walk would constitute a danger to his life or would be likely to lead to a serious deterioration in his health; or
 - (b) he is both blind and deaf and, by reason of the effects of those conditions in combination with each other, he is unable, without the assistance of another person, to walk to any intended or required destination while out of doors.
- (1A) For the purposes of paragraph (1)(b) a person is—
- (a) blind only where the degree of disablement resulting from loss of vision amounts to 100 per cent.;
 - (b) deaf only where the degree of disablement resulting from loss of hearing amounts to not less than 80 per cent. on a scale where 100 per cent. represents absolute deafness.”.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Health and Social Services for Northern Ireland on 26th March 1990.

(L.S.)

A. N. Burns

Assistant Secretary

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations.)

These regulations further amend regulation 3. of the Social Security (Mobility Allowance) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1975 to provide that a person who, by reason of the combined effects of being blind and deaf, is unable without the guidance of another person to walk to an intended or required destination while out of doors is to be treated as suffering from physical disablement such that he is unable or virtually unable to walk for the purposes of section 37A of the Social Security (Northern Ireland) Act 1975.

The regulations correspond to provision contained in regulations made by the Secretary of State for Social Security in relation to Great Britain and accordingly, by virtue of section 10(2) of, and paragraph 21 of Schedule 3 to, the Social Security Act 1980 (c. 30), are not subject to the requirement of section 10(1) of that Act for prior reference to the Social Security Advisory Committee.