

1995 No. 162

FAMILY LAW

SOCIAL SECURITY

CHILD SUPPORT

**The Child Support and Income Support (Amendment)
Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995***Made 10th April 1995**Coming into operation in accordance with regulation 1(1)*

The Department of Health and Social Services, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Articles 10(11), 12(1), 14(2) and (3), 16(1) and (3), 18(1), 19(4), 20(11), 23(2) and (3), 29(2) and (3), 32, 38(3), 39, 40(1), 43(11), 44, 47, 48 and 50(2) of, and paragraphs 4(3), 5(1) and (2), 6(2), (4) and (5), 7(1), 8, 9(a) and 11 of Schedule 1 to, the Child Support (Northern Ireland) Order 1991(a) and by section 131(1) of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits (Northern Ireland) Act 1992(b) 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 Child Support and Income Support (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 and shall come into operation as follows—

(a) regulations 1 and 9(18) on 13th April 1995; and

(b) all other regulations on 18th April 1995.

(2) In these Regulations—

“the Appeals Regulations” means the Child Support Appeal Tribunals (Procedure) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1993(c);

“the Arrears Regulations” means the Child Support (Arrears, Interest and Adjustment of Maintenance Assessments) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1992(d);

“the Collection and Enforcement Regulations” means the Child Support (Collection and Enforcement) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1992(e);

(a) S.I. 1991/2628 (N.I. 23)

(b) 1992 c. 7

(c) S.R. 1993 No. 50

(d) S.R. 1992 No. 342; relevant amending regulations are S.R. 1993 No. 164

(e) S.R. 1992 No. 390; relevant amending regulations are S.R. 1994 No. 37

“the Fees Regulations” means the Child Support Fees Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1993(a);

“the Information, Evidence and Disclosure Regulations” means the Child Support (Information, Evidence and Disclosure) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1992(b);

“the Maintenance Arrangements and Jurisdiction Regulations” means the Child Support (Maintenance Arrangements and Jurisdiction) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1992(c);

“the Maintenance Assessment Procedure Regulations” means the Child Support (Maintenance Assessment Procedure) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1992(d);

“the Maintenance Assessments and Special Cases Regulations” means the Child Support (Maintenance Assessments and Special Cases) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1992(e);

“the Miscellaneous Amendments Regulations” means the Child Support (Miscellaneous Amendments and Transitional Provisions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1994(f).

(3) The Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954(g) shall apply to these Regulations as it applies to a Measure of the Northern Ireland Assembly.

Amendment of the Appeals Regulations

2.—(1) The Appeals Regulations shall be amended in accordance with paragraphs (2) to (6).

(2) In regulation 2 (service of notices or documents) after paragraph (2) there shall be added the following paragraph—

“(3) The provisions of paragraph (2) shall apply to a summons issued under regulation 10.”

(3) In regulation 3 (making an appeal or application and time limits) for paragraph (1) there shall be substituted the following paragraphs—

“(1) This regulation applies to an appeal to a tribunal under—

(a) Article 22(1) or 43(7) of the Order; or

(b) regulation 41(9) of the Child Support (Maintenance Assessment Procedure) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1992(h),

and to an application to a tribunal to set aside its decision under regulation 15.

(1A) An appeal or application of a kind mentioned in paragraph (1) shall be by notice in writing, signed by the person making it, or by his

(a) S.R. 1993 No. 73; relevant amending regulations are S.R. 1994 No. 37

(b) S.R. 1992 No. 339; relevant amending regulations are S.R. 1994 No. 65 and S.R. 1995 No. 19

(c) S.R. 1992 No. 466; relevant amending regulations are S.R. 1995 No. 19

(d) S.R. 1992 No. 340; relevant amending regulations are S.R. 1993 No. 164, S.R. 1994 No. 37 and S.R. 1995 No. 19

(e) S.R. 1992 No. 341; relevant amending regulations are S.R. 1993 Nos. 164 and 191 and S.R. 1994 Nos. 37 and 65

(f) S.R. 1994 No. 37

(g) 1954 c. 33 (N.I.)

(h) Paragraph (9) was substituted by regulation 4(12) of S.R. 1993 No. 164

representative where it appears to a chairman that he was unable to sign personally, or by a barrister or solicitor on his behalf.”.

(4) After regulation 3 there shall be inserted the following regulation—

“Death of a party to an appeal

3A.—(1) In any proceedings, on the death of a party to those proceedings, the Department may appoint such person as it thinks fit to proceed with the appeal in the place of such deceased party.

(2) A grant of probate or letters of administration to the estate of the deceased party, whenever taken out, shall have no effect on an appointment made under paragraph (1).

(3) Where a person appointed under paragraph (1) has, prior to the date of such appointment, taken any action in relation to the appeal on behalf of the deceased party, the effective date of the appointment by the Department shall be the day immediately prior to the first day on which such action was taken.”.

(5) In regulation 6 (striking out of proceedings) in paragraph (1) for “because of” there shall be substituted “for want of prosecution which term includes”.

(6) In regulation 11 (hearings) after paragraph (5) there shall be inserted the following paragraph—

“(5A) A tribunal may require any person who is, with leave of the tribunal, acting as an interpreter for any person entitled to be heard or for a witness to swear that he will carry out his functions correctly and to the best of his skill and understanding and, for that purpose, there may be administered an oath.”.

Amendment of the Arrears Regulations

3.—(1) The Arrears Regulations shall be amended in accordance with paragraphs (2) to (6).

(2) In regulation 4(a) (circumstances in which no liability to pay interest arises)—

(a) in paragraph (1) for the words from “with respect to arrears” to the end there shall be substituted—

“with respect to arrears—

(a) in respect of any day which falls after 17th April 1995; or

(b) in respect of any period if either of the conditions set out in paragraph (2) is satisfied in relation to that period.”;

(b) in paragraph (3) the words “of interest” where they first occur shall be omitted.

(3) For regulation 10 (adjustment of the amount payable under a maintenance assessment) there shall be substituted the following regulation—

“10.—(1) Where for any reason, including the retrospective effect of a new or a fresh maintenance assessment, there has been an overpayment

of child support maintenance, a child support officer may, for the purpose of taking account of that overpayment—

- (a) apply the amount overpaid to reduce any arrears of child support maintenance due under any previous maintenance assessment made in respect of the same relevant persons; or
- (b) where there is no previous relevant maintenance assessment or an overpayment remains after the application of sub-paragraph (a), and subject to paragraph (4), adjust the amount payable under a current maintenance assessment by such amount as he considers appropriate in all the circumstances of the case having regard in particular to—
 - (i) the circumstances of the absent parent and the person with care;
 - (ii) the amount of the overpayment in relation to the amount due under the current maintenance assessment, and
 - (iii) the period over which it would be reasonable for the overpayment to be rectified.

(2) Where a child support officer has adjusted the amount payable under a maintenance assessment under the provisions of paragraph (1) and that maintenance assessment is subsequently reviewed under Article 18, 19, 20 or 21 of the Order and a fresh maintenance assessment made, that adjustment shall, subject to paragraph (3), continue to apply to the amount payable under that fresh maintenance assessment unless a child support officer is satisfied that such adjustment would not be appropriate in all the circumstances of the case.

(3) Where a child support officer is satisfied that the adjustment referred to in paragraph (2) would not be appropriate, he may cancel that adjustment or he may adjust the amount payable under that fresh maintenance assessment as he sees fit, having regard to the matters specified in heads (i) to (iii) of paragraph (1)(b).

(4) Any adjustment under the provisions of paragraph (1), (2) or (3) shall not reduce the amount payable under a maintenance assessment to less than the minimum amount prescribed under paragraph 7 of Schedule 1 to the Order.”

(4) In regulation 11 (notifications following an adjustment under the provisions of regulation 10)—

(a) for the heading there shall be substituted the following heading—

“Notifications following a cancellation or adjustment under the provisions of regulation 10”;

(b) for paragraph (1) there shall be substituted the following paragraph—

“(1) Where a child support officer has, under the provisions of regulation 10, cancelled an adjustment in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (3) of that regulation or adjusted the amount payable under a maintenance assessment, he shall immediately notify the relevant persons, so far as is reasonably practicable, of the cancellation or, of the

amount and period of the adjustment, and the amount payable during the period of the adjustment.”.

(5) For regulation 12 (review of adjustments under regulation 10 or of the calculation of arrears or interest) there shall be substituted the following regulation—

“Review of cancellations or adjustments under regulation 10

12.—(1) Where an adjustment made under regulation 10 has been cancelled under paragraph (3) of that regulation or where the amount payable under a maintenance assessment has been adjusted under the provisions of that regulation, a relevant person may apply to the Department for a review of that cancellation or adjustment as if it were a case falling within Article 20 of the Order and—

- (a) Article 20(5), (7) and (8) and regulations made under Article 20(11); and
- (b) subject to the modifications set out in paragraph (2), Article 20(6) and (9),

shall apply to such a review.

(2) The modifications referred to in paragraph (1) are—

- (a) Article 20(6) of the Order shall have effect as if for “the refusal, assessment or cancellation in question” there is substituted “the adjustment of the amount payable, or the cancellation of the adjustment of the amount payable, under regulation 10 of the Child Support (Arrears, Interest and Adjustment of Maintenance Assessments) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1992”;
- (b) Article 20(9) of the Order shall have effect as if for “a maintenance assessment or (as the case may be) a fresh maintenance assessment should be made” there is substituted “a cancelled adjustment should be reinstated or a revised adjustment of the amount payable under regulation 10 of the Child Support (Arrears, Interest and Adjustment of Maintenance Assessments) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1992 should be made”.

(3) Where an adjustment has been cancelled or the amount payable under a maintenance assessment has been adjusted under the provisions of regulation 10, a child support officer may reinstate that cancelled adjustment or revise that adjustment if he is satisfied that one or more of the circumstances set out in sub-paragraphs (a) to (c) of Article 21(1) of the Order apply to that cancellation or that adjustment.”.

(6) In regulation 13 (procedure and notifications on applications and reviews under regulation 12)—

- (a) in paragraph (3) for “or (5)” there shall be substituted “or (3)”;
- (b) after paragraph (4) there shall be inserted the following paragraph(a)—

(a) The original paragraph (5) of regulation 13 of the Arrears Regulations was omitted by regulation 2(7)(b) of S.R. 1993 No. 164

“(5) Where a child support officer refuses to reinstate, or reinstates, a cancelled adjustment following a review under regulation 12(1), he shall immediately notify the relevant persons, so far as that is reasonably practicable, of the refusal or reinstatement, as the case may be, and shall give reasons for his refusal in writing.”.

Amendment of the Collection and Enforcement Regulations

4.—(1) The Collection and Enforcement Regulations shall be amended in accordance with paragraphs (2) to (9).

(2) In regulation 4 (interval of payment) for paragraph (2) there shall be substituted the following paragraph—

“(2) In specifying the day and interval of payment the Department shall have regard to the following factors—

- (a) the circumstances of the person liable to make the payments and in particular the day upon which and the interval at which any income is payable to that person;
- (b) any preference indicated by that person;
- (c) any period necessary to enable the clearance of cheques or otherwise necessary to enable the transmission of payments to the person entitled to receive them,

and, subject to those factors, to any other matter which appears to the Department to be relevant in the particular circumstances of the case.”.

(3) In regulation 5 (transmission of payments)—

- (a) in paragraph (2) at the beginning there shall be inserted “Subject to paragraph (3),”;
- (b) for paragraphs (3) and (4) there shall be substituted the following paragraphs—

“(3) Except where the Department is satisfied in the circumstances of the case that it would cause undue hardship to either the person liable to make the payments or the person entitled to receive them, the interval referred to in paragraph (2) shall not differ from the interval referred to in regulation 4.

(4) Subject to paragraph (3) and regulation 4(2), the interval referred to in paragraph (2) and that referred to in regulation 4 may be varied from time to time by the Department.”.

(4) In regulation 8(1) (interpretation)—

(a) before the definition of “disposable income” there shall be inserted the following definition—

“ “defective” means, in relation to a deduction from earnings order, that it does not comply with the requirements of regulations 9 to 11 and such failure to comply has made it impracticable for the employer to comply with his obligations under the Order and these Regulations;”;

(b) in the definition of “disposable income” for “regulation 12(1)” there shall be substituted “regulation 12(1)(a)”;

(c) after the definition of “exempt income” there shall be inserted the following definition—

“ “interim maintenance assessment” means a Category A, Category B, Category C or Category D interim maintenance assessment within the meaning of regulation 8(1B) of the Child Support (Maintenance Assessment Procedure) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1992;”;

(d) in the definition of “protected income level” after “in accordance with” there shall be inserted “paragraphs (1) to (5) of”.

(5) In regulation 9(a) (deduction from earnings orders) for paragraphs (d) and (e) there shall be substituted the following paragraphs—

“(d) the normal deduction rate or rates and the date upon which each is to take effect;

(e) the protected earnings rate;”.

(6) In regulation 10 (normal deduction rate)—

(a) in paragraph (1) for “the normal deduction rate” there shall be substituted “a normal deduction rate”;

(b) in paragraph (2) after “arrears or interest” there shall be inserted “, in a case where there is a current assessment,” and for “at the date of making of the current assessment” there shall be substituted “at the date of making of any current maintenance assessment other than an interim maintenance assessment”.

(7) In regulation 11 (protected earnings rate)—

(a) in paragraph (2) after “shall” there shall be inserted “, except where paragraph (3) or (4) applies;”;

(b) after paragraph (2) there shall be added the following paragraphs—

“(3) Where an interim maintenance assessment is in force the protected earnings rate shall be—

(a) where there is some knowledge of the liable person’s circumstances, the aggregate of the following amounts at the date of the making of the assessment—

(i) the personal allowance applicable by virtue of paragraph 1(1)(e) of Schedule 2 to the Income Support (General) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1987(b), (in this paragraph referred to as “the relevant Schedule”) or, if he is known to have a partner, that applicable for a couple under paragraph 1(3)(c) of that Schedule;

(ii) the personal allowance applicable by virtue of the relevant Schedule in respect of any child or young person who is known to be living with the relevant person (and where the age of the child or young person is not known it shall be assumed to be less than 11);

(a) Paragraph (e) was amended by regulation 2 of S.R. 1994 No. 37

(b) S.R. 1987 No. 459; relevant amending rules are S.R. 1988 Nos. 274 and 318, S.R. 1990 No. 213 and S.R. 1995 No. 71

(iii) the amount of any premium applicable by virtue of the relevant Schedule which is known to be applicable in the circumstances of the case, and

(iv) £30.00;

(b) in any other case the personal allowance specified in paragraph 1(1)(e) of the relevant Schedule at the date mentioned in subparagraph (a), plus £30.00.

(4) Where there is a liability to make payments of child support maintenance but no maintenance assessment is in force, the protected earnings rate shall be—

(a) except where the last maintenance assessment was an interim maintenance assessment of Category A or Category C—

(i) where the absent parent produces evidence sufficient to satisfy the child support officer that his circumstances have changed since the last assessment or review under Article 18, 19, 20 or 21 of the Order, a figure equal to the figure that would be his exempt income if the assessment were then being reviewed, or

(ii) in any other case an amount equal to the amount of exempt income produced by the last assessment or review under Article 18, 19, 20 or 21 of the Order applicable in his case;

(b) in the case of an interim maintenance assessment of Category A or Category C, the amount produced by the application of the provisions of paragraph (3) in his case.”

(8) For regulation 17 (requirement to review deduction from earnings orders) there shall be substituted the following regulation—

“17.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), the Department shall review a deduction from earnings order in the following circumstances—

(a) where there is a change in the amount of the maintenance assessment;

(b) where any arrears and interest on arrears payable under the order are paid off.

(2) There shall be no obligation to review a deduction from earnings order under paragraph (1) where the normal deduction rates specified in the order take account of the changes which will arise as a result of the circumstances specified in subparagraph (a) or (b) of that paragraph.”

(9) In regulation 20 (discharge of deduction from earnings orders) for paragraph (1) there shall be substituted the following paragraph—

“(1) The Department may discharge a deduction from earnings order where it appears to the Department that—

(a) no further payments are due under it;

(b) the order is ineffective or some other way of securing that payments are made would be more effective;

(c) the order is defective;

- (d) the order fails to comply in a material respect with any procedural provision of the Order or regulations made under it other than provision made in regulation 9, 10 or 11;
- (e) at the time of the making of the order the Department did not have, or subsequently ceased to have, jurisdiction to make a deduction from earnings order; or
- (f) in the case of an order made at a time when there is in force an interim maintenance assessment, it is inappropriate to continue deductions under the order having regard to the compliance or the attempted compliance with the maintenance assessment by the liable person.”.

Amendment of the Fees Regulations

5.—(1) The Fees Regulations shall be amended in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3).

(2) In regulation 3(a) (liability to pay fees)—

(a) in paragraph (1) for “paragraphs (4) and (5)” there shall be substituted “paragraphs (3A) to (5)”;

(b) after paragraph (3) there shall be inserted the following paragraph—

“(3A) No person shall be liable to pay an assessment fee or a collection fee which would otherwise become payable on or after 18th April 1995 and before 6th April 1997, and for the purposes of this paragraph a fee becomes payable—

(a) in the case of a collection fee, upon the date upon which the Department arranges for the collection of, and enforcement of the obligation to pay, child support maintenance in accordance with the assessment or the anniversary of the date upon which it so arranges;

(b) in the case of an assessment fee upon the date upon which the maintenance assessment in the case in question is made, or the anniversary thereof.”.

(3) In regulation 4 (fees)—

(a) in paragraph (4) for the words from “the amount of that fee shall” to the end there shall be substituted—

“the amount of that fee shall be—

(a) in a case where the Department arranges for the enforcement of the obligation to pay child support maintenance in accordance with the assessment whichever is the less of the following—

(i) the amount specified in paragraph (3), or

(ii) that amount multiplied by the number of complete weeks between the first date in respect of which arrears are due and the date the assessment fee next becomes payable divided by 52;

(a) Paragraph 3 was substituted by regulation 3(3) of S.R. 1994 No. 37

- (b) in any other case an amount equal to the collection fee specified in paragraph (3), multiplied by the number of complete weeks between the first collection date and the date the assessment fee next becomes payable, and divided by 52.”;
- (b) in paragraph (5) after “terminated” there shall be inserted “except by virtue of regulation 3(3A)”.

Amendment of the Information, Evidence and Disclosure Regulations

6.—(1) The Information, Evidence and Disclosure Regulations shall be amended in accordance with paragraphs (2) to (4).

(2) In regulation 2(2)(a) (persons under a duty to furnish information or evidence) after sub-paragraph (c) there shall be inserted the following sub-paragraphs —

“(cc) persons employed in the service of the Crown or otherwise in the discharge of Crown functions, where they are the current or recent employer of the absent parent or the parent with care in relation to whom an application for a maintenance assessment has been made, with respect to the matters listed in sub-paragraphs (d), (e), (f), (h) and (j) of regulation 3(1);

(cd) persons employed in the service of the Crown or otherwise in the discharge of Crown functions, where they are the current or recent employer of a person falling within sub-paragraph (b), with respect to the matters listed in sub-paragraphs (d) and (e) of regulation 3(1);”.

(3) In regulation 3(2) (purposes for which information or evidence may be required) after sub-paragraph (r) there shall be added the following sub-paragraph—

“(s) the making of, and the amount of, any qualifying transfer or compensating transfer within the meaning of Schedule 3A to the Maintenance Assessments and Special Cases Regulations(b).”.

(4) After regulation 9 (disclosure of information to an appropriate authority for use in the exercise of housing benefit functions) there shall be inserted the following regulation—

“Disclosure of information to other persons

9A.—(1) The Department or a child support officer may disclose information given to them by one party to a maintenance assessment to another party to that assessment where, in the opinion of the Department or a child support officer, such information is essential to inform the party to whom it would be given as to—

- (a) why an application for a maintenance assessment under Article 7 or 9 of the Order, or an application for a review under Article 19 or 20 of the Order, has been rejected;
- (b) why, although an application for a maintenance assessment referred to in sub-paragraph (a) has been accepted, that

(a) Regulation 2 was amended by S.R. 1994 No. 65 and S.R. 1995 No. 19

(b) Schedule 3A is inserted by regulation 9(17) of these Regulations

assessment cannot, at the time in question, be proceeded with or why a maintenance assessment will not be made following that application;

- (c) why a maintenance assessment has ceased to have effect or has been cancelled; or
- (d) how a maintenance assessment has been calculated, in so far as the matter has not been dealt with by the notification given under regulation 10 of the Maintenance Assessment Procedure Regulations.

(2) For the purposes of this regulation, “party to a maintenance assessment” means—

- (a) a relevant person;
- (b) a person appointed by the Department under regulation 3A of the Child Support Appeal Tribunals (Procedure) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1993(a);
- (c) the personal representative of a relevant person where a review or appeal was pending at the date of death of that person and the personal representative is dealing with that review or appeal on behalf of that person.

(3) Any application for information under this regulation shall be made to the Department or a child support officer in writing setting out the reasons for the application.

(4) Except where a person gives written permission to the Department or a child support officer that the information in relation to him mentioned in sub-paragraphs (a) and (b) may be conveyed to other persons, any information given under the provisions of paragraph (1) shall not contain—

- (a) the address of any person other than the recipient of the information in question (other than the address of the office of the child support officer concerned) or any other information the use of which could reasonably be expected to lead to any such person being located;
- (b) any other information the use of which could reasonably be expected to lead to any person, other than a qualifying child or a relevant person, being identified.”.

Amendment of the Maintenance Arrangements and Jurisdiction Regulations

7.—(1) The Maintenance Arrangements and Jurisdiction Regulations shall be amended in accordance with paragraphs (2) to (4).

(2) In regulation 1(2) (interpretation) after the definition of “the Order” there shall be inserted the following definition—

““Maintenance Assessment Procedure Regulations” means the Child Support (Maintenance Assessment Procedure) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1992(b);”.

(a) Regulation 3A is inserted by regulation 2(4) of these Regulations

(b) S.R. 1992 No. 340; relevant amending regulations are S.R. 1993 No. 164, S.R. 1994 No. 37 and S.R. 1995 No. 19

(3) For regulation 2 (prescription of statutory provisions for the purposes of Article 10(11) of the Order) there shall be substituted the following regulation—

“2. The following statutory provisions are prescribed for the purposes of Article 10(11)(e) of the Order—

- (a) the Matrimonial Causes Act (Northern Ireland) 1939(a);
- (b) the Summary Jurisdiction (Separation and Maintenance) Act (Northern Ireland) 1945(b);
- (c) section 4 of the Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (Northern Ireland) 1951(c);
- (d) the Health and Personal Social Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1972(d);
- (e) the Supplementary Benefits (Northern Ireland) Order 1977(e);
- (f) section 27 of the Judicature (Northern Ireland) Act 1978(f);
- (g) the Social Security (Northern Ireland) Order 1986(g);
- (h) the Social Security Administration (Northern Ireland) Act 1992(h).”

(4) In regulation 3 (relationship between maintenance assessments and certain court orders)—

(a) for paragraph (1) there shall be substituted the following paragraph—

“(1) Orders made under the following statutory provisions are of a kind prescribed for the purposes of Article 12(1) of the Order—

- (a) the Illegitimate Children (Affiliation Orders) Act (Northern Ireland) 1924(i);
- (b) the Matrimonial Causes Act (Northern Ireland) 1939;
- (c) the Summary Jurisdiction (Separation and Maintenance) Act (Northern Ireland) 1945;
- (d) section 4 of the Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (Northern Ireland) 1951;
- (e) the Health and Personal Social Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1972;
- (f) the Supplementary Benefits (Northern Ireland) Order 1977;
- (g) section 27 of the Judicature (Northern Ireland) Act 1978;
- (h) Part III of the Matrimonial Causes (Northern Ireland) Order 1978(j);

(a) 1939 c. 13 (N.I.)

(b) 1945 c. 14 (N.I.)

(c) 1951 c. 7 (N.I.)

(d) S.I. 1972/1265 (N.I. 14)

(e) S.I. 1977/2156 (N.I. 27)

(f) 1978 c. 23

(g) S.I. 1986/1888 (N.I. 18)

(h) 1992 c. 8

(i) 1924 c. 27 (N.I.)

(j) S.I. 1978/1045 (N.I. 15)

- (i) the Domestic Proceedings (Northern Ireland) Order 1980(a);
 - (j) the Social Security (Northern Ireland) Order 1986;
 - (k) Part IV of the Matrimonial and Family Proceedings (Northern Ireland) Order 1989(b);
 - (l) the Social Security Administration (Northern Ireland) Act 1992.”;
- (b) after paragraph (6)(c) there shall be added the following paragraph —
- “(7) Where—
- (a) a maintenance assessment is made in accordance with Part I of Schedule 1 to the Order in respect of children with respect to whom an order falling within paragraph (1) was in force; and
 - (b) that order ceases to have effect on or after 18th April 1995, for reasons other than the making of an interim maintenance assessment, but prior to the date on which that maintenance assessment is made and after—
 - (i) the date on which a maintenance enquiry form referred to in regulation 5(2) of the Maintenance Assessment Procedure Regulations was given or sent to the absent parent, where the application for a maintenance assessment was made by a person with care, or
 - (ii) the date on which a maintenance application which complies with the provisions of regulation 2 of the Maintenance Assessment Procedure Regulations was received by the Department from an absent parent,
- the effective date of that maintenance assessment shall be the day following that on which the court order ceased to have effect.”.

Amendment of the Maintenance Assessment Procedure Regulations

8.—(1) The Maintenance Assessment Procedure Regulations shall be amended in accordance with paragraphs (2) to (14).

(2) In regulation 8 (amount and duration of an interim maintenance assessment)—

- (a) in paragraph (1A)(d) for “two” there shall be substituted “four” and for “and Category B interim maintenance assessments” there shall be substituted “, Category B interim maintenance assessments, Category C interim maintenance assessments and Category D interim maintenance assessments”;
- (b) in paragraph (1B)—
 - (i) in sub-paragraph (a) for “the information that is required by him as to the income of the absent parent” there shall be substituted

(a) S.I. 1980/563 (N.I. 5)

(b) S.I. 1989/677 (N.I. 4)

(c) Paragraph (6) was added by regulation 3 of S.R. 1995 No. 19

(d) Paragraphs (1A) and (1B) were inserted by regulation 4(3)(a) of S.R. 1993 No. 164

“any information, other than information referred to in sub-paragraph (b), that is required by him”;

- (ii) for sub-paragraph (b) there shall be substituted the following sub-paragraph—

“(b) a Category B interim maintenance assessment, where the information that is required by him as to the income of the partner or other member of the family of the absent parent or parent with care for the purposes of the calculation of the income of that partner or other member of the family under regulation 9(2), 10, 11(2) or 12(1) of the Maintenance Assessments and Special Cases Regulations—

- (i) has not been provided by that partner or other member of the family, and that partner or other member of the family has that information in his possession or can reasonably be expected to acquire it, or
- (ii) has been provided by that partner or other member of the family to the absent parent or parent with care, but the absent parent or parent with care has not provided it to the Department or the child support officer;”;

- (iii) after sub-paragraph (b) there shall be added the following sub-paragraphs—

“(c) a Category C interim maintenance assessment where—

- (i) the absent parent is a self-employed earner as defined in regulation 1(2) of the Maintenance Assessments and Special Cases Regulations;
- (ii) the absent parent is currently unable to provide, but has indicated that he expects within a reasonable time to be able to provide, information to enable a child support officer to determine the earnings of that absent parent in accordance with paragraphs 3 to 5 of Schedule 1 to the Maintenance Assessments and Special Cases Regulations, and
- (iii) no maintenance order as defined in Article 10(11) of the Order or written maintenance agreement as defined in Article 11(1) of the Order is in force with respect to the children in respect of whom the Category C interim maintenance assessment would be made, or

(d) a Category D interim maintenance assessment where it appears to a child support officer, on the basis of information available to him as to the income of the absent parent, that the amount of any maintenance assessment made in accordance with Part I of Schedule 1 to the Order applicable to that absent parent may be higher than the amount of a Category A interim maintenance assessment in force in respect of him.”;

- (c) in paragraph (2A)(a) at the beginning there shall be inserted “Subject to paragraph (2D),”;

- (d) in paragraph (2C) after “absent parent” where it first appears there shall be inserted “calculated in accordance with regulation 12(1)(a) of the Maintenance Assessments and Special Cases Regulations”;
- (e) after paragraph (2C) there shall be inserted the following paragraphs—

“(2D) Where the application of the provisions of paragraph (2B) or (2C) would result in the amount of a Category B interim maintenance assessment being more than 30 per centum of the net income of the absent parent as calculated in accordance with regulation 7 of the Maintenance Assessments and Special Cases Regulations, those provisions shall not apply to that absent parent and instead the amount of that Category B interim maintenance assessment shall be 30 per centum of his net income as so calculated and where that calculation results in a fraction of a penny, that fraction shall be disregarded.

(2E) The amount of child support maintenance fixed by a Category C interim maintenance assessment shall be £30.00 but a child support officer may set a lower amount, including a nil amount, if he thinks it reasonable to do so in all the circumstances of the case.

(2F) Paragraph 6 of Schedule 1 to the Order shall not apply to Category C interim maintenance assessments.

(2G) A child support officer shall notify the person with care where he is considering setting a lower amount for a Category C interim maintenance assessment in accordance with paragraph (2E), and shall take into account any relevant representations made by that person with care in deciding the amount of that Category C interim maintenance assessment.

(2H) The amount of child support maintenance fixed by a Category D interim maintenance assessment shall be calculated or estimated by applying to the absent parent’s income, in so far as the child support officer is able to determine it at the time of the making of that Category D interim maintenance assessment, the provisions of Part I of Schedule 1 to the Order and regulations made under it, subject to the modification that—

- (a) paragraphs 6 and 8 of that Schedule shall not apply;
- (b) only paragraphs (1)(a) and (5) of regulation 9 of the Maintenance Assessments and Special Cases Regulations shall apply; and
- (c) paragraph 1(3)(b) and (c) of Schedule 1 to the Maintenance Assessments and Special Cases Regulations(a) shall not apply;

(2I) Where the absent parent referred to in paragraph (2H) is an employed earner as defined in regulation 1(2) of the Maintenance Assessments and Special Cases Regulations and the child support officer is unable to calculate the net income of that absent parent, his

(a) Paragraph 1(3)(c) is added by regulation 9(14)(b) of these Regulations

net income shall be estimated under the provisions of regulation 1(2A)(a) and (b) of the Maintenance Assessments and Special Cases Regulations.”;

- (f) for paragraph (3)(a) there shall be substituted the following paragraph—

“(3) Except where regulation 3(5) of the Maintenance Arrangements and Jurisdiction Regulations (effective date of maintenance assessment where court order in force) or paragraph (3A), (3B), (3C), (3D), (7), (7A) or (7E) applies, the effective date of an interim maintenance assessment shall be—

(a) in respect of a Category A, Category C or Category D interim maintenance assessment, subject to sub-paragraph (c), such date, being not earlier than the first and not later than the seventh day following the date upon which that interim maintenance assessment was made, as falls on the same day of the week as the date determined in accordance with regulation 29(2)(a)(ii)(b);

(b) in respect of a Category B interim maintenance assessment—

(i) subject to head (ii) and sub-paragraph (c), such date, being not earlier than the first and not later than the seventh day following the expiry of the period of 14 days specified in paragraph (1), as falls on the same day of the week as the date determined in accordance with regulation 29(2)(a)(ii);

(ii) where that Category B interim maintenance assessment is made after a Category A, Category C or Category D interim maintenance assessment has been in force, the date upon which that Category A, Category C or Category D interim maintenance assessment ceased to have effect in accordance with paragraph (9A)(c);

(c) in respect of a Category A, Category B, Category C or Category D interim maintenance assessment, where the application of the provisions of sub-paragraph (a) or (b)(i) would otherwise set an effective date for an interim maintenance assessment earlier than the end of a period of eight weeks from and including the date upon which—

(i) the maintenance enquiry form referred to in regulation 29(2)(a)(i) was given or sent to an absent parent, or

(ii) the application made by an absent parent referred to in regulation 29(2)(b)(i) was received by the Department,

in circumstances where that absent parent has complied with the provisions of regulation 29(2)(a)(i) or (b)(i) or paragraph (2A) of that regulation applies, the date determined in accordance with regulation 29(2)(a)(i) or (b)(i).”;

(a) Paragraph (3) was amended by regulation 4(3)(a) of S.R. 1995 No. 19

(b) Regulation 29(2) is amended by regulation 8(10) of these Regulations

(c) Paragraph (9A) is inserted by regulation 8(2)(m) of these Regulations

- (g) in paragraph (3A)(a) for “52 weeks” there shall be substituted “104 weeks” and in paragraphs (3A) to (3C), for “Category A” wherever it occurs there shall be substituted “Category A or Category D”;
- (h) in paragraph (4) for “or (3D)” there shall be substituted “, (3D), (7), (7A) or (7E)”;
- (i) in paragraph (6) for “an interim maintenance assessment” there shall be substituted “a Category A, Category B or Category D interim maintenance assessment”;
- (j) for paragraph (7) there shall be substituted the following paragraphs—

“(7) Where a child support officer cancels a Category A, Category B or Category D interim maintenance assessment in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (6), and he is satisfied that there was unavoidable delay for only part of the period during which that assessment was in force, and that another Category A, Category B or Category D interim maintenance assessment should be made, the effective date of that other Category A, Category B or Category D interim maintenance assessment shall, subject to paragraph (7A), be the first day of the maintenance period following the date upon which, in the opinion of the child support officer, the delay became avoidable.

(7A) Where the Category A or Category B interim maintenance assessment cancelled in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (6) was made prior to 18th April 1995 and the effective date of any new Category A or Category B interim maintenance assessment would, by virtue of paragraph (7), be prior to 18th April 1995, the effective date of that new Category A or Category B interim maintenance assessment shall be the first day of the maintenance period which begins on or after 18th April 1995.

(7B) Where in respect of any Category A or Category B interim maintenance assessment in force before 18th April 1995 the delay referred to in paragraph (6) became avoidable before 18th April 1995, that Category A or Category B interim maintenance assessment may not be cancelled with effect from a date earlier than the date the delay became avoidable.

(7C) Subject to paragraph (6), where a child support officer is satisfied that it would be appropriate to make an interim maintenance assessment the Category of which is different from that of the interim maintenance assessment in force, he may cancel the interim maintenance assessment which is in force with effect from whichever is the later of the first day of the maintenance period in which he becomes so satisfied or the first day of the maintenance period which begins on or after 18th April 1995.

(7D) In paragraph (7C), “Category” in relation to an interim maintenance assessment means Category A, Category B, Category C or Category D, as the case may be.

(a) Paragraphs (3A) to (3D) were inserted by, and paragraph (4) amended by, regulation 4(3) of S.R. 1995 No. 19

(7E) Where a child support officer makes an interim maintenance assessment following the cancellation of an interim maintenance assessment in accordance with paragraph (7C), the effective date of the fresh interim maintenance assessment shall be the date upon which that cancellation took effect.

(7F) A child support officer may cancel an interim maintenance assessment which is in force with effect from such date as he considers appropriate in all the circumstances on the grounds that—

(a) there was a material procedural error in connection with the making of the assessment; or

(b) he is satisfied that he did not, or has subsequently ceased to have, jurisdiction to make that interim maintenance assessment.”;

(k) for paragraph (8) there shall be substituted the following paragraph—

“(8) Where a maintenance assessment calculated in accordance with Part I of Schedule 1 to the Order is made following an interim maintenance assessment, the amount of child support maintenance payable in respect of the period after 18th April 1995 during which that interim maintenance assessment was in force shall be that fixed by the maintenance assessment.”;

(l) in paragraph (9) at the beginning there shall be inserted “Subject to paragraph (9A).”;

(m) after paragraph (9) there shall be inserted the following paragraph—

“(9A) A Category A, Category C or Category D interim maintenance assessment shall cease to have effect on the first day of the maintenance period in which the Department has received all the information that is required by it to enable a child support officer to make an assessment in accordance with the provisions of Part I of Schedule 1 to the Order with the exception of the information referred to in paragraph (1B)(b) or the first day of the maintenance period after 18th April 1995, whichever is later.”;

(n) paragraph (10) shall be omitted;

(o) in paragraph (11)(a) for “for the purposes of Articles 19 and 20 of the Order” there shall be substituted “for the purposes of Articles 19, 20 and 21(2) of the Order” and after “Category A” there shall be inserted “or Category D”;

(p) in paragraph (12) after “Category A” there shall be inserted “or Category D”.

(3) In regulation 9(b) (cancellation of an interim maintenance assessment) in paragraph (1) after “Category A” there shall be inserted “or Category D”.

(4) In regulation 10 (notification of a new or a fresh maintenance assessment)—

(a) for paragraph (1) there shall be substituted the following paragraph—

(a) Paragraphs (11) and (12) were amended by regulation 4(3) of S.R. 1993 No. 164

(b) Paragraph (1) was amended by regulation 4(4) of S.R. 1993 No. 164

“(1) Where a child support officer—

- (a) makes a new or a fresh maintenance assessment following an application under Article 7 or 9 of the Order or a review under Article 18, 19, 20 or 21 of the Order;
- (b) substitutes an interim maintenance assessment for one which is in force in accordance with regulation 8; or
- (c) makes a maintenance assessment calculated in accordance with Part I of Schedule 1 to the Order where an interim maintenance assessment is or has been in force,

he shall immediately notify the relevant persons, so far as that is reasonably practicable, of the amount of the child support maintenance under that assessment.”;

- (b) in paragraph (2)(a) for “paragraph (2A)” there shall be substituted “paragraphs (2A) and (2B)”;
- (c) in paragraph (2A) after “Category A” wherever it appears there shall be inserted “, Category C or Category D”;
- (d) after paragraph (2A) there shall be inserted the following paragraph—
 “(2B) A notification under paragraph (1) in relation to a Category B interim maintenance assessment shall set out in relation to it—
 (a) the matters listed in sub-paragraphs (a), (b) and (d) to (f) of paragraph (2); and
 (b) where known, the absent parent’s assessable income.”;
- (e) in paragraph (5)(b) after “Category A” wherever it appears there shall be inserted “or Category D”.

(5) In regulation 11 (notification of a refusal to conduct a review) for paragraph (2) there shall be substituted the following paragraph—

“(2) A notification under paragraph (1) shall include information as to the following provisions—

- (a) where the refusal is on the grounds set out in Article 19(3) of the Order, Articles 18 and 20 of the Order and regulations 23(1) and 30(7);
- (b) except where sub-paragraph (c) applies, where the refusal is on the grounds set out in Article 20(6) of the Order, Articles 18, 19 and 22 of the Order;
- (c) where the refusal is on the grounds set out in Article 20(6) of the Order and relates to a decision made under regulation 9(6), Articles 18 and 22 of the Order.”.

(6) In regulation 13(2) (notification of a refusal to cancel a maintenance assessment) after sub-paragraph (b) there shall be added the following sub-paragraph—

“(c) where the refusal is of an application for the cancellation of a Category A or a Category D interim maintenance assessment under regulation 9, Articles 18 and 22 of the Order.”.

(a) Paragraph (2) was amended by, and paragraph (2A) inserted by, regulation 4(4) of S.R. 1995 No. 19
 (b) Paragraph (5) was added by regulation 4(4) of S.R. 1995 No. 19

(7) In regulation 14 (notification of a cancellation of a maintenance assessment) in paragraph (1) after “assessment,” there shall be inserted “except a Category A or Category D interim maintenance assessment falling within regulation 9.”

(8) In regulation 16(a) (intervals between periodical reviews and notice of a periodical review)—

(a) in paragraph (1) for “after it has been in force for a period of 52 weeks” there shall be substituted—

“after it has been in force for a period of—

(i) in the case of an assessment the effective date of which is on or before 18th April 1994, 52 weeks;

(ii) in the case of an assessment the effective date of which is after 18th April 1994, 104 weeks”;

(b) for paragraph (2) there shall be substituted the following paragraph—

“(2) Where a maintenance assessment in force is a fresh assessment following a review under Article 20 or 21 of the Order, that assessment shall be reviewed by a child support officer under Article 18 of the Order after it has been in force for a period of—

(a) in the case of an assessment the effective date of which is on or before 18th April 1994, 52 weeks;

(b) in the case of an assessment the effective date of which is after 18th April 1994, 104 weeks,

less, in either case, the period between the effective date of the previous assessment falling within paragraph (1) and the effective date of the fresh assessment following the review under Article 20 or 21 of the Order.”

(9) In regulation 18 (conduct of a review on a change of circumstances) for paragraph (3) there shall be substituted the following paragraph—

“(3) The provisions of paragraph (2) shall not apply in relation to any person to whom or in respect of whom income support is payable or to a person with care where income support is payable to or in respect of the absent parent.”

(10) In regulation 29(b) (effective dates of new maintenance assessments)—

(a) in paragraph (1) for “and (6)” there shall be substituted “, (6) and (7)”;

(b) for paragraph (2) there shall be substituted the following paragraph—

“(2) Where no maintenance assessment made in accordance with Part I of Schedule 1 to the Order is in force with respect to the person with care and absent parent, the effective date of a new assessment shall be—

(a) in a case where the application for a maintenance assessment is made by a person with care—

(a) Paragraphs (1) and (2) were substituted by regulation 4(6) of S.R. 1993 No. 164

(b) Paragraph (1) was amended by regulation 4(5) of S.R. 1995 No. 19

- (i) eight weeks from and including the date on which a maintenance enquiry form has been given or sent to an absent parent, where such date is on or after 18th April 1995 and where within four weeks of the date that form was given or sent, it has been returned by the absent parent to the Department and it contains his name, address and written confirmation that he is the parent of the child or children in respect of whom the application for a maintenance assessment was made;
 - (ii) in all other circumstances, the date a maintenance enquiry form is given or sent to an absent parent;
- (b) in a case where the application for a maintenance assessment is made by an absent parent—
- (i) eight weeks from and including the date on which an application made by an absent parent was received by the Department, where such date is on or after 18th April 1995 and where, on, or within four weeks of, the date of receipt of that maintenance application, the absent parent has provided his name, address and written confirmation that he is the parent of the child or children in respect of whom the application was made;
 - (ii) in all other circumstances, the date an effective maintenance application form is received by the Department.”;
- (c) after paragraph (2) there shall be inserted the following paragraph—
- “(2A) Where a child support officer is satisfied that there was unavoidable delay by the absent parent in providing the information listed in sub-paragraphs (a)(i) or (b)(i) of paragraph (2) within the time specified in those sub-paragraphs, he may apply the provisions of those sub-paragraphs for the purpose of setting the effective date of a maintenance assessment even though that information was not provided within the time specified in those sub-paragraphs.”.
- (11) In regulation 30(a) (effective dates of maintenance assessments following a review under Articles 18 to 21 of the Order)—
- (a) in paragraph (1) for “52 weeks” there shall be substituted “104 weeks”;
 - (b) in paragraph (6) for “Subject to paragraphs (7), (10) and (11)” there shall be substituted “Subject to paragraphs (6A), (6B), (6C), (9) and (10)”;
- (c) after paragraph (6) there shall be inserted the following paragraphs—
- “(6A) Subject to paragraph (6C), where an application is made under Article 20(2) of the Order for a review of a maintenance assessment in force following notification being given to the relevant person that the child support officer does not propose to review the

assessment in consequence of the coming into operation of the provisions mentioned in paragraph (6B), the effective date of a fresh assessment (if one is made) following such a review shall be—

- (a) where the application is received within 28 days of the Department notifying the relevant person of the child support officer's decision, or on a later date where the Department is satisfied that there was unavoidable delay, the effective date as determined on the review;
- (b) subject to sub-paragraph (a), where the application is received by the Department later than 28 days after the date of the notification of the child support officer's decision, the first day of the maintenance period in which the application is received.

(6B) Paragraph (6A) applies to the following provisions of the Child Support and Income Support (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995(a)—

- (a) regulation 9(5)(a);
- (b) regulation 9(6);
- (c) regulation 9(7)(a)(iv) and (v);
- (d) regulation 9(11).

(6C) Where the application made under Article 20(2) of the Order is made following notification being given to the relevant person that the child support officer has determined that the amount to be allowed in the computation of the relevant person's exempt income in accordance with Schedule 3A to the Maintenance Assessments and Special Cases Regulations(b) is nil by reason of the failure of the relevant person to furnish within a reasonable time the evidence required by paragraph 2 of that Schedule—

- (a) where the Department is satisfied that there was good cause for the delay in furnishing the evidence the effective date of any assessment made in consequence of the review shall be the effective date which would have been applicable to the assessment had the evidence been furnished timeously;
- (b) where the Department is not satisfied that there was good cause for the delay, the effective date of any revised assessment shall be the first day of the maintenance period in which the relevant person provides that evidence.”;

(d) for paragraph (14) there shall be substituted the following paragraph—

“(14) Where a child support officer following a review under Article 21(1) of the Order makes a fresh maintenance assessment, or on a review under Article 21(2) of the Order is satisfied that if an application were to be made under Article 20 of the Order it would be appropriate to make a fresh maintenance assessment, and does so, the effective date of that fresh assessment shall—

(a) S.R. 1995 No. 162

(b) Schedule 3A is inserted by regulation 9(17) of these Regulations

- (a) be determined in accordance with paragraph (5) or (8);
- (b) be determined in accordance with paragraph (7), subject to the modification that that paragraph shall have effect as if for “the date determined under paragraph (2)” there is substituted “the first day of the maintenance period in which the child support officer is first satisfied that a review under Article 21(1) of the Order should be undertaken or the first day of the maintenance period following 18th April 1995, whichever is the later; or
- (c) (subject to paragraphs (9) and (10)), be the first day of the maintenance period in which the child support officer is satisfied that a review under Article 21 of the Order should be undertaken or the first day of the maintenance period following 18th April 1995, whichever is the later.”.

(12) In regulation 35 (amount of and period of reduction of relevant benefit under a reduced benefit direction)—

- (a) in paragraph (4) for “Subject to paragraph (5)” there shall be substituted “Subject to paragraphs (5), (5A) and (5B)”;
- (b) after paragraph (5) there shall be inserted the following paragraphs—

“(5A) Where the relevant benefit is family credit or disability working allowance and, at the time a direction is given, a lump sum payment has already been made under the provisions of regulation 27(1A) of the Social Security (Claims and Payments) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1987(a) (payment of family credit or disability working allowance by lump sum) the direction shall, subject to paragraph (5B), come into operation on the first day of any benefit week which immediately follows the period in respect of which the lump sum payment was made, or the first day of any benefit week which immediately follows 18th April 1995, if later.

(5B) Where the period in respect of which the lump sum payment was made is not immediately followed by a benefit week, but family credit or disability working allowance again becomes payable, or income support becomes payable, during a period of 52 weeks from the date the direction was given, the direction shall come into operation on the first day of the second benefit week which immediately follows the expiry of a period of 14 days from service of the notice specified in paragraph (5C).

(5C) Where paragraph (5B) applies, the parent to or in respect of whom family credit or disability working allowance has again become payable, or income support has become payable, shall be notified in writing by a child support officer that the amount of family credit, disability working allowance or income support paid to or in respect of that parent will be reduced in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (5B) if that parent continues to fail to comply with the obligations imposed by Article 9 of the Order.

(5D) Where—

(a) S.R. 1987 No. 465; regulation 27(1A) was inserted by regulation 3(6) of S.R. 1993 No. 375

- (a) family credit or disability working allowance has been paid by lump sum under the provisions of regulation 27(1A) of the Social Security (Claims and Payments) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1987 (whether or not a benefit week immediately follows the period in respect of which the lump sum payment was made); and
- (b) where income support becomes payable to or in respect of a parent to or in respect of whom family credit or disability working allowance was payable at the time the direction referred to in paragraph (5A) was made,

income support shall become a relevant benefit for the purposes of that direction and the amount payable by way of income support shall be reduced in accordance with that direction.

(5E) In circumstances to which paragraph (5A) or (5B) applies, where no relevant benefit has become payable during a period of 52 weeks from the date on which a direction was given, it shall lapse.”.

(13) In regulation 39 (suspension of a reduced benefit direction when a modified applicable amount is payable)—

(a) after paragraph (1) there shall be inserted the following paragraph—

“(1A) Where a direction is given or is in operation at a time when income support is payable to or in respect of the parent concerned, but that parent’s applicable amount includes a residential allowance under regulation 17 of, and paragraph 2A of Schedule 2 to, the Income Support Regulations(a) (applicable amounts for those in residential care or nursing homes), that direction shall be suspended for as long as that parent’s applicable amount includes a residential allowance under regulation 17 and paragraph 2A of Schedule 2 to those Regulations, or 52 weeks, whichever period is the shorter.”;

(b) in paragraph (2) after “paragraph (1)” there shall be inserted “or (1A)”.

(14) In regulation 41(b) (review of a reduced benefit direction) in paragraph (5) after “were given” there shall be inserted “or the Department or a child support officer becomes aware of a question of a kind mentioned in paragraph (2A) or (2B)”.

Amendment of the Maintenance Assessments and Special Cases Regulations

9.—(1) The Maintenance Assessments and Special Cases Regulations shall be amended in accordance with paragraphs (2) to (19).

(2) In regulation 1(c) (citation, commencement and interpretation)—

(a) in paragraph (2) for the definition of “day to day care” there shall be substituted the following definition—

“ “day to day care” means—

(a) care of not less than 104 nights in total during the 12 month period ending with the relevant week; or

(a) S.R. 1987 No. 459; regulation 17 was amended by, and paragraph 2A of Schedule 2 added by, S.R. 1993 No. 149

(b) Paragraph (5) was amended by regulation 4(12)(d) of S.R. 1993 No. 164

(c) Paragraph (2) was amended by regulation 5(2) of S.R. 1993 No. 164

(b) where, in the opinion of the child support officer, a period other than 12 months but ending with the relevant week is more representative of the current arrangements for the care of the child in question, care during that period of not less in total than the number of nights which bears the same ratio to 104 nights as that period bears to 12 months,

and for the purpose of this definition—

- (i) where a child is a boarder at a boarding school, or is an in-patient in a hospital, the person who, but for those circumstances, would otherwise provide day to day care of the child shall be treated as providing day to day care during the periods in question;
- (ii) “relevant week” shall have the meaning ascribed to it in head (ii) of sub-paragraph (a) of the definition of “relevant week”;

(b) after the definition of “prisoner” there shall be inserted the following definition—

“ “qualifying transfer” has the meaning assigned to it in Schedule 3A;” and

(c) in the definition of “student” for “Students Awards Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1991(a)” there shall be substituted “Students Awards Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995(a)”;

(d) in paragraph (2A)(b)—

- (i) after “personal pension scheme, then” there shall be inserted “subject to sub-paragraph (e)”;
- (ii) in sub-paragraph (a) for “effective date” there shall be substituted “relevant week”;
- (iii) in sub-paragraph (c) the words “or personal” shall be omitted;
- (iv) after sub-paragraph (c) there shall be added the following sub-paragraphs —

“(d) the amount to be deducted in respect of contributions towards a personal pension scheme shall be one half of the contributions paid by that person or, where that scheme is intended partly to provide a capital sum to discharge a mortgage secured on that person’s home, 37.5 per centum of those contributions;

(e) in relation to any bonus or commission which may be included in that person’s income—

- (i) the amount to be deducted in respect of income tax shall be calculated by applying to the gross amount of that bonus or commission the rate or rates of income tax applicable in the relevant week;

(a) S.R. 1995 No. 1

(b) Paragraph (2A) was inserted by regulation 5(2)(h) of S.R. 1993 No. 164

- (ii) the amount to be deducted in respect of primary Class 1 contributions under the Contributions and Benefits Act or under the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992(a) shall be calculated by applying to the gross amount of that bonus or commission the appropriate main primary percentage applicable in the relevant week, and
- (iii) the amount to be deducted in respect of contributions paid by that person in respect of the gross amount of that bonus or commission towards an occupational pension scheme shall be one half of any sum so paid.”.

(3) In regulation 2 (calculation or estimation of amounts) in paragraph (2) for “regulation 13(2)” there shall be substituted “regulations 11(6) and (7) and 13(2) and regulation 8(2C) of the Maintenance Assessment Procedure Regulations” and before “these regulations” there shall be inserted “the Order or”.

(4) In regulation 6 (additional element) in paragraph (2)(a) for “3” there shall be substituted “1.5”.

(5) In regulation 9(b) (exempt income: calculation or estimation of E)—
(a) in paragraph (1)—

(i) after sub-paragraph (b) there shall be inserted the following sub-paragraph—

“(bb) where applicable, an amount in respect of a qualifying transfer of property determined in accordance with Schedule 3A.”;

(ii) after sub-paragraph (h) there shall be added the following sub-paragraph—

“(i) where applicable, an amount in respect of travelling costs determined in accordance with Schedule 3B.”;

(b) in paragraph (2)(c), head (v) shall be omitted.

(6) In regulation 10(c) (exempt income: calculation or estimation of F) for the words from “except” to the end there shall be substituted—

“except that—

(a) paragraph (1)(bb) of that regulation shall not apply unless at the time of the making of the qualifying transfer the parent with care would have been the absent parent had the Order been in operation at the date of the making of the transfer; and

(b) paragraphs (3) and (4) of that regulation shall apply only where the parent with care shares day to day care of the child mentioned in those paragraphs with one or more other persons.”.

(7) In regulation 11(d) (protected income)—

(a) in paragraph (1)—

(a) 1992 c. 4

(b) Paragraph (1) was amended by regulation 5(3) of S.R. 1993 No. 164

(c) Regulation 10 was amended by regulation 5(4) of S.R. 1993 No. 164

(d) Paragraph (1) was amended by regulation 5(5) of S.R. 1993 No. 164

- (i) for “subject to paragraphs (3) and (4),” there shall be substituted “subject to paragraphs (3), (4) and (5A),”;
 - (ii) in sub-paragraph (b) for “regulation 15(5)” there shall be substituted “paragraphs (1), (2) and (9) of regulation 63 of the Housing Benefit Regulations (non-dependant deductions) if he were a non-dependant in respect of whom a calculation were to be made under those paragraphs (disregarding any other provision of that regulation)”;
 - (iii) for sub-paragraph (j) there shall be substituted the following sub-paragraph—
 - “(j) where—
 - (i) the absent parent is, or that absent parent and any partner of his are, the only person or persons resident in, and liable to pay rates in respect of, the home for which housing costs are included under sub-paragraph (b), the amount of the weekly rates for which he is liable in respect of that home, less any applicable rate rebate;
 - (ii) other persons are resident with the absent parent in, and liable to pay rates in respect of, the home for which housing costs are included under sub-paragraph (b), an amount representing the share of the weekly rates in respect of that home applicable to the absent parent, determined by dividing the total amount of rates due in that week by the number of persons liable to pay them, less any rate rebate applicable to that share, provided that, if the absent parent is required to pay and pays more than that share because of default by one or more of those other persons, the amount for the purposes of this regulation shall be the amount of the weekly rates the absent parent pays, less any rate rebate applicable to such amount;”;
 - (iv) after sub-paragraph (k) there shall be inserted the following sub-paragraph—
 - “(kk) an amount in respect of travelling costs determined in accordance with Schedule 3B;” and
 - (v) in sub-paragraph (l) for “(a) to (k)” there shall be substituted “(a) to (kk)”;
- (b) in paragraph (2)—
- (i) in sub-paragraph (a) after head (ii) there shall be added the following head—
 - “(iii) to the extent that it falls under sub-paragraph (b), the income of any child in that family shall not be treated as the income of the parent or his partner and Part IV of Schedule 1 shall not apply, and”;

(ii) in sub-paragraph (b) for “that child’s income” there shall be substituted “that child’s relevant income (within the meaning of paragraph 23 of Schedule 1), there being disregarded any maintenance in payment to or in respect of him,”;

(c) after paragraph (5) there shall be inserted the following paragraphs—

“(5A) If the application of the provisions of this regulation would result in the protected income level of an absent parent being less than 70 per centum of his net income, as calculated in accordance with regulation 7, those provisions shall not apply in his case and instead his protected income level shall be 70 per centum of his net income as so calculated.

(5B) Where any calculation under paragraph (5A) results in a fraction of a penny, that fraction shall be treated as a penny.”.

(8) In regulation 12 (disposable income) for paragraph (1) there shall be substituted the following paragraph—

“(1) For the purposes of paragraph 6(4) of Schedule 1 to the Order (protected income), the disposable income of an absent parent shall be—

(a) except in a case to which regulation 11(5A) applies, the aggregate of his income and any income of any member of his family calculated in like manner as under regulation 11(2); and

(b) in a case to which regulation 11(5A) applies, his net income as calculated in accordance with regulation 7.”.

(9) In regulation 15 (amount of housing costs)—

(a) in paragraph (1) for “regulations 16 to 18” there shall be substituted “regulations 16 and 18”;

(b) paragraphs (4) to (9) shall be omitted;

(c) for paragraph (10) there shall be substituted the following paragraph—

“(10) A parent shall be treated as having no housing costs where he is a non-dependant member of a household and is not responsible for meeting housing costs except to another member, or other members, of that household.”.

(10) In regulation 16 (weekly amount of housing costs) after paragraph (b) there shall be inserted the following paragraph—

“(bb) by way of rent and rates payable to a housing association, as defined in Article 114 of the Housing (Northern Ireland) Order 1981(a), which is registered in accordance with Article 124 of that Order, or to the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, on a free week basis, that is to say the basis that he pays an amount by way of rent and rates for a given number of weeks in a 52 week period, with a lesser number of weeks in which there is no liability to pay (“free weeks”), the amount of such housing costs shall be the amount which he pays—

(i) in the relevant week if it is not a free week, or

(a) S.I. 1981/156 (N.I. 3)

- (ii) in the last week before the relevant week which is not a free week, if the relevant week is a free week;”.

(11) In regulation 22 (multiple applications relating to an absent parent) for paragraph (2) there shall be substituted the following paragraph—

“(2) For the purposes of assessing the amount of child support maintenance payable in respect of each application where paragraph (1) applies, for references to the assessable income of an absent parent in the Order and in these Regulations there shall be substituted references to the amount calculated by the formula—

$$\left((A + T) \times \frac{B}{D} \right) - CS$$

where—

A is the absent parent’s assessable income;

T is the sum of the amounts allowable in the calculation or estimation of his exempt income by virtue of Schedule 3A;

B is the maintenance requirement calculated in respect of the application in question;

D is the sum of the maintenance requirements as calculated for the purposes of each assessment relating to the absent parent in question; and CS is the amount (if any) allowable by virtue of Schedule 3A in calculating or estimating the absent parent’s exempt income in respect of a relevant qualifying transfer of property in respect of the assessment in question.”.

(12) In regulation 25(a) (care provided in part by a Health and Social Services Board)—

(a) in paragraph (2) at the beginning there shall be inserted “Subject to paragraph (3),”;

(b) after paragraph (2) there shall be added the following paragraph—

“(3) In a case where more than one qualifying child is included in a child support maintenance assessment application and where this regulation applies to at least one of those children, child support maintenance shall be calculated by applying the formula—

$$S \times \left(\frac{A}{7 \times B} \right)$$

where—

S is the total amount of child support maintenance in respect of all qualifying children included in that maintenance assessment application, calculated as if this regulation did not apply;

A is the aggregate of the number of nights of day to day care for all qualifying children included in that maintenance assessment application provided in each week by a person other than a Health and Social Services Board or an HSS trust;

B is the number of qualifying children in respect of whom the maintenance assessment application has been made.”.

(13) In regulation 26 (cases where child support maintenance is not to be payable) in paragraph (1)(b)(ii) after “estimating” there shall be inserted “under paragraphs (1) to (5) of regulation 11.”

(14) In Schedule 1 (earnings)—

(a) in paragraph 1(1)(a) after “bonus, commission,” there shall be inserted “payment in respect of overtime.”;

(b) in paragraph 1(3)—

(i) in head (a)(ii) after “Contributions and Benefits Act” there shall be inserted “or under the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992”;

(ii) in head (b) for “occupational or personal pension scheme” there shall be substituted “occupational pension scheme”, and

(iii) after head (b) there shall be added the following head—

“(c) one half of any sums paid by the parent towards a personal pension scheme or, where that scheme is intended partly to provide a capital sum to discharge a mortgage secured upon the parent’s home, 37.5 per centum of any such sums.”;

(c) in paragraph 2 for sub-paragraph (1) there shall be substituted the following sub-paragraph—

“(1) Subject to sub-paragraphs (2) to (4), the amount of the earnings to be taken into account for the purpose of calculating N and M shall be calculated or estimated by reference to the average earnings at the relevant week having regard to such evidence as is available in relation to that person’s earnings during such period as appears appropriate to the child support officer beginning not earlier than eight weeks before the relevant week and ending not later than the date of the assessment and for the purpose of that calculation or estimate he may consider evidence of that person’s cumulative earnings during the period beginning with the start of the year of assessment (within the meaning of section 832 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988(a)) in which the relevant week falls and ending with a date no later than the date of the assessment.”;

(d) in paragraph 3(b)—

(i) in sub-paragraph (3)(b) after “paragraph 4” there shall be inserted “or 5(2)”;

(ii) in sub-paragraph (3)(e) after “pension scheme” there shall be inserted “, or, where that scheme is intended partly to provide a capital sum to discharge a mortgage or charge secured upon the parent’s home, 37.5 per centum of the contributions payable”;

(iii) for sub-paragraph (5) there shall be substituted the following sub-paragraph—

“(5) For the purposes of sub-paragraph (3)(c), the amount of income tax to be allowed against earnings shall be calculated—

(a) 1988 c. 1

(b) Paragraph 3 was amended by regulation 5(11) of S.R. 1993 No. 164

- (a) where the earnings are determined over a period of 12 months on the basis of chargeable earnings and as if those earnings, less any personal allowance applicable to the earner under Chapter 1 of Part VII of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988 (personal relief), were assessable to income tax at the rates of tax applicable at the effective date; or
- (b) where the earnings are determined over a period of less than 12 months on the basis of chargeable earnings and as if those earnings, less a proportionate part of any personal allowance applicable to the earner under Chapter 1 of Part VII of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988 (personal relief), were assessable to income tax at the rates of tax applicable at the effective date, but the amount of the earnings to which each tax rate applies shall be determined on the basis that the ratio of that amount to the full amount of chargeable earnings to which each tax rate applies is the same as the ratio of the proportionate part of the personal allowance to the full personal allowance.”;
- (iv) in sub-paragraph (6)(a) for “(4)” there shall be substituted “(3)”;
- (v) for sub-paragraph (7)(a) there shall be substituted the following sub-paragraph—
 - “(7) In the case of a self-employed earner whose employment is carried on in partnership or is that of a share fisherman within the meaning of the Social Security (Mariners’ Benefits) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1975(b), sub-paragraph (3) shall have effect as though it requires—
 - (a) a deduction from the earner’s estimated or, where appropriate, actual share of the gross receipts of the partnership or fishing boat, of his share of the sums likely to be deducted or, where appropriate, deducted from those gross receipts under heads (a) and (b) of that sub-paragraph; and
 - (b) a deduction from the amount so calculated of the sums mentioned in heads (c) to (e) of that sub-paragraph.”;
- (e) in paragraph 5—
 - (i) in sub-paragraph (1) for “(2) and (3)” there shall be substituted “(2) to (3)”;
 - (ii) in sub-paragraph (2) at the beginning there shall be inserted “Subject to sub-paragraph (2A),” and for “12 months” there shall be substituted “24 months”, and
 - (iii) after sub-paragraph (2) there shall be inserted the following sub-paragraph—

(a) Sub-paragraph (7) was added by regulation 5(11) of S.R. 1993 No. 164

(b) S.R. 1975 No. 108, to which there are amendments not relevant to these Regulations

“(2A) Where the child support officer is satisfied that in relation to the person referred to in sub-paragraph (2) there is more than one profit and loss account, each in respect of different periods, both or all of which satisfy the conditions mentioned in that sub-paragraph, the provisions of that sub-paragraph shall apply only to the account which relates to the latest such period, unless the officer is satisfied that the latest such account is not available for reasons beyond the control of that person, in which case he may have regard to any such other account which satisfies the requirements of that sub-paragraph.”;

- (f) in paragraph 20(b) for “three times” there shall be substituted “one-and-a-half times”;
- (g) in paragraph 23 after sub-paragraph (d) there shall be added the following sub-paragraph—

“(e) the first £10.00 of any other income of that child.”.

(15) In Schedule 2 (amounts to be disregarded when calculating or estimating N and M)—

- (a) in paragraph 24—
 - (i) for “Where a parent provides” there shall be substituted “For each week in which a parent provides”;
 - (ii) in sub-paragraph (a) after “by” there shall be inserted “, on behalf or in respect of”;
- (b) in paragraph 26 for “does not in any period exceed” there shall be substituted “exceeds”.

(16) In Schedule 3(a) (eligible housing costs)—

- (a) in paragraph 1(p) the words from “and only to the extent to which” to the end shall be omitted;
- (b) in paragraph 2 at the beginning there shall be inserted “Subject to paragraph 2A.”;
- (c) after paragraph 2 there shall be inserted the following paragraph—

“Loans for repairs and improvements in transitional cases

2A. In the case of a loan entered into before the first date upon which a maintenance application or enquiry form is given or sent or treated as given or sent to the relevant person, for the purposes of paragraph 1(d) “repairs and improvements” means repairs and improvements of any description whatsoever.”;

- (d) in paragraph 3—
 - (i) at the end of sub-paragraph (4) there shall be inserted “including for the avoidance of doubt such a policy of insurance whose purpose is to secure the payment of monies due under the mortgage or charge in the event of the unemployment, sickness or disability of the insured”;

(ii) after sub-paragraph (5)(a) there shall be inserted the following sub-paragraphs—

“(5A) Where a plan within the meaning of regulation 4 of the Personal Equity Plans Regulations 1989(b) has been obtained and retained for the purpose of discharging a mortgage or charge on the home of the parent in question and also for the purpose of accruing profits upon the realisation of the plan, there shall be eligible to be taken into account as a housing cost—

(a) where the sum secured by the mortgage or charge does not exceed £60,000, the whole of the premiums payable in respect of the plan; and

(b) where the sum secured by the mortgage or charge exceeds £60,000, that part of the premiums payable in respect of the plan which is necessarily incurred for the purpose of discharging the mortgage or charge or, where that part cannot be ascertained, 0.0277 per centum of the amount secured by the mortgage or charge.

(5B) Where a personal pension plan has been obtained and retained for the purpose of discharging a mortgage or charge on the home of the parent in question and also for the purpose of securing the payment of a pension to him, there shall be eligible to be taken into account as a housing cost 25 per centum of the contributions payable in respect of that personal pension plan.”;

(iii) in sub-paragraph (6)—

(a) in head (a) for “any payment of arrears or payments in excess of those which are required” there shall be substituted “any payments in excess of those required”;

(b) in head (b) for “they are attributable to arrears or would otherwise not be eligible” there shall be substituted “they would not be eligible”;

(e) in paragraph 6—

(i) in sub-paragraph (a) for “paragraph 1” there shall be substituted “paragraph 1(a)(i)”;

(ii) after sub-paragraph (a) there shall be inserted the following sub-paragraph—

“(aa) where the costs are inclusive of charges, other than those which are not to be included by virtue of sub-paragraph (a), that part of those charges which exceeds the greater of the following amounts—

(i) the total of the charges other than those which are ineligible service charges within the meaning of paragraph 1 of Schedule 1 to the Housing Benefit Regulations;

(a) Sub-paragraph (5) was substituted by regulation 5(6) of S.R. 1994 No. 37

(b) S.I. 1989/469; relevant amending instruments are S.I. 1990/678 and S.I. 1991/733

(ii) 25 per centum of the total amount of eligible housing costs;”.

(17) After Schedule 3 there shall be inserted, as Schedules 3A and 3B, the Schedules set out in Schedules 1 and 2 respectively to these Regulations.

(18) In Schedule 4(a) (cases where child support maintenance is not to be payable) in paragraph (a)—

(a) for sub-paragraphs (i) to (iii) there shall be substituted the following sub-paragraphs—

“(i) incapacity benefit under section 30A(b);

(ii) long-term incapacity benefit for widows under section 40;

(iii) long-term incapacity benefit for widowers under section 41;”;

(b) sub-paragraph (v) shall be omitted.

(19) In Schedule 5(c) (provisions applying to cases to which Article 40 of the Order and regulation 28 apply)—

(a) for paragraph 2 there shall be substituted the following paragraph —

“2. A relevant decision may be reviewed by a child support officer, either on application by a relevant person or of his own motion—

(a) if it appears to him that the absent parent has at some time after that decision was given satisfied the conditions prescribed by regulation 28(1) or, as the case may be, no longer satisfies those conditions; or

(b) if it appears to him that the relevant decision was wrong in law or was made in ignorance of, or based on a mistake as to, a material fact.”;

(b) in paragraph 3 after “decision” there shall be inserted “made on or before 18th April 1994” and for “when” there shall be substituted “after”;

(c) after paragraph 3 there shall be inserted the following paragraph—

“3A. A relevant decision made after 18th April 1994 shall be reviewed by a child support officer after it has been in force for 104 weeks.”.

Amendment of the Miscellaneous Amendments Regulations

10.—(1) The Miscellaneous Amendments Regulations shall be amended in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3).

(2) In regulation 7(2)(a) (scope of Part III) after “Category A” there shall be inserted “or Category D”.

(3) In regulation 10 (reviews on change of circumstances)—

(a) There are amendments to Schedule 4 which are not relevant to these Regulations

(b) Section 30A was inserted by Article 3 of, and sections 40 and 41 substituted by paragraphs 8 and 9 of Schedule 1 to, the Social Security (Incapacity for Work) (Northern Ireland) Order 1994 (S.I. 1994/1898 (N.I. 12))

(c) Schedule 5 was added by regulation 5(15) of S.R. 1993 No. 164 and amended by regulation 2(3) of S.R. 1993 No. 191

- (a) for the heading there shall be substituted the following heading—
“Reviews”;
- (b) for paragraph (1) there shall be substituted the following paragraph—
“(1) The provisions of the following paragraphs shall apply where there is a review of a previous assessment under Article 19, 20 or 21 of the Order (reviews) at any time when the amount payable under that assessment is the transitional amount.”;
- (c) in paragraph (3) after “the reviewed formula amount” there shall be inserted “on a review under Article 19 of the Order”;
- (d) after paragraph (3) there shall be added the following paragraph—
“(4) Where a child support officer makes a fresh maintenance assessment following a review under Article 20 or 21 of the Order, the effective date of that fresh maintenance assessment shall be the date prescribed under regulation 30 of the Maintenance Assessment Procedure Regulations or the first day of the maintenance period following 18th April 1995, whichever is the later.”.

Amendment of the Income Support (General) Regulations

11.—(1) The Income Support (General) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1987 shall be amended in accordance with paragraph (2).

(2) In Schedule 3 in paragraph 7(a) (interest on loans to acquire an interest in the dwelling occupied as the home)—

- (a) in sub-paragraph (9) for “Subject to sub-paragraphs (10) and (11)” there shall be substituted “Subject to sub-paragraphs (10) to (12)”;
- (b) after sub-paragraph (11) there shall be added the following sub-paragraph—

“(12) Where a claimant, with the care of a child, has ceased to be in receipt of income support in consequence of the payment of child support maintenance under the Child Support Order and immediately before ceasing to be so in receipt an amount under sub-paragraph (1)(b)(i) was applicable to him, then—

- (a) if the child support maintenance assessment concerned is terminated or replaced on review by a lower assessment in consequence of the coming into operation on or after 18th April 1995 of regulations made under the Child Support Order; or
- (b) where the child support maintenance assessment concerned is an interim maintenance assessment and, in circumstances other than those referred to in head (a), it is terminated or replaced after termination by another interim maintenance assessment or by a maintenance assessment made in accordance with Part I of Schedule 1 to the Child Support Order, in either case of a lower amount than the assessment concerned,

sub-paragraph (9)(a)(ii) shall apply to him as if for "any period of 8 weeks or less" there were substituted "any period of 26 weeks or less".

Reviews consequent upon the amendments made by these regulations

12.—(1) Subject to paragraph (3), where a child support officer reviews a maintenance assessment in consequence only of the amendments specified in paragraph (2) he shall not make a fresh assessment if the difference between the amount of child support maintenance fixed by the assessment currently in force and the amount that would be fixed if the fresh assessment were to be made as a result of the review is—

(a) less than £1.00 per week where the amount fixed by the assessment currently in force is more than the amount that would be fixed by the fresh assessment; or

(b) less than £10.00 per week in all other cases.

(2) Paragraph (1) applies to the following provisions—

(a) regulation 8(2)(e);

(b) regulation 9(4);

(c) regulation 9(5)(a);

(d) regulation 9(6);

(e) regulation 9(7)(a)(iv) and (v), (b)(i) and (c);

(f) regulation 9(8);

(g) regulation 9(11);

(h) regulation 9(14)(f) and (g);

(i) regulation 14.

(3) Paragraph (1) shall not apply to a review which is made in consequence only of the amendments made by regulation 9(5)(a), (6), (7)(a)(iv) and (v) and (11) unless the person to whom the assessment relates notifies the Department before 18th July 1995 that he wishes a child support officer to consider whether the assessment in his case should be reviewed; but the Department may accept a later notification for the purposes of this paragraph if the Department is satisfied that there is good cause for the delay in giving it.

(4) For the purposes of regulations 16(2) (intervals between periodical reviews and notice of a periodical review) and 30 (effective dates of maintenance assessments following a review under Articles 18 to 21 of the Order) of the Maintenance Assessment Procedure Regulations, a review such as is mentioned in paragraph (1) shall be disregarded.

(5) Notwithstanding any provision of regulation 30 of the Maintenance Assessment Procedure Regulations except, in the cases to which they apply, paragraphs (6A) to (6C)(a), the effective date of a maintenance assessment made on such a review as is mentioned in paragraph (1) shall be 18th April 1995.

(a) Paragraphs (6A) to (6C) are inserted by regulation 8(11)(c) of these Regulations

(6) Where a maintenance assessment is in force on 18th April 1995 and —

- (a) the relevant person notifies the Department on or after 18th July 1995 that he wishes a child support officer to consider the question of whether an amount should be allowed in the computation of the relevant person's exempt income or protected income in respect of travelling costs or his exempt income in respect of a qualifying transfer of property; and
- (b) the Department is not satisfied that there was good cause for the delay on the part of the relevant person in giving the notification,

the effective date of any assessment made upon a review under Article 21 of the Order shall be the first day of the maintenance period in which the Department is so notified.

Transitional provisions

13.—(1) Where a maintenance assessment, other than an interim maintenance assessment, is in force on 18th April 1995 or on that date there is in force a decision of a child support officer under Article 40 of the Order (contribution to maintenance by deduction from benefit) and that decision or the amount of child support payable under that assessment would be affected by the provisions of these Regulations, only the provisions mentioned in paragraphs (2) and (3) shall apply to that assessment until that assessment is reviewed under Article 18, 19 or 20 of the Order.

(2) The provisions of these Regulations to which paragraph (1) refers are—

- (a) regulation 8(8);
- (b) regulation 9(4);
- (c) regulation 9(7)(c);
- (d) regulation 9(8);
- (e) regulation 9(14)(f) and (g);
- (f) regulation 9(19);
- (g) regulation 14.

(3) The provisions of regulation 9(5)(a), (6), (7)(a)(iv) and (v) and (11) and Schedules 1 and 2 shall not apply in a case where there is a maintenance assessment in force on 18th April 1995 until a child support officer considers the question whether that assessment should be reviewed under Article 21 of the Order as a result of the relevant person having notified the Department that he wishes a child support officer to consider that question because of the making of a qualifying transfer of property or because he has travelling costs.

(4) Where on 18th April 1995 in any particular case there is in force a maintenance assessment which is subject to an adjustment made under the provisions of regulation 10 of the Arrears Regulations as in operation prior to that date that adjustment shall continue until whichever is the earlier of—

- (a) a review of that assessment on grounds other than the coming into operation of these Regulations; or

(b) a decision made by a child support officer on a request by a relevant person for reconsideration of that adjustment.

(5) Regulation 4(2) and (3) shall not apply to a case in which there is an existing assessment until the Department first reviews the period by reference to which payments are to be made after these Regulations come into operation.

Revocation

14. Regulation 17 of the Maintenance Assessments and Special Cases Regulations (apportionment of housing costs: exempt income) is hereby revoked.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Health and Social Services on 10th April 1995.

(L.S.)

Leslie Frew

Assistant Secretary

**Schedule to be inserted into the Maintenance
Assessments and Special Cases Regulations as Schedule 3A**

"SCHEDULE 3A Regulation 9(1)(bb)

Amount to be allowed in respect of transfers of property*Interpretation*

1.— (1) In this Schedule —

"property" means—

- (a) an estate in land; or
- (b) a sum of money which is derived from or represents capital, whether in cash or in the form of a deposit with—
 - (i) the Bank of England;
 - (ii) an authorised institution or an exempted person within the meaning of the Banking Act 1987(a);
 - (iii) a building society incorporated or deemed to be incorporated under the Building Societies Act 1986(b);
- (c) any business asset as defined in sub-paragraph (2) (whether in the form of money or an estate in land or otherwise);
- (d) any policy of insurance which has been obtained and retained for the purpose of providing a capital sum to discharge a mortgage or charge secured upon an estate in land which is also the subject of the transfer (in this Schedule referred to as an endowment policy);

"qualifying transfer" means a transfer of property—

- (a) which was made in pursuance of a court order made, or a written maintenance agreement executed, before 5th April 1993;
- (b) which was made between the absent parent and either the parent with care or a relevant child;
- (c) which was made at a time when the absent parent and the parent with care were living separate and apart;
- (d) the effect of which is that the parent with care or a relevant child is beneficially entitled (subject to any mortgage or charge) to the whole of the asset transferred; and
- (e) which was not made expressly for the purpose only of compensating the parent with care for the loss of any right to apply for or receive periodical payments or a capital sum in respect of that parent with care;

"compensating transfer" means a transfer of property which would be a qualifying transfer (disregarding the requirement of paragraph (e) of the definition of "qualifying transfer") if it were made by the absent parent, but which is made by the parent with care in favour of the absent parent or a relevant child;

“relevant date” means the date of the making of the court order or the execution of the written maintenance agreement in pursuance of which the qualifying transfer was made.

(2) For the purposes of sub-paragraph (1) “business asset” means an asset, whether in the form of money or an estate in land or otherwise which, prior to the date of transfer, was used in the course of a trade or business carried on—

- (a) by the absent parent as a sole trader;
- (b) by the absent parent in partnership, whether with the parent with care or not;
- (c) by a close company within the meaning of sections 414 and 415 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988(a) in which the absent parent was a participator at the date of the transfer.

(3) Where the condition specified in regulation 10(a)(b) is satisfied this Schedule shall apply as if references—

- (a) to the parent with care were references to the absent parent; and
- (b) to the absent parent were references to the parent with care.

Evidence to be produced in connection with the allowance for transfers of property

2.—(1) Where the absent parent produces to the Department—

- (a) contemporaneous evidence in writing of the making of a court order or of the execution of a written maintenance agreement, which requires the relevant person to make a qualifying transfer of property;
- (b) evidence in writing and whether contemporaneous or not as to—
 - (i) the fact of the transfer;
 - (ii) the value of the property transferred at the relevant date;
 - (iii) the amount of any mortgage or charge outstanding at the relevant date,

an amount in respect of the relevant value of the transfer determined in accordance with the following provisions of this Schedule shall be allowed in calculating or estimating the exempt income of the absent parent.

(2) Where the evidence specified in sub-paragraph (1) is not produced within a reasonable time after the Department has been notified of the wish of the absent parent that a child support officer consider the question, the officer shall determine the question on the basis that the relevant value of the transfer is nil.

Consideration of evidence produced by other parent

3. Where an absent parent has notified the Department that he wishes a child support officer to consider whether an amount should be allowed in respect of the relevant value of a qualifying transfer, the Department shall give notice to the other parent that it proposes to refer the question to a child support officer for consideration and shall transmit to the child support officer any representations made by the other parent in considering the question.

Computation of qualifying value — business assets and land

4.—(1) Subject to paragraph 6, where the property which is the subject of the transfer by the absent parent is, or includes, an estate in land, or a business

(a) 1988 c. 1

(b) Regulation 10 is amended by regulation 9(6) of these Regulations

asset, the qualifying value of that estate or asset shall be determined in accordance with the formula—

$$QV = \frac{VT - MC}{2}$$

where—

- (a) QV is the qualifying value;
- (b) VT is the value of the estate in land or the value of the asset (as the case may be) calculated at the relevant date; and
- (c) MC is the amount of the principal outstanding at the relevant date under any mortgage or charge on the estate or asset.

(2) For the purposes of sub-paragraph (1) the value of an estate in land is to be determined upon the basis that the parent with care and any relevant child, if in occupation of the land, would quit on completion of the sale.

Computation of qualifying value — cash, deposits and endowment policies

5. Subject to paragraph 6, where the property which is the subject of the qualifying transfer is, or includes—

- (a) a sum of money whether in cash or in the form of a deposit with the Bank of England, an authorised institution or exempted person within the meaning of the Banking Act 1987, or a building society incorporated or deemed to be incorporated under the Building Societies Act 1986, derived from or representing capital; or
- (b) an endowment policy,

the amount of the qualifying value shall be determined by applying the formula—

$$QV = \frac{VT}{2}$$

where—

- (i) QV is the qualifying value, and
- (ii) VT is the amount of cash, the balance of the account or the surrender value of the endowment policy on the relevant date.

Transfers wholly in lieu of periodical payments for relevant child

6. Where the evidence produced in relation to a transfer to, or in respect of, a relevant child, shows expressly that the whole of that transfer was made exclusively in lieu of periodical payments in respect of that child—

- (a) in a case to which paragraph 4 applies, for the formula given in that paragraph there shall be substituted the following—

$$QV = VT - MC; \text{ and}$$

- (b) in a case to which paragraph 5 applies, the qualifying value shall be the value of the transfer.

Multiple transfers to related persons

7.—(1) Where there has been more than one qualifying transfer from the absent parent—

- (a) to the same parent with care;
- (b) to or for the benefit of the same relevant child;

- (c) to or for the benefit of two or more relevant children with respect to all of whom the same persons are respectively the parent with care and the absent parent,

or any combination thereof, the relevant value by reference to which the allowance is to be calculated in accordance with paragraph 10 shall be the aggregate of the qualifying transfers calculated individually in accordance with paragraphs 1 to 6, less the value of any compensating transfer or where there has been more than one, the aggregate of the values of the compensating transfers so calculated.

(2) Except as provided by sub-paragraph (1), the values of transfers shall not be aggregated for the purposes of this Schedule.

Computation of the value of compensating transfers

8. The value of a compensating transfer shall be determined in accordance with paragraphs 4 to 7, but as if any reference in those paragraphs—

- (a) to the absent parent were a reference to the parent with care;
- (b) to the parent with care were a reference to the absent parent; and
- (c) to a qualifying transfer were a reference to a compensating transfer.

Computation of relevant value of a qualifying transfer

9. The relevant value of a qualifying transfer shall be calculated by deducting from the qualifying value of the qualifying transfer the qualifying value of any compensating transfer between the same persons as are parties to the qualifying transfer.

Amount to be allowed in respect of a qualifying transfer

10. For the purposes of regulation 9(1)(bb), the amount to be allowed in the computation of E, or in a case where regulation 10(a) applies, F, shall be—

- (a) where the relevant value calculated in accordance with paragraph 9 is less than £5,000, nil;
- (b) where the relevant value calculated in accordance with paragraph 9 is at least £5,000, but less than £10,000, £20·00 per week;
- (c) where the relevant value calculated in accordance with paragraph 9 is at least £10,000, but less than £25,000, £40·00 per week;
- (d) where the relevant value calculated in accordance with paragraph 9 is not less than £25,000, £60·00 per week."

**Schedule to be inserted into the Maintenance Assessments and Special Cases
Regulations as Schedule 3B**

“SCHEDULE 3B

Regulation 9(1)(i)
and 11(I)(kk)**Amount to be allowed in respect of travelling costs***Interpretation*

1. In this Schedule—

“day” means, in relation to a person who attends at a work place for one period of work which commences before midnight of one day and concludes the following day, the first of those days;

“journey” means a single journey and “pair of journeys” means two journeys in opposing directions, between the same two places;

“relevant employment” means an employed earner’s employment in which the relevant person is employed and in the course of which he is required to attend at a work place, and “relevant employer” means the employer of the relevant person in that employment;

“relevant person” means—

- (a) in the application of the provisions of this Schedule to regulation 9, the absent parent or the parent with care; and
- (b) in the application of the provisions of this Schedule to regulation 11, the absent parent;

“straight-line distance” means the straight-line distance measured in miles and calculated to 2 decimal places, and, where that distance is not a whole number of miles, rounded to the nearest whole number of miles, a distance which exceeds a whole number of miles by 0.50 of a mile being rounded up;

“travelling costs” means the costs of—

- (a) purchasing either fuel or a ticket for the purpose of travel;
 - (b) contributing to the costs borne by a person other than a relevant employer in providing transport; or
 - (c) paying another to provide transport,
- which are incurred by the relevant person in travelling between the relevant person’s home and his work place, and where he has more than one relevant employment between any of his work places in those employments;

“work place” means the relevant person’s normal place of employment in a relevant employment, and “deemed work place” means a place which has been selected by the child support officer pursuant either to paragraph 8(2) or 15(2) for the purpose of calculating the amount to be allowed in respect of the relevant person’s travelling costs.

Computation of amount allowable in respect of travelling costs

2. For the purposes of regulations 9 and 11 an amount in respect of the travelling costs of the relevant person shall be determined in accordance with paragraphs 3 to 23 if the relevant person—

- (a) has travelling costs; and
- (b) provides the information required to enable the amount of the allowance to be determined.

Computation in cases where there is one relevant employment and one work place in that employment

3. Subject to paragraphs 21 to 23, where the relevant person has one relevant employment and is normally required to attend at only one work place in the course of that employment the amount to be allowed in respect of travelling costs shall be determined in accordance with paragraphs 4 to 7.

4. There shall be calculated or, if that is impracticable, estimated—

- (a) the straight-line distance between the relevant person's home and his work place;
- (b) the number of journeys between the relevant person's home and his work place which he makes during a period comprising a whole number of weeks which appears to the child support officer to be representative of his normal pattern of work, there being disregarded any pair of journeys between his work place and his home and where the first journey is from his work place to his home and where the time which elapses between the start of the first journey and the conclusion of the second is not more than two hours.

5. The results of the calculation or estimate produced by sub-paragraph (a) of paragraph 4 shall be multiplied by the result of the calculation or estimate required by sub-paragraph (b) of that paragraph.

6. The product of the multiplication required by paragraph 5 shall be divided by the number of weeks in the period.

7. Where the result of the division required by paragraph 6 is less than or equal to 150, the amount to be allowed in respect of the relevant person's travelling costs shall be nil, and where it is greater than 150 the weekly allowance to be made in respect of the relevant person's travelling costs shall be 10 pence multiplied by the number by which that number exceeds 150.

Computation in cases where there is more than one work place but only one relevant employment

8.—(1) Subject to sub-paragraph (2) and paragraphs 21 to 23, where the relevant person has one relevant employment but attends at more than one work place the amount to be allowed in respect of travelling costs for the purposes of regulations 9 and 11 shall be determined in accordance with paragraphs 9 to 13.

(2) Where it appears that the relevant person works at more than one work place but his pattern of work is not sufficiently regular to enable the calculation of the amount to be allowed in respect of his travelling costs to be made readily, the child support officer may—

- (a) select a place which is either one of the relevant person's work places or some other place which is connected with the relevant employment; and
- (b) apply the provisions of paragraphs 4 to 7 to calculate the amount of the allowance to be made in respect of travelling costs upon the basis that the relevant person makes one journey from his home to the deemed work place and one journey from the deemed work place to his home on each

day on which he attends at a work place in connection with the relevant employment,

and the provisions of paragraphs 9 to 13 shall not apply.

(3) For the purposes of sub-paragraph (2)(b) there shall be disregarded any day upon which the relevant person attends at a work place and in order to travel to or from that work place he undertakes a journey in respect of which—

- (a) the travelling costs are borne wholly or in part by the relevant employer; or
- (b) the relevant employer provides transport for any part of the journey for the use of the relevant person,

and where he attends at more than one work place on the same day that day shall be disregarded only if the condition specified in this sub-paragraph is satisfied in respect of all the work places at which he attends on that day.

9. There shall be calculated or, if that is impracticable, estimated—

- (a) the straight-line distances between the relevant person's home and each work place; and
- (b) the straight-line distances between each of the relevant person's work places, other than those between which he does not ordinarily travel.

10. Subject to paragraph 11, there shall be calculated for each pair of places referred to in paragraph 9 the number of journeys which the relevant person makes between them during a period comprising a whole number of weeks which appears to the child support officer to be representative of the normal working pattern of the relevant person.

11. For the purposes of the calculation required by paragraph 10 there shall be disregarded—

- (a) any pair of journeys between the same work place and the relevant person's home where the first journey is from his work place to his home and the time which elapses between the start of the first journey and the conclusion of the second is not more than two hours; and
- (b) any journey in respect of which—
 - (i) the travelling costs are borne wholly or in part by the relevant employer, or
 - (ii) the relevant employer provides transport for any part of the journey for the use of the relevant person.

12. The result of the calculation of the number of journeys made between each pair of places required by paragraph 10 shall be multiplied by the result of the calculation or estimate of the straight-line distance between them required by paragraph 9.

13. All the products of the multiplications required by paragraph 12 shall be added together and the resulting sum divided by the number of weeks in the period.

14. Where the result of the division required by paragraph 13 is less than or equal to 150, the amount to be allowed in respect of travelling costs shall be nil, and where it is greater than 150, the weekly allowance to be made in respect of the relevant person's travelling costs shall be 10 pence multiplied by the number by which that number exceeds 150.

Computation in cases where there is more than one relevant employment

15.—(1) Subject to sub-paragraph (2) and paragraphs 21 to 23, where the relevant person has more than one relevant employment the amount to be allowed in respect of travelling costs for the purposes of regulations 9 and 11 shall be determined in accordance with paragraphs 16 to 20.

(2) Where it appears that in respect of any of his relevant employments, whilst the relevant person works at more than one work place, his pattern of work is not sufficiently regular to enable the calculation of the amount to be allowed in respect of his travelling costs to be made readily, the child support officer—

- (a) may select a place which is either one of the relevant person's work places in that relevant employment or some other place which is connected with that relevant employment;
- (b) may calculate the weekly average distance travelled in the course of his journeys made in connection with the relevant employment upon the basis that—
 - (i) the relevant person makes one journey from his home, or from another work place or deemed work place in another relevant employment, to the deemed work place and one journey from the deemed work place to his home, or to another work place or deemed work place in another relevant employment, on each day on which he attends at a work place in connection with the relevant employment in relation to which the deemed work place has been selected;
 - (ii) the distance he travels between those places is the straight-line distance between them, and
- (c) shall disregard any journeys made between work places in the relevant employment in respect of which a deemed work place has been selected.

(3) For the purposes of sub-paragraph (2)(b) there shall be disregarded any day upon which the relevant person attends at a work place and in order to travel to or from that work place he undertakes a journey in respect of which—

- (a) the travelling costs are borne wholly or in part by the relevant employer; or
- (b) the relevant employer provides transport for any part of the journey for the use of the relevant person,

and where in the course of the particular relevant employment he attends at more than one work place on the same day, that day shall be disregarded only if the condition specified in this paragraph is satisfied in respect of all the work places at which he attends on that day in the course of that employment.

16. There shall be calculated, or if that is impracticable, estimated—

- (a) the straight-line distances between the relevant person's home and each work place; and
- (b) the straight-line distances between each of the relevant person's work places, except—
 - (i) those between which he does not ordinarily travel, and
 - (ii) those for which a calculation of the distance from the relevant person's home is not required by virtue of paragraph 15(2)(c).

17. There shall be calculated or, if that is impracticable, estimated for each pair of places referred to in paragraph 16, between which straight-line distances are required to be calculated or estimated, the number of journeys which the

relevant person makes between them during a period comprising a whole number of weeks which appears to the child support officer to be representative of the normal working pattern of the relevant person, there being disregarded any pair of journeys between the same work place and his home where the first journey is from his work place to his home and the time which elapses between the start of the first journey and the conclusion of the second is not more than two hours.

18. The result of the calculation or estimate of the number of journeys made between each pair of places required by paragraph 17 shall be multiplied by the result of the calculation or estimate of the straight-line distance between them required by paragraph 16.

19. All the products of the multiplications required by paragraph 18 shall be added together and the resulting sum divided by the number of weeks in the period.

20. Where the result of the division required by paragraph 19, plus where appropriate the result of the calculation required by paragraph 15 in respect of a relevant employment in which a deemed work place has been selected, is less than or equal to 150 the amount to be allowed in respect of travelling costs shall be nil, and where it is greater than 150, the weekly allowance to be made in respect of the relevant person's travelling costs shall be 10 pence multiplied by the number by which that number exceeds 150.

Relevant employments in respect of which no amount is to be allowed

21.—(1) No allowance shall be made in respect of travelling costs in respect of journeys between the relevant person's home and his work place or between his work place and his home in a particular relevant employment if the condition set out in paragraph 22 or 23 is satisfied in respect of that employment.

(2) The condition mentioned in paragraph 22, or as the case may be 23, is satisfied in relation to a case where the relevant person has more than one work place in a relevant employment only where the employer provides assistance of the kind mentioned in that paragraph in respect of all of the work places to or from which the relevant person travels in the course of that employment, but those journeys in respect of which that assistance is provided shall be disregarded in computing the total distance travelled by the relevant person in the course of the relevant employment.

22. The condition is that the relevant employer provides transport of any description in connection with the employment which is available to the relevant person for any part of the journey between his home and his work place or between his work place and his home.

23. The condition is that the relevant employer bears any part of the travelling costs arising from the relevant person travelling between his home and his work place or between his work place and his home in connection with that employment, and for the purposes of this paragraph he does not bear any part of those costs where he does no more than—

- (a) make a payment to the relevant person which would fall to be taken into account in determining the amount of the relevant person's net income;
- (b) make a loan to the relevant person;
- (c) pay to the relevant person an increased amount of remuneration, to enable the relevant person to meet those costs himself."

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations.)

These Regulations amend various regulations made under the Child Support (Northern Ireland) Order 1991 ("the Order"). They also amend in one respect the Income Support (General) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1987.

The Child Support Appeal Tribunals (Procedure) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1993 are amended to make provision for a pending appeal to continue where a party thereto dies (regulation 2(4)).

The Child Support (Arrears, Interest and Adjustment of Maintenance Assessments) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1992 are amended to remove the liability for interest in respect of any day after 17th April 1995 (regulation 3(2)). They are also amended to make new provisions for overpaid maintenance to be set off against arrears of maintenance and against current maintenance payable (regulation 3(3)).

The Child Support (Collection and Enforcement) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1992 are amended to provide for a protected earnings rate in deduction from earnings orders in respect of interim maintenance assessments and in cases where arrears are due under a previous assessment but there is no current assessment in existence (regulation 4(7)). The regulations are also amended to define the grounds upon which magistrates may discharge a deduction from earnings order as defective (regulation 4(4)) and to make further provision for discharge of a deduction from earnings order by the Department (regulation 4(9)).

The Child Support Fees Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1993 are amended to provide that no assessment fee or collection fee shall be payable where it would otherwise have become payable on or after 18th April 1995 and before 6th April 1997 (regulation 5(2)).

The Child Support (Information, Evidence and Disclosure) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1992 are amended to require Crown servants to provide information in certain circumstances (regulation 6(2)) and to make provision for information given by one party to a maintenance assessment to be disclosed to the other in certain circumstances (regulation 6(4)).

The Child Support (Maintenance Arrangements and Jurisdiction) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1992 are amended to provide for maintenance orders under certain statutory provisions to be relevant for the purposes of Articles 10 and 12 of the Order (regulations 7(3) and 7(4)(a)).

The Child Support (Maintenance Assessment Procedure) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1992 are amended to make provision for two further categories of interim maintenance assessment (regulation 8(2)); for periodical reviews under Article 18 of the Order to take place every 104 weeks

(regulation 8(8)); and for the effective date of a maintenance assessment in certain circumstances to be 8 weeks after a maintenance enquiry form has been sent to an absent parent (regulation 8(10)).

The Child Support (Maintenance Assessments and Special Cases) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1992 are amended to require a child support officer, in certain circumstances, to make allowances for travel to work costs and for certain property transfers in the calculation of child support maintenance (regulation 9(5) and (6) and Schedules 1 and 2); and to provide that an absent parent must be left with not less than 70 per cent. of his net income after deduction of the amount payable under a maintenance assessment (regulation 9(7)(c)). The requirement to apportion housing costs has been removed (regulation 14).

The Income Support (General) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1987 are amended so that if a person loses income support in respect of mortgage interest on receiving child support maintenance and that maintenance in specified cases is later reduced or terminated, the claimant's previous entitlement to income support on account of mortgage interest will be restored provided the period since he was last entitled to benefit does not exceed 26 weeks (regulation 11).

The Child Support (Miscellaneous Amendments and Transitional Provisions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1994 are amended to provide that the transitional provisions will not apply to Category D interim maintenance assessments and that the special provision for the amount of a maintenance assessment made following a review under Article 19 of the Order where the transitional provisions apply shall also apply to reviews under Articles 20 or 21 of the Order (regulation 10).

Other amendments are of a minor, technical or consequential nature.

In respect of regulation 11 these Regulations make in relation to Northern Ireland only provision corresponding 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 149(3) of, and paragraph 10 of Schedule 5 to, the Social Security Administration (Northern Ireland) Act 1992 (c. 8), are not subject to the requirement of section 149(2) of that Act for prior reference to the Social Security Advisory Committee.

1995 No. 163

This Order has been exempted from printing by the Statutory Rules (Northern Ireland) Order 1979. A summary is given in the List of Statutory Rules of a Local Character under the heading ROADS.