SCHEDULES

[^{F1}SCHEDULE 4A N.I.

[^{F2}ADDITIONAL PENSION: ACCRUAL RATES FOR PURPOSES OF SECTION 45(2)(C)]

Textual Amendments

- F1 Sch. 4A inserted (8.1.2001, 1.2.2001 for specified purposes and 6.4.2002 otherwise) by 2000 c. 4 (N.I.), s. 30(3), Sch. 4; S.R. 2000/358, art. 2(e), Sch. Pt. IV (as amended by S.R. 2000/374, art. 3); S.R. 2001/34, art. 2(a)
- F2 Sch. 4A heading substituted (11.2.2008) by Pensions Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (c. 1), s. 8(6)

PART I N.I.

THE AMOUNT

- 1 (1) The amount referred to in section 45(2)(c) above is to be calculated as follows—
 - (a) take for each tax year concerned the amount for the year which is found under the following provisions of this Schedule;
 - (b) add the amounts together;
 - (c) divide the sum of the amounts by the number of relevant years;
 - (d) the resulting amount is the amount referred to in section 45(2)(c) above, except that if the resulting amount is a negative one the amount so referred to is nil.
 - (2) For the purpose of applying sub-paragraph (1) above in the determination of the rate of any additional pension by virtue of section ^{F3}... 39C(1) ^{F4}... or 48B(2) above, in a case where the deceased spouse died under pensionable age, [^{F5}or by virtue of section 39C(1) above, in a case where the deceased cohabiting partner died under pensionable age][^{F6}or by virtue of section 39C(1) ^{F4}... or 48B(2) above, in a case where the deceased cohabiting partner died under pensionable age][^{F6}or by virtue of section 39C(1) ^{F4}... or 48B(2) above, in a case where the deceased civil partner died under pensionable age,] the divisor used for the purposes of sub-paragraph (1)(c) above shall be whichever is the smaller of the alternative numbers referred to below (instead of the number of relevant years).
 - (3) The first alternative number is the number of tax years which begin after 5th April 1978 and end before the date when the entitlement to the additional pension commences.
 - (4) The second alternative number is the number of tax years in the period—
 - (a) beginning with the tax year in which the deceased [^{F7}spouse, civil partner or cohabiting partner] attained the age of 16 or, if later, 1978-79; and
 - (b) ending immediately before the tax year in which the deceased [^{F7}spouse, civil partner or cohabiting partner] would have attained pensionable age if he had notdied earlier.

- (5) For the purpose of applying sub-paragraph (1) above in the determination of the rate of any additional pension by virtue of section 48BB(5) above, in a case where the deceased spouse [^{F8} or civil partner] died under pensionable age, the divisor used for the purposes of sub-paragraph (1)(c) above shall be whichever is the smaller of the alternative numbers referred to below (instead of the number of relevant years).
- (6) The first alternative number is the number of tax years which begin after 5th April 1978 and end before the date when the deceased spouse [^{F9}or civil partner] dies.

(7) The second alternative number is the number of tax years in the period—

- (a) beginning with the tax year in which the deceased spouse [^{F10} or civil partner] attained the age of 16 or, if later, 1978-79; and
- (b) ending immediately before the tax year in which the deceased spouse [^{F11}or civil partner] would have attained pensionable age if he had not died earlier.
- (8) In this paragraph "relevant year" has the same meaning as in section 44 above.

Textual Amendments

- **F3** Word in Sch. 4A para. 1(2) repealed (11.2.2008) by Pensions Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (c. 1), Sch. 2 para. 11, Sch. 6 Pt. 4
- F4 Word in Sch. 4A para. 1(2) omitted (6.4.2016) by virtue of Pensions Act (Northern Ireland) 2015 (c. 5), s. 53(3), Sch. 12 para. 60
- F5 Words in Sch. 4A para. 1(2) inserted (retrospective to 30.8.2018) by The Bereavement Benefits (Remedial) Order 2023 (S.I. 2023/134), arts. 1(3), 8(5)(a)
- F6 Words in Sch. 4A para. 1(2) inserted (5.12.2005) by Civil Partnership Act 2004 (c. 33), s. 263(8)(d),
 Sch. 24 para. 104(2); S.I. 2005/3255, art. 2(1), Sch.
- F7 Words in Sch. 4A para. 1(4) substituted (retrospective to 30.8.2018) by The Bereavement Benefits (Remedial) Order 2023 (S.I. 2023/134), arts. 1(3), **8(5)(b)**
- F8 Words in Sch. 4A para. 1(5) inserted (5.12.2005) by Civil Partnership Act 2004 (c. 33), s. 263(8)(d),
 Sch. 24 para. 104(3); S.I. 2005/3255, art. 2(1), Sch.
- F9 Words in Sch. 4A para. 1(6) inserted (5.12.2005) by Civil Partnership Act 2004 (c. 33), s. 263(8)(d),
 Sch. 24 para. 104(3); S.I. 2005/3255, art. 2(1), Sch.
- F10 Words in Sch. 4A para. 1(7)(a) inserted (5.12.2005) by Civil Partnership Act 2004 (c. 33), s. 263(8)(d),
 Sch. 24 para. 104(3); S.I. 2005/3255, art. 2(1), Sch.
- F11 Words in Sch. 4A para. 1(7)(b) inserted (5.12.2005) by Civil Partnership Act 2004 (c. 33), s. 263(8)(d),
 Sch. 24 para. 104(3); S.I. 2005/3255, art. 2(1), Sch.

PART II N.I.

SURPLUS EARNINGS FACTOR

- 2 (1) This Part of this Schedule applies if for the tax year concerned there is a surplus in the pensioner's earnings factor.
 - (2) The amount for the year is to be found as follows—
 - (a) calculate the part of the surplus for that year falling into each of the bands specified in the appropriate table below;
 - (b) multiply the amount of each such part in accordance with the last order under section 130 of the Administration Act to come into operation before the end of the final relevant year;

- (c) multiply each amount found under paragraph (b) above by the percentage specified in the appropriate table in relation to the appropriate band;
- (d) add together the amounts calculated under paragraph (c) above.
- (3) The appropriate table for persons attaining pensionable age after the end of the first appointed year but before 6th April 2009 is as follows—

TABLE 1	
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Amount of surplus	Percentage	
Band 1.	Not exceeding LET	40 + 2N
Band 2.	Exceeding LET but not exceeding 3LET - 2QEF	10 + N/2
Band 3.	Exceeding 3LET - 2QEF	20 + N

(4) The appropriate table for persons attaining pensionable age on or after 6th April 2009 [^{F12}where the tax year concerned falls before 2010–11] is as follows—

TABLE 2

Amount of surplus		Percentage
Band 1.	Not exceeding LET	40
Band 2.	Exceeding LET but not exceeding 3LET - 2QEF	10
Band 3.	Exceeding 3LET - 2QEF	20

[The appropriate table for persons attaining pensionable age on or after 6th April 2009 $F^{13}(4A)$ where the tax year concerned is 2010–11 or a subsequent tax year is as follows—

TABLE 2A

Amount of surplus	Percentage	
Band 1.	Not exceeding LET	40
Band 2.	Exceeding LET ^{F14}	10]

- (5) Regulations may provide, in relation to persons attaining pensionable age after such date as may be prescribed, that the amount found under this Part of this Schedule for the second appointed year or any subsequent tax year is to be calculated using only so much of the surplus in the pensioner's earnings factor for that year as falls into Band 1 in the table in sub-paragraph (4) above.
- (6) For the purposes of the tables in this paragraph—
 - (a) the value of N is 0.5 for each tax year by which the tax year in which the pensioner attained pensionable age precedes 2009-10;
 - (b) "LET" means the low earnings threshold for that year as specified in section 44A above;
 - (c) "QEF" means the qualifying earnings factor for the tax year concerned;

- ^{F15}(d)
- (7) In the calculation of "2QEF" the amount produced by doubling QEF shall be rounded to the nearest whole £100 (taking any amount of £50 as nearest to the previous whole £100).
- (8) In this paragraph "final relevant year" has the same meaning as in section 44 above.

Textual Amendments

- F12 Words in Sch. 4A para. 2(4) inserted (11.2.2008) by Pensions Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (c. 1), s. 8(2) (a)
- **F13** Sch. 4A para. 2(4A) inserted (11.2.2008) by Pensions Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (c. 1), s. 8(2)(b)
- F14 Words in Sch. 4A para. 2(4A) repealed (15.12.2008) by Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (c. 13), s. 118(2), Sch. 10 Pt. 6 (with s. 73)
- F15 Sch. 4A para. 2(6)(d) repealed (15.12.2008) by Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (c. 13), s. 118(2), Sch. 10 Pt. 6 (with s. 73)

PART III N.I.

CONTRACTED-OUT EMPLOYMENT, ETC.

Introduction

- 3 (1) This Part of this Schedule applies if the following condition is satisfied in relation to each tax week in the tax year concerned.
 - (2) The condition is that any earnings paid to or for the benefit of the pensioner in the tax week in respect of employment were in respect of employment qualifying him for a pension provided by a salary related contracted-out scheme or by a money purchase contracted-out scheme or by an appropriate personal pension scheme.
 - (3) If the condition is satisfied in relation to one or more tax weeks in the tax year concerned, Part II of this Schedule does not apply in relation to the year.

The amount

- 4 The amount for the year is amount C where—
 - (a) amount C is equal to amount A minus amount B, and
 - (b) amounts A and B are calculated as follows.

Amount A

- 5 (1) Amount A is to be calculated as follows.
 - (2) If there is an assumed surplus in the pensioner's earnings factor for the year—
 - (a) calculate the part of the surplus for that year falling into each of the bands specified in the appropriate table below;
 - (b) multiply the amount of each such part in accordance with the last order under section 130 of the Administration Act to come into operation before the end of the final relevant year;

- (c) multiply each amount found under paragraph (b) above by the percentage specified in the appropriate table in relation to the appropriate band;
- (d) add together the amounts calculated under paragraph (c) above.
- (3) The appropriate table for persons attaining pensionable age after the end of the first appointed year but before 6th April 2009 is as follows—

TABLE 3

Amount of surplus	Percentage	
Band 1.	Not exceeding LET	40 + 2N
Band 2.	Exceeding LET but not exceeding 3LET - 2QEF	10 + N/2
Band 3.	Exceeding 3LET - 2QEF	20 + N

(4) The appropriate table for persons attaining pensionable age on or after 6th April 2009 [^{F16}where the tax year concerned falls before 2010–11] is as follows—

TABLE 4

Amount of surplus		Percentage
Band 1.	Not exceeding LET	40
Band 2.	Exceeding LET but not exceeding 3LET - 2QEF	10
Band 3.	Exceeding 3LET - 2QEF	20

[The appropriate table for persons attaining pensionable age on or after 6th April 2009 $^{F17}(4A)$ where the tax year concerned is 2010–11 or a subsequent tax year is as follows—

TABLE 4A

Amount of surplus		Percentage	
Band 1.	Not exceeding LET	40	
Band 2.	Exceeding LET ^{F18}	10]	

Textu	al Amendments	
F16	Words in Sch. 4A para. 5(4) inserted (11.2.2008) by Pensions Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (c. 1), s. 8(3) (a)	
F17	Sch. 4A para. 5(4A) inserted (11.2.2008) by Pensions Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (c. 1), s. 8(3)(b)	
F18	Words in Sch. 4A para. 5(4A) repealed (15.12.2008) by Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (c. 13), s. 118(2), Sch. 10 Pt. 6 (with s. 73)	

Amount B (first case)

6 (1) Amount B is to be calculated in accordance with this paragraph if the pensioner's employment was entirely employment qualifying him for a pension provided by a salary related contracted-out scheme or by a money purchase contracted-out scheme.

(2) If there is an assumed surplus in the pensioner's earnings factor for the year—

- (a) multiply the amount of the assumed surplus in accordance with the last order under section 130 of the Administration Act to come into operation before the end of the final relevant year;
- (b) multiply the amount found under paragraph (a) above by the percentage specified in sub-paragraph (3) below.
- (3) The percentage is—
 - (a) 20 + N if the person attained pensionable age after the end of the first appointed year but before 6th April 2009;
 - (b) 20 if the person attained pensionable age on or after 6th April 2009.

Amount B (second case)

(1) Amount B is to be calculated in accordance with this paragraph if the pensioner's employment was entirely employment qualifying him for a pension provided by an appropriate personal pension scheme.

(2) If there is an assumed surplus in the pensioner's earnings factor for the year—

- (a) calculate the part of the surplus for that year falling into each of the bands specified in the appropriate table below;
- (b) multiply the amount of each such part in accordance with the last order under section 130 of the Administration Act to come into operation before the end of the final relevant year;
- (c) multiply each amount found under paragraph (b) above by the percentage specified in the appropriate table in relation to the appropriate band;
- (d) add together the amounts calculated under paragraph (c) above.
- (3) The appropriate table for persons attaining pensionable age after the end of the first appointed year but before 6th April 2009 is as follows—

Amount of surplus		Percentage
Band 1.	Not exceeding LET	40 + 2N
Band 2.	Exceeding LET but not exceeding 3LET - 2QEF	10 + N/2
Band 3.	Exceeding 3LET - 2QEF	20 + N

TABLE 5

(4) The appropriate table for persons attaining pensionable age on or after 6th April 2009 [^{F19}where the tax year concerned falls before 2010–11] is as follows—

TABLE 6

Amount of surplus

7

Band 1.	Not exceeding LET	40
Band 2.	Exceeding LET but not exceeding 3LET - 2QEF	10
Band 3.	Exceeding 3LET - 2QEF	20

[The appropriate table for persons attaining pensionable age on or after 6th April 2009 $F^{20}(4A)$ where the tax year concerned is 2010–11 or a subsequent tax year is as follows—

TABLE 6A

Amount of surplus		Percentage
Band 1.	Not exceeding LET	40
Band 2.	Exceeding LET ^{F21}	10]

Textu	al Amendments
F19	Words in Sch. 4A para. 7(4) inserted (11.2.2008) by Pensions Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (c. 1), s. 8(4)
	(a)
F20	Sch. 4A para. 7(4A) inserted (11.2.2008) by Pensions Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (c. 1), s. 8(4)(b)
F21	Words in Sch. 4A para. 7(4A) repealed (15.12.2008) by Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008
	(c. 13), s. 118(2), Sch. 10 Pt. 6 (with s. 73)

Interpretation

- 8 (1) In this Part of this Schedule "salary related contracted-out scheme", "money purchase contracted-out scheme" and "appropriate personal pension scheme" have the same meanings as in the Pensions Act.
 - (2) For the purposes of this Part of this Schedule the assumed surplus in the pensioner's earnings factor for the year is the surplus there would be in that factor for the year if section 44A(1) of the Pensions Act (no primary Class 1 contributions deemed to be paid) did not apply in relation to any tax week falling in the year.
 - (3) Section 44A above shall be ignored in applying section 44(6) above for the purposes of calculating amount B.
 - (4) For the purposes of this Part of this Schedule—
 - (a) the value of N is 0.5 for each tax year by which the tax year in which the pensioner attained pensionable age precedes 2009-10;
 - (b) "LET" means the low earnings threshold for that year as specified in section 44A above;
 - (c) "QEF" is the qualifying earnings factor for the tax year concerned;
 - $F^{22}(d)$
 - (5) In the calculation of "2QEF" the amount produced by doubling QEF shall be rounded to the nearest whole £100 (taking any amount of £50 as nearest to the previous whole £100).
 - (6) In this Part of this Schedule "final relevant year" has the same meaning as in section 44 above.

 F22
 Sch. 4A para. 8(4)(d) repealed (15.12.2008) by Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (c. 13), s. 118(2), Sch. 10 Pt. 6 (with s. 73)

PART IV N.I.

OTHER CASES

- The Department may make regulations containing provisions for finding the amount for a tax year in—
 - (a) cases where the circumstances relating to the pensioner change in the course of the year;
 - (b) such other cases as the Department thinks fit.]

9

Changes to legislation: Social Security Contributions and Benefits (Northern Ireland) Act 1992, SCHEDULE 4A is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 20 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. View outstanding changes			
	Cha	nges 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. $45(2A)(a)$ words substituted by $2012 \text{ c. } 3(\text{N.I.})$ Sch. 3 para. $1(3)(b)$ s. $45(2A)(b)$ substituted by $2012 \text{ c. } 3(\text{N.I.})$ 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(2)	
	_	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. $1677L(2)$ (ba) inserted by S.I. 2015/2006 (N.L) 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) _