

**Changes to legislation:** Social Security Contributions and Benefits (Northern Ireland) Act 1992, Cross Heading: Widowed mother's allowance, widowed parent's allowance, bereavement allowance and widow's pension; retirement pensions (Categories A and B) is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 30 June 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

## SCHEDULES

### SCHEDULE 3

#### CONTRIBUTION CONDITIONS FOR ENTITLEMENT TO BENEFIT

##### PART I

##### THE CONDITIONS

*Widowed mother's allowance* <sup>[F1]</sup>, *widowed parent's allowance, bereavement allowance* and *widow's pension; retirement pensions (Categories A and B)*

##### Textual Amendments

**F1** Sch. 3: words in cross-heading preceding para. 5 inserted (24.4.2000 for specified purposes and 9.4.2001 otherwise) by S.I. 1999/3147 (N.I. 11), art. 67, Sch. 8 para. 12(3); S.R. 2000/133, art. 2(3)(a), Sch. Pt. I

- 5 <sup>[F2]</sup>(1) This paragraph sets out the contribution conditions for—
- (a) a widowed mother's allowance, a widowed parent's allowance or a widow's pension;
  - (b) a Category A retirement pension (other than one in relation to which paragraph 5A applies);
  - (c) a Category B retirement pension in the cases provided for by any of sections 48A to <sup>[F3]</sup>51ZA.]
- (2) The first condition is that—
- (a) the contributor concerned must in respect of any one relevant year have actually paid contributions of a relevant class; and
  - (b) the earnings factor derived—
    - (i) if that year is 1987-88 or any subsequent year, from <sup>[F4]</sup>so much of the contributor's earnings as did not exceed the upper earnings limit and] upon which such of those contributions as are primary Class 1 contributions were paid or treated as paid and any Class 2 or Class 3 contributions, or
    - (ii) if that year is an earlier year, from the contributions referred to in paragraph (a) above,must be not less than the qualifying earnings factor for that year.
- (3) The second condition is that—
- (a) the contributor concerned must, in respect of each of not less than the requisite number of years of his working life, have paid or been credited with contributions of a relevant class <sup>[F5]</sup>or been credited (in the case of 1987-88 or any subsequent year) with earnings]; and

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- (b) in the case of each of those years, the earnings factor derived as mentioned in sub-paragraph (4) below must be not less than the qualifying earnings factor for that year.
- (4) For the purposes of paragraph (b) of sub-paragraph (3) above, the earnings factor—
- (a) in the case of 1987-88 or any subsequent year, is that which is derived from—
- (i) [F6so much of the contributor's earnings as did not exceed the upper earnings limit and] upon which such of the contributions mentioned in paragraph (a) of that sub-paragraph as are primary Class 1 contributions were paid or treated as paid or earnings credited; and
- (ii) any Class 2 or Class 3 contributions for the year; or
- (b) in the case of any earlier year, is that which is derived from the contributions mentioned in paragraph (a) of that sub-paragraph.
- (5) For the purposes of the first condition, a relevant year is any year ending before that in which the contributor concerned attained pensionable age or died under that age; and the following table shows the requisite number of years for the purpose of the second condition, by reference to a working life of a given duration—

<i>Duration of working life</i>	<i>Requisite number of years</i>
10 years or less	The number of years of the working life, minus 1.
20 years or less (but more than 10)	The number of years of the working life, minus 2.
30 years or less (but more than 20)	The number of years of the working life, minus 3.
40 years or less (but more than 30)	The number of years of the working life, minus 4.
More than 40 years	The number of years of the working life, minus 5.

- (6) The first condition shall be taken to be satisfied if the contributor concerned was entitled to [F7long-term incapacity benefit] at any time during—
- (a) the year in which he attained pensionable age or died under that age, or
- (b) the year immediately preceding that year.
- [F8(6A) The first condition shall be taken to be satisfied if the contributor concerned was entitled to main phase employment and support allowance at any time during—
- (a) the year in which he attained pensionable age or died under that age, or
- (b) the year immediately preceding that year.
- (6B) The reference in sub-paragraph (6A) above to main phase employment and support allowance is to an employment and support allowance in the case of which the calculation of the amount payable in respect of the claimant includes an addition under section 2(1)(b) or 4(2)(b) of the Welfare Reform Act (Northern Ireland) 2007 (addition where conditions of entitlement to support component or work-related activity component satisfied).]

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(7) The second condition shall be taken to be satisfied notwithstanding that paragraphs (a) and (b) of sub-paragraph (3) above are not complied with as respects each of the requisite number of years if—

- (a) those paragraphs are complied with as respects at least half that number of years<sup>F9</sup> ... ; and
- (b) in each of the other years the contributor concerned was, within the meaning of regulations, precluded from regular employment by responsibilities at home.

[<sup>F10</sup>But nothing in this sub-paragraph applies in relation to any benefit to which section 23A above applies.]

[<sup>F11</sup>(7A) Regulations may provide that a person is not to be taken for the purposes of sub-paragraph (7)(b) above as precluded from regular employment by responsibilities at home unless he meets the prescribed requirements as to the provision of information to the Department.]

(8) For the purposes of [<sup>F12</sup>Parts I to VI of this Act] a person's working life is the period between—

- (a) (inclusive) the tax year in which he attained the age of 16; and
- (b) (exclusive) the tax year in which he attained pensionable age or died under that age.

#### Textual Amendments

- F2** Sch. 3 para. 5(1) substituted (6.4.2016) by Pensions Act (Northern Ireland) 2015 (c. 5), s. 53(3), **Sch. 12 para. 58(2)**
- F3** Figure in Sch. 3 para. 5(1)(c) substituted (13.1.2020) by The Marriage (Same-sex Couples) and Civil Partnership (Opposite-sex Couples) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/1514), regs. 1(2), **66(17)** (with regs. 6-9)
- F4** Words in Sch. 3 para. 5(2)(b)(i) substituted (with effect for 2003-04 and subsequent tax years) by National Insurance Contributions Act 2002 (c. 19), ss. 6, 8(2), **Sch. 1 para. 33(4)**
- F5** Words in Sch. 3 para. 5(3)(a) inserted (16.12.1995 subject to Sch. 2 of the amending S.I.) by S.I. 1995/3213 (N.I. 22), **arts. 1(3)**, 126
- F6** Words in Sch. 3 para. 5(4)(a)(i) substituted (with effect for 2003-04 and subsequent tax years) by National Insurance Contributions Act 2002 (c. 19), ss. 6, 8(2), **Sch. 1 para. 33(5)**
- F7** Words in Sch. 3 para. 5(6) substituted (13.4.1995) by S.I. 1994/1898 (N.I. 12), art. 13(1), **Sch. 1 Pt. I para. 38(3)** (with art. 15(1)); S.R. 1994/450, art. 2(d), **Sch. Pt. IV**
- F8** Sch. 3 para. 5(6A)(6B) inserted (27.10.2008) by Welfare Reform Act (Northern Ireland) 2007 (c. 2), s. 60(1), **Sch. 3 para. 3(13)**; S.R. 2008/276, art. 2(2)(d), Sch. Pt. 2
- F9** Words in Sch. 3 para. 5(7)(a) repealed (16.12.1995 with effect in relation to any person attaining pensionable age on or after 6.4.2010) by S.I. 1995/3213 (N.I. 22), arts. 1(3), 123, 168, Sch. 2 Pt. II para. 4, **Sch. 5 Pt. II**
- F10** Words in Sch. 3 para. 5(7) inserted (11.2.2008) by Pensions Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (c. 1), s. 3(2)
- F11** Sch. 3 para. 5(7A) inserted (8.1.2001) by 2000 c. 4 (N.I.), s. 36; S.R. 2000/374, **art. 2(d)**
- F12** Words in Sch. 3 para. 5(8) substituted (16.12.1995 subject to Sch. 2 of the amending S.I.) by S.I. 1995/3213 (N.I. 22), **arts. 1(3)**, 131(5)

[<sup>F13</sup>5A(1) This paragraph applies to—

- (a) a Category A retirement pension in a case where the contributor concerned attains pensionable age on or after 6th April 2010;

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[<sup>F14</sup>(b) a Category B retirement pension in the cases provided for by any of sections 48A to [<sup>F15</sup>51ZA].]

<sup>F14</sup>(c) .....

(2) The contribution condition for a Category A or Category B retirement pension in relation to which this paragraph applies is that—

- (a) the contributor concerned must, in respect of each of not less than 30 years of his working life, have paid or been credited with contributions of a relevant class or been credited (in the case of 1987–88 or any subsequent year) with earnings; and
- (b) in the case of each of those years, the earnings factor derived as mentioned in sub-paragraph (3) below must be not less than the qualifying earnings factor for that year.

(3) For the purposes of paragraph (b) of sub-paragraph (2) above, the earnings factor—

- (a) in the case of 1987–88 or any subsequent year, is that which is derived from—
  - (i) so much of the contributor's earnings as did not exceed the upper earnings limit and upon which such of the contributions mentioned in paragraph (a) of that sub-paragraph as are primary Class 1 contributions were paid or treated as paid or earnings credited; and
  - (ii) any Class 2 or Class 3 contributions for the year; or
- (b) in the case of any earlier year, is that which is derived from the contributions mentioned in paragraph (a) of that sub-paragraph.

(4) Regulations may modify sub-paragraphs (2) and (3) above for the purposes of their application in a case where—

- (a) the contributor concerned has paid, or been credited with, contributions, or
- (b) contributions have been deemed to be, or treated as, paid by or credited to him,

under the National Insurance Act (Northern Ireland) 1946 or the National Insurance Act (Northern Ireland) 1966.]

#### **Textual Amendments**

**F13** Sch. 3 para. 5A inserted (11.2.2008) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2008 \(c. 1\), s. 1\(3\)](#)

**F14** Sch. 3 para. 5A(1)(b) substituted for Sch. 3 para. 5A(1)(b)(c) (6.4.2016) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2015 \(c. 5\), s. 53\(3\)](#), [Sch. 12 para. 58\(3\)](#)

**F15** Figure in Sch. 3 para. 5A(1)(b) substituted (13.1.2020) by [The Marriage \(Same-sex Couples\) and Civil Partnership \(Opposite-sex Couples\) \(Northern Ireland\) Regulations 2019 \(S.I. 2019/1514\)](#), regs. 1(2), [66\(17\)](#) (with regs. 6-9)

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### Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

- Act modified by [S.R. 2019/211 art. 2\(2\)\(b\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Affecting Order revoked (19.12.2020) without ever being in force by [S.R. 2020/347](#), arts. 1(1), 2)

### Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 167ZZ10(5) inserted by [2022 c. 5 \(N.I.\) s. 4 Sch. Pt. 2 para. 38](#)
- s. 4C(5)(i)(j) repealed by [2008 c. 1 \(N.I.\) Sch. 4 para. 41\(3\)\(c\) Sch. 6 Pt. 7](#)
- s. 5A para. 2 sum modified by [S.R. 2022/231 art. 4\(4\)](#)
- s. 11A(1)(eb) inserted by [2021 c. 26 Sch. 27 para. 14](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. The existing section 11A of Act repealed by paragraph 4(2) of the Schedule to the National Insurance Contributions (Reduction in Rates) Act 2023 (c. 57))
- s. 30B(3)(b) word substituted by [S.I. 1995/3213 \(N.I.\) Sch. 2 Pt. 3 para. 14\(b\)](#)
- s. 30B(4)(aa) inserted by [S.I. 2015/2006 \(N.I.\) Sch. 9 para. 3](#)
- s. 30B(4)(aa) word repealed by [S.I. 2015/2006 \(N.I.\) Sch. 12 Pt. 8](#)
- s. 35(1)(e) and word inserted by [S.I. 2015/2006 \(N.I.\) art. 68\(2\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 35(3)(za) inserted by [S.I. 2015/2006 \(N.I.\) art. 68\(2\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 45(2A)(a) words substituted by [2012 c. 3 \(N.I.\) Sch. 3 para. 1\(3\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 45(2A)(b) substituted by [2012 c. 3 \(N.I.\) Sch. 3 para. 1\(3\)\(c\)](#)
- s. 46(5)(6) added by [2008 c. 13 \(N.I.\) Sch. 3 para. 6\(3\)](#)
- s. 46(5)(a) words substituted by [2012 c. 3 \(N.I.\) Sch. 3 para. 2](#)
- s. 47(4A) inserted by [2008 c. 13 \(N.I.\) s. 81\(6\)](#)
- s. 83A substituted for ss. 83, 84 by [S.I. 1995/3213 \(N.I.\) Sch. 2 Pt. 2 para. 2](#)
- s. 83A(1) words substituted by [2004 c. 33 Sch. 24 para. 90\(a\)](#)
- s. 83A(2) words inserted by [2004 c. 33 Sch. 24 para. 90\(b\)](#)
- s. 83A(3) words inserted by [2004 c. 33 Sch. 24 para. 90\(b\)](#)
- s. 123(1)(ea) inserted by [S.I. 2015/2006 \(N.I.\) art. 65\(2\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 123(1)(ga) inserted by [2010 c. 13 \(N.I.\) s. 5\(1\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 123(1C) inserted by [S.I. 2015/2006 \(N.I.\) art. 65\(2\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 123(6A)(6B) inserted by [2010 c. 13 \(N.I.\) s. 5\(1\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 123A inserted by [S.I. 2015/2006 \(N.I.\) art. 65\(3\)](#)
- s. 123A transfer of functions by [S.R. 2016/76 Sch. 4 Pt. 1](#)
- s. 123A(2) words omitted by [S.R. 2016/76 Sch. 6 para. 38](#)
- s. 123A(4)(b) words omitted by [S.R. 2016/76 Sch. 6 para. 38](#)
- s. 129B-129F inserted (temp. until 31.12.2010) by [2007 c. 2 \(N.I.\) s. 31\(1\)](#)
- s. 134(2A) inserted by [2010 c. 13 \(N.I.\) s. 15\(2\)](#)
- s. 136(4)(ca) inserted by [2010 c. 13 \(N.I.\) s. 15\(6\)](#)
- s. 136(4A) inserted by [2010 c. 13 \(N.I.\) s. 15\(7\)](#)
- s. 146(2A) inserted by [S.I. 2015/2006 \(N.I.\) Sch. 3 para. 3\(c\)](#)
- s. 160(2)(aa) inserted by [S.I. 2015/2006 \(N.I.\) art. 68\(3\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 160(9)(da) inserted by [S.I. 2015/2006 \(N.I.\) art. 68\(3\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 167ZA(2)(ba) inserted by [S.I. 2015/2006 \(N.I.\) art. 68\(4\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 167ZA(3A) inserted by [S.I. 2015/2006 \(N.I.\) art. 68\(4\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 167ZB(2)(ba) inserted by [S.I. 2015/2006 \(N.I.\) art. 68\(5\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 167ZB(3A) inserted by [S.I. 2015/2006 \(N.I.\) art. 68\(5\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 167ZE(2A) inserted by [2015 c. 1 \(N.I.\) s. 12\(3\)\(b\)](#)

- s. 167ZE(2B) inserted by 2015 c. 1 (N.I.) s. 12(3)(c)
- s. 167ZL(2)(ba) inserted by S.I. 2015/2006 (N.I.) art. 68(6)(a)
- s. 167ZL(8)(za) inserted by S.I. 2015/2006 (N.I.) art. 68(6)(c)
- s. 167ZU(2)(ca) inserted by S.I. 2015/2006 (N.I.) art. 69(2)
- s. 167ZU(4)(da) inserted by S.I. 2015/2006 (N.I.) art. 69(3)
- s. 167ZW(2)(ca) inserted by S.I. 2015/2006 (N.I.) art. 69(4)
- s. 167ZW(4)(da) inserted by S.I. 2015/2006 (N.I.) art. 69(5)
- s. 167ZY(5) words repealed by 2022 c. 18 (N.I.) Sch. 5
- s. 167ZZ9(2)(ba) inserted by 2022 c. 5 (N.I.) s. 4 Sch. Pt. 2 para. 37
- s. 169A inserted by S.I. 2015/2006 (N.I.) art. 68(7)
- s. 172(4B) inserted by 2012 c. 3 (N.I.) Sch. 3 para. 4(4)
- Sch. 4 Pt. 1 para. 2 repealed by 2007 c. 2 (N.I.) Sch. 8
- Sch. 4 Pt. 1 para. 2A repealed by 2007 c. 2 (N.I.) Sch. 8
- Sch. 4 Pt. 4 para. 1A repealed by 2007 c. 2 (N.I.) Sch. 8
- Sch. 4 Pt. 4 para. 2 repealed by 2007 c. 2 (N.I.) Sch. 8
- Sch. 4C inserted by 2008 c. 13 (N.I.) Sch. 2
- Sch. 4C para. 7(2)(c) inserted by 2012 c. 3 (N.I.) Sch. 3 para. 6(7)(b)
- Sch. 4C para. 7(3) inserted by 2012 c. 3 (N.I.) Sch. 3 para. 6(8)
- Sch. 4C para. 3 omitted by 2012 c. 3 (N.I.) Sch. 3 para. 6(3)
- Sch. 4C para. 7(2)(b) word inserted by 2012 c. 3 (N.I.) Sch. 3 para. 6(7)(a)
- Sch. 4C para. 1 words substituted by 2012 c. 3 (N.I.) Sch. 3 para. 6(2)
- Sch. 4C para. 2 words substituted by 2012 c. 3 (N.I.) Sch. 3 para. 6(2)
- Sch. 4C para. 5(b) words substituted by 2012 c. 3 (N.I.) Sch. 3 para. 6(4)
- Sch. 4C para. 6 words substituted by 2012 c. 3 (N.I.) Sch. 3 para. 6(5)
- Sch. 4C para. 7(1) words substituted by 2012 c. 3 (N.I.) Sch. 3 para. 6(4)
- Sch. 4C para. 7(1) words substituted by 2012 c. 3 (N.I.) Sch. 3 para. 6(6)
- Sch. 5 para. 000A1(4) omitted by 2012 c. 3 (N.I.) Sch. 2 para. 3(2)
- Sch. 11 para. 2(i) inserted by S.I. 2015/2006 (N.I.) art. 68(8)(a)
- Sch. 11 para. 9 inserted by S.I. 2015/2006 (N.I.) art. 68(8)(b)