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STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

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**2022 No. 172**

**The Income-Related Benefits (Local Welfare Provision Disregard) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2022**

**Amendment of the Housing Benefit (Persons who have attained the qualifying age for state pension credit) Regulations**

6.—(1) The Housing Benefit (Persons who have attained the qualifying age for state pension credit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006(1) are amended in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3).

(2) In regulation 2(1) (interpretation) after the definition of “local housing allowance”(2) insert—

““local welfare provision” means occasional financial or other assistance given by a Northern Ireland Department, or a person authorised to exercise any function of, or provide a service to, it, to or in respect of individuals for the purpose of—

(a) meeting, or helping to meet, an immediate short term need—

(i) arising out of an exceptional event, or exceptional circumstances; and

(ii) that requires to be met in order to avoid a risk to the well-being of an individual; or

(b) enabling individuals to establish or maintain a settled home, where those individuals have been or, without the assistance, might otherwise be—

(i) in prison, hospital, a residential care establishment or other institution; or

(ii) homeless or otherwise living an unsettled way of life;”.”

(3) In Schedule 7 (capital to be disregarded) after paragraph 21(1)(e) insert—

“(ea) by way of local welfare provision including arrears and payments in lieu of local welfare provision;”.”

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(1) S.R. 2006 No. 406; relevant amending Regulation is S.R. 2008 No. 102

(2) The definition of “local housing allowance” was inserted by regulation 2(2)(e) of S.R. 2008 No. 102