
EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Order.)

This Order corresponds to an Order (S.I.1999/263) made by the Secretary of State for Social Security under sections 141(4) and (5), 142(2) and 189(1) and (3) of the Social Security Administration Act 1992 and section 2(2) and (8) of the Social Security Act 1993.

The Order increases the rate of Class 2 and the amount of Class 3 contributions specified in sections 11(1) and 13 (1) of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits (Northern Ireland) Act 1992 (“the Act”) from £6.35 to £6.55 and from £6.25 to £6.45 respectively (Articles 2(a) and 3). It also increases, from £3,590 to £3,370, the amount of earnings specified in section 11(4) of the Act below which an earner may be excepted from liability for Class 2 contributions (Article 2(b)).

The Order increases, from £7,310 to £7,530 and from £25,220 to £26,000 respectively, the lower and upper limits of profits or gains specified in sections 15(3) and 18(1) of the Act between which Class 4 contributions are payable (Article 4).

The Order provides for Article 4(3) of the Social Security (Northern Ireland) Order 1993 to have effect for the tax year 1999–2000. It also provides that the amount of any money that may be appropriated to be paid into the Northern Ireland National Insurance Fund in that tax year shall not exceed in aggregate 2 per cent. of the estimated benefit expenditure for the financial year ending in that tax year (Article 5).