



Social Security Contributions and Benefits (Northern Ireland) Act 1992

1992 CHAPTER 7

PART XI

STATUTORY SICK PAY

Miscellaneous

159 Interpretation of Part XI and supplementary provisions.

(1) In this Part of this Act—

“contract of service” (except in paragraph (a) of the definition below of “employee”) includes any arrangement providing for the terms of appointment of an employee;

“employee” means a person who is—

(a) gainfully employed in Northern Ireland either under a contract of service or in an office (including elective office) with [^{F1}earnings (within the meaning of Parts 1 to 5 above)]; ^{F2}...

(b) ^{F2}.....

but subject to regulations, which may provide for cases where any such person is not to be treated as an employee for the purposes of this Part of this Act and for cases where any person who would not otherwise be an employee for those purposes is to be treated as an employee for those purposes;

[^{F3}“employer”, in relation to an employee and a contract of service of his, means a person who—

(a) under section 6 above is liable to pay secondary Class 1 contributions in relation to any earnings of the employee under the contract; or

(b) would be liable to pay such contributions but for—

(i) the condition in section 6(1)(b); or

(ii) the employee being under the age of 16;]

Changes to legislation: *Social Security Contributions and Benefits (Northern Ireland) Act 1992, Section 159 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 26 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*

“period of entitlement” has the meaning given by section 149 above;
 “period of incapacity for work” has the meaning given by section 148 above;
 F4

 “prescribed” means prescribed by regulations;
 “qualifying day” has the meaning given by section 150 above;
 “week” means any period of 7 days.

- (2) For the purposes of this Part of this Act an employee’s normal weekly earnings shall, subject to subsection (4) below, be taken to be the average weekly earnings which in the relevant period have been paid to him or paid for his benefit under his contract of service with the employer in question.
- (3) For the purposes of subsection (2) above, the expressions “earnings” and “relevant period” shall have the meaning given to them by regulations.
- (4) In such cases as may be prescribed an employee’s normal weekly earnings shall be calculated in accordance with regulations.
- (5) Without prejudice to any other power to make regulations under this Part of this Act, regulations may specify cases in which, for the purposes of this Part of this Act or such of its provisions as may be prescribed—
 - (a) two or more employers are to be treated as one;
 - (b) two or more contracts of service in respect of which the same person is an employee are to be treated as one.
- (6) Where, in consequence of the establishment of one or more Health and Social Services trusts under the ^{M1}Health and Personal Social Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1991, a person’s contract of employment is treated by a scheme under that Order as divided so as to constitute two or more contracts, regulations may make provision enabling him to elect for all of those contracts to be treated as one contract for the purposes of this Part of this Act or of such provisions of this Part of this Act as may be prescribed; and any such regulations may prescribe—
 - (a) the conditions that must be satisfied if a person is to be entitled to make such an election;
 - (b) the manner in which, and the time within which, such an election is to be made;
 - (c) the persons to whom, and the manner in which, notice of such an election is to be given;
 - (d) the information which a person who makes such an election is to provide, and the persons to whom, and the time within which, he is to provide it;
 - (e) the time for which such an election is to have effect;
 - (f) which one of the person’s employers under the two or more contracts is to be regarded for the purposes of statutory sick pay as his employer under the one contract;

and the powers conferred by this subsection are without prejudice to any other power to make regulations under this Part of this Act.
- (7) Regulations may provide for periods of work which begin on one day and finish on the following day to be treated, for the purposes of this Part of this Act, as falling solely within one or other of those days.

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Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 159(1) substituted (13.5.2014) by [National Insurance Contributions Act 2014 \(c. 7\)](#), s. 15(4), [Sch. 2 para. 9](#)
- F2** Words in s. 159(1) repealed (1.10.2006) by [The Employment Equality \(Age\) Regulations \(Northern Ireland\) 2006 \(S.R. 2006/261\)](#), reg. 1(1), Sch. 7 para. 1(2)(a), [Sch. 8\(1\)](#) (with reg. 50)
- F3** Words in s. 159(1) substituted (1.10.2006) by [The Employment Equality \(Age\) Regulations \(Northern Ireland\) 2006 \(S.R. 2006/261\)](#), reg. 1(1), [Sch. 7 para. 1\(2\)\(b\)](#) (with reg. 50)
- F4** Definition in s. 159(1) repealed (7.10.1996) by [S.I. 1995/2705 \(N.I. 15\)](#), art. 40(2), [Sch. 3](#); [S.R. 1996/401](#), [art. 2](#)

Marginal Citations

- M1** [S.I. 1991/194 \(N.I. 1\)](#).

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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)