

2000 No. 362

PENSIONS

SOCIAL SECURITY

The Sharing of State Scheme Rights (Provision of Information and Valuation) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2000

Made 22nd November 2000

Coming into operation 1st December 2000

The Department for Social Development, in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 45B(7), 55A(6), 55B(7), 171(3) and (4) of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits (Northern Ireland) Act 1992(a) and Articles 21(1)(a), (b)(ii) and (c)(i) and (2), 46(4) and 73(4) of the Welfare Reform and Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 1999(b), and now vested in it(c), 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 Sharing of State Scheme Rights (Provision of Information and Valuation) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2000 and shall come into operation on 1st December 2000.

(2) In these Regulations—

“shareable state scheme rights” has the meaning given by Article 44(2);

“shared additional pension” means a shared additional pension referred to in section 55A(d).

(3) Subject to paragraph (4), the Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954(e) shall apply to these Regulations as it applies to an Act of the Assembly.

(4) For the purposes of these Regulations, and notwithstanding section 39(2) of the Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954, where a period of

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- (a) 1992 c. 7; section 45B(7) was inserted by paragraph 2 of Schedule 6 to the Welfare Reform and Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 1999 (S.I. 1999/3147 (N.I. 11)) and substituted by section 37 of the Child Support, Pensions and Social Security Act (Northern Ireland) 2000 c. 4 (N.I.); sections 55A(6) and 55B(7) were inserted by paragraph 3 of Schedule 6 to the Welfare Reform and Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 1999 and substituted by section 37 of the Child Support, Pensions and Social Security Act (Northern Ireland) 2000
 - (b) S.I. 1999/3147 (N.I. 11); Article 46(4) is substituted by section 37 of the Child Support, Pensions and Social Security Act (Northern Ireland) 2000
 - (c) See Article 8(b) of S.R. 1999 No. 481
 - (d) Section 55A was inserted by paragraph 3 of Schedule 6 to the Welfare Reform and Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 1999 and amended by section 37 of the Child Support, Pensions and Social Security Act (Northern Ireland) 2000
 - (e) 1954 c. 33 (N.I.)

time is expressed to begin on, or to be reckoned from, a particular day, that day shall be included in the period.

(5) In these Regulations—

(a) any reference to a numbered section is a reference to the section of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits (Northern Ireland) Act 1992 bearing that number;

(b) any reference to a numbered Article is a reference to the Article of the Welfare Reform and Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 1999 bearing that number.

Basic information about the sharing of state scheme rights for the purposes of divorce, etc.

2.—(1) The requirements imposed on the Department for the purposes of Article 21(1)(a) (supply of pension information in connection with divorce etc.) are that it shall furnish—

(a) the information specified in paragraphs (2) and (3)—

(i) to a person who has shareable state scheme rights on request from that person, or

(ii) to the court, pursuant to an order of the court, or

(b) the information specified in paragraph (3) to the spouse of a person who has shareable state scheme rights, on request from that spouse.

(2) The information specified in this paragraph is a valuation of the person's shareable state scheme rights.

(3) The information specified in this paragraph is an explanation of—

(a) the state scheme rights which are shareable;

(b) how a pension sharing order or provision will affect a person's shareable state scheme rights, and

(c) how a pension sharing order or provision in respect of a person's shareable state scheme rights will result in the spouse of the person who has shareable state scheme rights becoming entitled to a shared additional pension.

(4) The Department shall furnish the information specified in paragraphs (2) and (3) to the court or, as the case may be, to the person who has shareable state scheme rights within—

(a) 3 months beginning with the date the Department receives the request or, as the case may be, the order for the provision of that information;

(b) 6 weeks beginning with the date the Department receives the request or, as the case may be, the order for the provision of the information, if the person who has shareable state scheme rights has notified the Department on the date of the request or order that the information is needed in connection with proceedings commenced under any of the provisions referred to in Article 21(1)(a), or

(c) such shorter period specified by the court in an order requiring the Department to provide a valuation in accordance with paragraph (2).

(5) Where—

- (a) the request made by the person with shareable state scheme rights for, or the court order requiring, the provision of information does not include a request or, as the case may be, an order for a valuation under paragraph (2), or
- (b) the spouse of the person with shareable state scheme rights requests the information specified in paragraph (3),

the Department shall furnish that information to the person who has shareable state scheme rights, his spouse, or the court, as the case may be, within one month beginning with the date the Department receives the request or the court order for the provision of that information.

Information about the sharing of state scheme rights for the purposes of divorce, etc: valuation of shareable state scheme rights

3. Where an application for financial relief or financial provision under any of the provisions referred to in Article 21(1)(a) has been made or is in contemplation, the valuation of shareable state scheme rights shall be calculated and verified for the purposes of regulation 2(2) in such manner as may be approved by or on behalf of the Government Actuary.

Calculation and verification of cash equivalents for the purposes of the creation of state scheme pension debits and credits

4. For the purposes of—

- (a) Article 46 (creation of state scheme pension debits and credits);
- (b) section 45B (reduction of additional pension in Category A retirement pension: pension sharing);
- (c) section 55A (shared additional pension), and
- (d) section 55B (reduction of shared additional pension: pension sharing),

cash equivalents shall be calculated and verified in such manner as may be approved by or on behalf of the Government Actuary.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department for Social Development
on 22nd November 2000.

(L.S.)

John O'Neill
Senior Officer of the Department
for Social Development

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations.)

These Regulations make provision in connection with the sharing, on divorce or nullity of marriage, of rights to the additional pension component of a state retirement pension.

Regulation 1 provides for the citation, commencement and interpretation.

Regulation 2 specifies the information which the Department for Social Development must supply to the parties to a marriage or the court in relation to the sharing of state scheme rights. This regulation also specifies the time limits within which that information must be furnished.

Regulation 3 sets out how the value of the state scheme rights must be calculated and verified when a valuation of those rights is requested in connection with the sharing of those rights.

Regulation 4 provides for how cash equivalents may be calculated and verified for the purposes of the creation of state scheme pension debits and credits, the reduction of the additional pension, the creation of the shared additional pension and the reduction of the shared additional pension, as a result of pension sharing.

The Welfare Reform and Pensions (1999 Order) (Commencement No. 3) Order (Northern Ireland) 2000 (S.R. 2000 No. 133 (C. 5)) provides for the coming into operation of Articles 21(1)(a), (b)(ii), (c)(i) and (2) and 46(4) of the Welfare Reform and Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 1999 (“the 1999 Order”), some of the enabling provisions under which these Regulations are made, in so far as they are not already in operation, on 1st December 2000. Sections 45B(7), 55A(6) and 55B(7) of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits (Northern Ireland) Act 1992, other enabling provisions under which these regulations are made, were substituted by section 37 of the Child Support, Pensions and Social Security Act (Northern Ireland) 2000 (“the Act”). The Child Support, Pensions and Social Security (2000 Act) (Commencement No. 1) Order (Northern Ireland) 2000 (S.R. 2000 No. 358 (C. 16)) provides for the coming into operation of section 37 of the Act on 22nd November 2000.

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. Accordingly there is no requirement for consultation under Article 73(9) of the 1999 Order. Similarly, by virtue of section 149(3) of, and paragraph 10 of Schedule 5 to, the Social Security Administration (Northern Ireland) Act 1992 (c. 8) they are not subject to the requirement of section 149(2) of that Act for prior reference to the Social Security Advisory Committee.

£2.00

Published by The Stationery Office Limited

Printed in the UK by The
Stationery Office Limited
under the authority and
superintendence of Carol
Tullo, Controller of
Her Majesty's Stationery
Office being the Government
Printer for Northern Ireland and
the Officer appointed to print the
Acts of the Northern Ireland Assembly
Dd. 602140. C3. 11/00. Gp. 130. 14567.