

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO

The Healthy Start Scheme and Day Care Food Scheme (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019

SR 2019 No. 117

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared by the Department of Health to accompany the Statutory Rule (details above) which is laid before the Northern Ireland Assembly.
- 1.2. The Statutory Rule is made under Article 13(1) to (4), (6) and (8) of the Social Security (Northern Ireland) Order 1988 and section 171(2) to (5) of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits (Northern Ireland) Act 1992 and is subject to the negative resolution procedure.

2. Purpose

- 2.1. To introduce a new category of claimant for the Healthy Start Scheme.

3. Background

- 3.1. The Healthy Start Scheme is a scheme that was established to improve nutrition in pregnant women, mothers and young children by providing vouchers for certain basic foods and vitamins.

4. Consultation

- 4.1. The changes made by this SR have not been subject to public consultation as there are no changes to the Department of Health's core policy intention that pregnant women, new mothers and children aged under four from lower income families continue to receive nutritional support from the Healthy Start scheme.

5. Equality Impact

- 5.1. Consideration has been given to compliance with section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. An Equality Impact Assessment was not considered necessary as the regulations are beneficial.

6. Regulatory Impact

- 6.1. A Regulatory Impact Assessment has not been prepared as no impact on the private or voluntary sector is foreseen.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1. There is a minimal financial cost which can be subsumed within the existing budget.

8. Section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998

- 8.1. Consideration has been given to the human rights implications of these regulations. They are considered to be compatible with section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.

9. EU Implications

9.1. Not Applicable

10. Parity or Replicatory Measure

10.1. These regulations maintain parity with the rest of the United Kingdom.

11. Additional Information

11.1. Not Applicable.