

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO
THE EDUCATION (STUDENT SUPPORT) (AMENDMENT) (No. 2) REGULATIONS
(NORTHERN IRELAND) 2020

S.R. No. 145

1. Introduction

- 1.1** This Explanatory memorandum has been prepared by the Department for the Economy (“the Department”) to accompany S.R. 2020 No. which is laid before the Northern Ireland Assembly.
- 1.2** The Statutory Rule is made under Articles 3 and 8(4) of the Education (Student Support) (Northern Ireland) Order 1998, and is subject to the negative resolution procedure.
- 1.3** The rule will come into operation in accordance with regulation 1.

2. Purpose

This rule rectifies the omission of a figure from the Education (Student Support) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020 (SR 2020 No. 79) for the 2020/21 academic year. This amendment is of a technical nature and is in relation to one figure omitted from a table of figures to be increased by inflation.

3. Background

These amending regulations follow the making and laying of The Education (Student Support) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020 which amended the Education (Student Support) (No.2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009 (“the 2009 Regulations”). The 2009 Regulations apply to Northern Ireland domiciled students undertaking designated higher education courses, and are updated annually to reflect changes in the student support package including to reflect these inflationary uplifts in the amount HEIs can charge.

Having made these amending regulations, it was noted that a figure had been omitted from the table in the Schedule to the amending regulations. The figure concerned relates to students studying an accelerated degree at an approved (private) provider in England. These students are eligible to receive £4,395 in tuition fee loan in 2020/21. This was to be increased from £4,275. These amending regulations will uplift this figure to £4,395.

4. Consultation

There is no statutory requirement to consult on these Regulations as they do not give effect to policy changes but facilitate policy implementation.

5. Equality Impact Assessment

A Section 75 Equality of Opportunity Screening exercise has been carried out and it is our view that the proposals will not have an adverse impact on any of the Section 75 categories.

6. Regulatory Impact Assessment

A Regulatory Impact Assessment has not been prepared for this rule as it has no adverse impact on business, charities or voluntary bodies.

7. Financial Implications

The financial implications of the student support package for academic year 2020/21 have been costed and take into account the financial restrictions in the current CSR period.

8. Section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998

The Departmental Solicitor's Office has confirmed that the making of this rule complies with Section 24 of the NI Act.

9. EU Implications

Not applicable.

10. Parity or Replicatory Measures

Historically, our Regulations were made in broad parity with England and Wales but following the wholesale changes that were implemented in England and Wales from academic year 2012/13 as a result of the Browne Review; this is no longer necessarily the case.

11. Contact

Siobhan Martin at the Department for the Economy, Tel: 028 90 257469 or email: siobhan.martin@economy-ni.gov.uk can answer any queries regarding this Rule.