

---

DRAFT STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

---

**2015 No.**

The Welfare Reform (Northern Ireland) Order 2015

PART 3

Working-age benefits

CHAPTER 2

Employment and support allowance

*Claimant responsibilities for interim period*

**Hardship payments**

**62.** After section 16 of the Welfare Reform Act (Northern Ireland) 2007 insert—

**“Hardship payments**

**16A.**—(1) Regulations may make provision for the making of payments (“hardship payments”) by way of an employment and support allowance to a person where—

- (a) the amount otherwise payable to the person in respect of an employment and support allowance is reduced by virtue of regulations under section 11(3), 12(3) or 13(3), and
- (b) the person is or will be in hardship.

(2) Regulations under this section may in particular make provision as to—

- (a) circumstances in which a person is to be treated as being or not being in hardship;
- (b) matters to be taken into account in determining whether a person is or will be in hardship;
- (c) requirements or conditions to be met by a person in order to receive hardship payments;
- (d) the amount or rate of hardship payments;
- (e) the period for which hardship payments may be made.”