



# Social Security Administration (Northern Ireland) Act 1992

## 1992 CHAPTER 8

### PART I

#### CLAIMS FOR AND PAYMENTS AND GENERAL ADMINISTRATION OF BENEFIT

##### *Necessity of claim*

#### **1 Entitlement to benefit dependent on claim.**

- (1) Except in such cases as may be prescribed, and subject to the following provisions of this section and to section 3 below, no person shall be entitled to any benefit unless, in addition to any other conditions relating to that benefit being satisfied—
- (a) he makes a claim for it in the manner, and within the time, prescribed in relation to that benefit by regulations under this Part of this Act; or
  - (b) he is treated by virtue of such regulations as making a claim for it.

[<sup>F1</sup>(1A) No person whose entitlement to any benefit depends on his making a claim shall be entitled to the benefit unless subsection (1B) below is satisfied in relation both to the person making the claim and to any other person in respect of whom he is claiming benefit.

- (1B) This subsection is satisfied in relation to a person if—
- (a) the claim is accompanied by—
    - (i) a statement of the person's national insurance number and information or evidence establishing that that number has been allocated to the person; or
    - (ii) information or evidence enabling the national insurance number that has been allocated to the person to be ascertained; or
  - (b) the person makes an application for a national insurance number to be allocated to him which is accompanied by information or evidence enabling such a number to be so allocated.

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(1C) Regulations may make provision disapplying subsection (1A) above in the case of—

- (a) prescribed benefits;
- (b) prescribed descriptions of persons making claims; or
- (c) prescribed descriptions of persons in respect of whom benefit is claimed, or in other prescribed circumstances.]

<sup>F2</sup>(2) Where under subsection (1) a person is required to make a claim or to be treated as making a claim for a benefit in order to be entitled to it, the person is not entitled to it in respect of any period more than 12 months before the date on which the claim is made or treated as made.

(2A) But subsection (2) does not apply—

- (a) to disablement benefit or reduced earnings allowance, or
- (b) in a case where a claim for the benefit is made or treated as made by virtue of section 3(2).]

(3) Where a person purports to make a claim on behalf of another—

- <sup>F3</sup>(za) for personal independence payment by virtue of Article 87 of the Welfare Reform (Northern Ireland) Order 2015; or]
- (a) for an attendance allowance by virtue of section 66(1) of the Contributions and Benefits Act;<sup>F4</sup> ...

<sup>F4</sup>(b) .....

that other shall be regarded for the purposes of this section as making the claim, notwithstanding that it is made without his knowledge or authority.

(4) In this section and section 2 below “benefit” means—

- <sup>F5</sup>(za) universal credit;]
- <sup>F6</sup>(zb) state pension or a lump sum under Part 1 of the Pensions Act (Northern Ireland) 2015;]
- <sup>F7</sup>(zc) bereavement support payment under section 29 of the Pensions Act (Northern Ireland) 2015;]
- (a) benefit as defined in section 121 of the Contributions and Benefits Act;
- <sup>F8</sup>(aa) a jobseeker’s allowance;]and
- <sup>F9</sup>(ab) state pension credit;]
- <sup>F10</sup>(ac) an employment and support allowance;]
- <sup>F11</sup>(ad) personal independence payment.]
- (b) any income-related benefit.

(5) This section (which corresponds to section 154A of the 1975 Act, as it had effect immediately before this Act came into force) applies to claims made on or after 1st October 1990 or treated by virtue of regulations under that section or this section as having been made on or after that date.

(6) Schedule 1 to this Act shall have effect in relation to other claims.

#### Textual Amendments

**F1** S. 1(1A)-(1C) inserted (7.11.1997 for certain purposes and otherwise 1.12.1997) by [S.I. 1997/1182 \(N.I. 11\)](#), [art. 18](#); [S.R. 1997/480](#), [art. 2](#)

**F2** S. 1(2)(2A) substituted for s. 1(2) (6.4.2017) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2015 \(c. 5\)](#), s. 53(1), [Sch. 16 para. 21\(2\)](#); [S.R. 2017/44](#), [art. 2\(2\)](#) (with arts. 3, 4)

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- F3** S. 1(3)(za) inserted (20.6.2016) by The Welfare Reform (Northern Ireland) Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/2006), art. 2(2), **Sch. 9 para. 7(2)(a)**; S.R. 2016/215, art. 3(2)
- F4** S. 1(3)(b) and preceding word repealed (20.6.2016) by The Welfare Reform (Northern Ireland) Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/2006), art. 2(2), **Sch. 9 para. 7(2)(b)**; S.R. 2016/215, art. 3(2)
- F5** S. 1(4)(za) inserted (2.5.2016) by The Welfare Reform (Northern Ireland) Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/2006), art. 2(2), **Sch. 2 para. 4**; S.R. 2016/215, art. 2(2)(aa)(c)(v)
- F6** S. 1(4)(zb) inserted (6.4.2016 unless brought into operation earlier by an order under s. 53(1) of the amending Act) by Pensions Act (Northern Ireland) 2015 (c. 5), s. 53(3), **Sch. 12 para. 9**
- F7** S. 1(4)(zc) inserted (6.4.2017) by Pensions Act (Northern Ireland) 2015 (c. 5), s. 53(1), **Sch. 16 para. 21(3)**; S.R. 2017/44, art. 2(2) (with arts. 3, 4)
- F8** S. 1(4)(aa) inserted (3.5.1996) by S.I. 1995/2705 (N.I. 15), art. 40(1), **Sch. 2 para. 21**; S.R. 1996/180, **art. 2(a)**
- F9** S. 1(4)(ab) inserted (2.12.2002 for specified purposes, 7.4.2003 in so far as not already in force) by State Pension Credit Act (Northern Ireland) 2002 (c. 14), ss. 11, 21(2), **Sch. 1 Pt. 1 para. 2**; S.R. 2002/366, **art. 2**; S.R. 2003/211, art. 2(a)
- F10** S. 1(4)(ac) inserted (1.7.2008 for specified purposes, 27.7.2008 in so far as not already in force) by Welfare Reform Act (Northern Ireland) 2007 (c. 2), s. 60(1), **Sch. 3 para. 4(2)**; S.R. 2008/276, art. 2(2)(a)(i)(ii)
- F11** S. 1(4)(ad) inserted (2.5.2016) by The Welfare Reform (Northern Ireland) Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/2006), art. 2(2), **Sch. 9 para. 7(3)**; S.R. 2016/215, art. 2(5)(h)(i)

#### **Modifications etc. (not altering text)**

- C1** S. 1 applied (1.7.1992) by Social Security Contributions and Benefits (Northern Ireland) Act 1992 (c. 7), **ss. 121(1), 173(4)** (with s. 108(5))
- C2** S. 1(1A) excluded (20.11.2006) by The Housing Benefit Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 (S.R. 2006/405), regs. 1(1), 4
- C3** S. 1(1A) excluded (20.11.2006) by The Housing Benefit (Persons who have attained the qualifying age for state pension credit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 (S.R. 2006/406), regs. 1(1), 4
- C4** S. 1(1A) excluded by SR 1987/170 reg. 1A (as substituted (6.4.2009) by The Social Security (National Insurance Number Information: Exemption) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009 (S.R. 2009/90), regs. 1(1), 4)
- C5** S. 1(1A) excluded by SR 2008/280 reg. 2A (as inserted (6.4.2009) by The Social Security (National Insurance Number Information: Exemption) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009 (S.R. 2009/90), regs. 1(1), 11)
- C6** S. 1(1A) excluded by SR 2003/28 reg. 1A (as inserted (6.4.2009) by The Social Security (National Insurance Number Information: Exemption) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009 (S.R. 2009/90), regs. 1(1), 8)
- C7** S. 1(1A) excluded (coming into force in accordance with reg. 1(3) of the amending Rule) by The Universal Credit, Personal Independence Payment, Jobseekers Allowance and Employment and Support Allowance (Claims and Payments) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016 (S.R. 2016/220), regs. 1(3), 5
- C8** S. 1(2) excluded (9.2.2023) by The Bereavement Benefits (Remedial) Order 2023 (S.I. 2023/134), arts. 1(2), 3(8) (with art. 2)

## **2 Retrospective effect of provisions making entitlement to benefit dependent on claim.**

- (1) This section applies where a claim for benefit is made or treated as made at any time on or after 2nd September 1985 (the date on which section 154A of the 1975 Act (general provision as to necessity of claim for entitlement to benefit), as originally enacted, came into force) in respect of a period the whole or any part of which falls on or after that date.

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- (2) Where this section applies, any question arising as to—
- (a) whether the claimant is or was at any time (whether before, on or after 2nd September 1985) entitled to the benefit in question, or to any other benefit on which his entitlement to that benefit depends; or
  - (b) in a case where the claimant’s entitlement to the benefit depends on the entitlement of another person to a benefit, whether that other person is or was so entitled,
- shall be determined as if the relevant claim enactment and any regulations made under or referred to in that enactment had also been in force, with any necessary modifications, at all times relevant for the purpose of determining the entitlement of the claimant, and, where applicable, of the other person, to the benefit or benefits in question (including the entitlement of any person to any benefit on which that entitlement depends, and so on).
- (3) In this section “the relevant claim enactment” means section 1 above as it has effect in relation to the claim referred to in subsection (1) above.
- (4) In any case where—
- (a) a claim for benefit was made or treated as made (whether before, on or after 2nd September 1985, and whether by the same claimant as the claim referred to in subsection (1) above or not), and benefit was awarded on that claim, in respect of a period falling wholly or partly before that date; but
  - (b) that award would not have been made had the current requirements applied in relation to claims for benefit, whenever made, in respect of periods before that date; and
  - (c) entitlement to the benefit claimed as mentioned in subsection (1) above depends on whether the claimant or some other person was previously entitled or treated as entitled to that or some other benefit,
- then, in determining whether the conditions of entitlement to the benefit so claimed are satisfied, the person to whom benefit was awarded as mentioned in paragraphs (a) and (b) above shall be taken to have been entitled to the benefit so awarded, notwithstanding anything in subsection (2) above.
- (5) In subsection (4) above “the current requirements” means—
- (a) the relevant claim enactment, and any regulations made under or referred to in that enactment, or referred to in it, as in force at the time of the claim referred to in subsection (1) above, with any necessary modifications; and
  - (b) subsection (1) (with the omission of the words following “at any time”) and subsections (2) and (3) above.

**Modifications etc. (not altering text)**

**C9** S. 2 applied (1.7.1992) by [Social Security Contributions and Benefits \(Northern Ireland\) Act 1992 \(c. 7\)](#), ss. [121\(1\)\(e\)](#), [173\(4\)](#) (with s. [108\(5\)](#))

*[<sup>F12</sup>Work-focused interviews][<sup>F13</sup>and work-related activity]*

**Textual Amendments**

**F12** Ss. 2A, 2B and preceding cross-heading inserted (1.12.1999) by [S.I. 1999/3147 \(N.I. 11\)](#), [arts. 1\(4\)](#), [54](#)

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**F13** Words in s. 2A cross-heading inserted (13.8.2010) by [Welfare Reform Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2010 \(c. 13\), ss. 2\(3\), 36\(1\)\(a\)](#)

**[<sup>F14</sup>2A Claim or full entitlement to certain benefits conditional on work-focused interview.**

- (1) Regulations may make provision for or in connection with—
- (a) imposing, as a condition falling to be satisfied by a person who—
    - (i) makes a claim for a benefit to which this section applies, and
    - [<sup>F15</sup>(ii) has not attained pensionable age at the time of making the claim (but see subsection (1A)),]a requirement to take part in [<sup>F16</sup>one or more work-focused interviews] ;
  - (b) imposing, at a time when—
    - (i) a person [<sup>F17</sup>has not attained pensionable age and is] entitled to such a benefit, and
    - (ii) any prescribed circumstances exist,a requirement to take part in [<sup>F18</sup>one or more work-focused interviews] as a condition of that person continuing to be entitled to the full amount which is payable to him in respect of the benefit apart from the regulations.

[ For the purposes of subsection (1) a man born before [<sup>F20</sup>6 December 1953] is treated <sup>F19</sup>(1A) as attaining pensionable age when a woman born on the same day as the man would attain pensionable age.]

- (2) The benefits to which this section applies are—
- (a) income support;
  - (b) housing benefit;
  - (c) widow’s and bereavement benefits falling within section 20(1)(e) and (ea) of the Contributions and Benefits Act<sup>F21</sup>...;
  - (d) incapacity benefit;
  - (e) severe disablement allowance; and
  - (f) [<sup>F22</sup>carer’s allowance].

[ No requirement may be imposed by virtue of this section on a person who—  
<sup>F23</sup>(2A) (a) is not a member of a couple, and  
(b) is responsible for, and a member of the same household as, a child under the age of one.

- (2B) For the purposes of subsection (2A)(b) regulations may make provision—
- (a) as to circumstances in which one person is to be treated as responsible or not responsible for another;
  - (b) as to circumstances in which persons are to be treated as being or not being members of the same household.]

- (3) Regulations under this section may, in particular, make provision—
- (a) for securing, where a person would otherwise be required to take part in interviews relating to two or more benefits—
    - (i) that he is only required to take part in one interview, and
    - (ii) that any such interview is capable of counting for the purposes of all those benefits;

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- (b) for determining the persons by whom interviews are to be conducted;
  - (c) conferring power on such persons or the designated authority to determine when and where interviews are to take place (including power in prescribed circumstances to determine that they are to take place in the homes of those being interviewed);
  - (d) prescribing the circumstances in which persons attending interviews are to be regarded as having or not having taken part in them;
  - (e) for securing that the appropriate consequences mentioned in subsection (4) (a) or (b) below ensue if a person who has been notified that he is required to take part in an interview—
    - (i) fails to take part in the interview, and
    - (ii) does not show, within the prescribed period, that he had good cause for that failure;
  - (f) prescribing—
    - (i) matters which are or are not to be taken into account in determining whether a person does or does not have good cause for any failure to comply with the regulations, or
    - (ii) circumstances in which a person is or is not to be regarded as having or not having good cause for any such failure.
- (4) For the purposes of subsection (3)(e) above the appropriate consequences of a failure falling within that provision are—
- (a) where the requirement to take part in an interview applied by virtue of subsection (1)(a) above, that as regards any relevant benefit either—
    - (i) the person in question is to be regarded as not having made a claim for the benefit, or
    - (ii) if (in the case of an interview postponed in accordance with subsection (7) below) that person has already been awarded the benefit, his entitlement to the benefit is to terminate immediately;
  - (b) where the requirement to take part in an interview applied by virtue of subsection (1)(b) above, that the amount payable to the person in question in respect of any relevant benefit is to be reduced by the specified amount until the specified time.
- (5) Regulations under this section may, in relation to any such reduction, provide—
- (a) for the amount of the reduction to be calculated in the first instance by reference to such amount as may be prescribed;
  - (b) for the amount as so calculated to be restricted, in prescribed circumstances, to the prescribed extent;
  - (c) where the person in question is entitled to two or more relevant benefits, for determining the extent, and the order, in which those benefits are to be reduced in order to give effect to the reduction required in his case.
- (6) Regulations under this section may provide that any requirement to take part in an interview that would otherwise apply to a person by virtue of such regulations—
- (a) is, in any prescribed circumstances, either not to apply or not to apply until such time as is specified;
  - (b) is not to apply if the designated authority determines that an interview—
    - (i) would not be of assistance to that person, or
    - (ii) would not be appropriate in the circumstances;

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- (c) is not to apply until such time as the designated authority determines, if that authority determines that an interview—
- (i) would not be of assistance to that person, or
  - (ii) would not be appropriate in the circumstances,
- until that time;

and the regulations may make provision for treating a person in relation to whom any such requirement does not apply, or does not apply until a particular time, as having complied with that requirement to such extent and for such purposes as are specified.

(7) Where—

- (a) a person is required to take part in an interview by virtue of subsection (1) (a) above, and
- (b) the interview is postponed by or under regulations made in pursuance of subsection (6)(a) or (c) above,

the time to which it is so postponed may be a time falling after an award of the relevant benefit to that person.

[ Information supplied in pursuance of regulations under this section shall be taken for <sup>F24</sup>(7A) all purposes to be information relating to social security.]

(8) In this section—

[<sup>F25</sup>“couple” has the meaning given by section 133(1) of the Contributions and Benefits Act;]

“the designated authority” means such of the following as may be specified—

- (a) a Northern Ireland department;
- (b) a person providing services to a Northern Ireland department;
- (c) any other body established by or under a statutory provision;
- (d) a person providing services to, or authorised to exercise any function of, any such body;

“interview” (in subsections (3) to (7) above) means a work-focused interview;

“relevant benefit”, in relation to any person required to take part in a work-focused interview, means any benefit in respect to which that requirement applied by virtue of subsection (1)(a) or (b) above;

“specified” means prescribed by or determined in accordance with regulations;

“work-focused interview”, in relation to a person, means an interview conducted for such purposes connected with employment or training in the case of that person as may be specified;

and the purposes which may be so specified include purposes connected with a person’s existing or future employment or training prospects or needs, and (in particular) assisting or encouraging a person to enhance his employment prospects.]

#### Textual Amendments

- F14** Ss. 2A, 2B and preceding cross-heading inserted (1.12.1999) by [S.I. 1999/3147 \(N.I. 11\)](#), [arts. 1\(4\)](#), 54
- F15** S. 2A(1)(a)(ii) substituted (13.8.2010) by [Welfare Reform Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2010 \(c. 13\)](#), [ss. 29\(2\)\(a\)](#), 36(1)(l)
- F16** Words in s. 2A(1)(a) substituted (13.8.2010) by [Welfare Reform Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2010 \(c. 13\)](#), [ss. 29\(4\)](#), 36(1)(l)
- F17** Words in s. 2A(1)(b)(i) substituted (13.8.2010) by [Welfare Reform Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2010 \(c. 13\)](#), [ss. 29\(2\)\(b\)](#), 36(1)(l)

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- F18** Words in s. 2A(1)(b) substituted (13.8.2010) by [Welfare Reform Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2010 \(c. 13\), ss. 29\(4\), 36\(1\)\(l\)](#)
- F19** S. 2A(1A) inserted (13.8.2010) by [Welfare Reform Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2010 \(c. 13\), ss. 29\(2\)\(c\), 36\(1\)\(l\)](#)
- F20** Words in s. 2A(1A) substituted (2.6.2012) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2012 \(c. 3\), s. 34\(2\), Sch. 1 para. 1](#)
- F21** Words in s. 2A(2)(c) omitted (6.4.2017) by virtue of [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2015 \(c. 5\), s. 53\(1\), Sch. 16 para. 22; S.R. 2017/44, art. 2\(2\) \(with arts. 3, 4\)](#)
- F22** Words in s. 2A(2)(f) substituted (21.10.2002 for certain purposes, otherwise 1.4.2003) by [The Deregulation \(Carer's Allowance\) Order \(Northern Ireland\) 2002 \(S.R. 2002/321\), art. 2\(2\)\(b\)\(i\)](#)
- F23** S. 2A(2A)(2B) inserted (13.8.2010) by [Welfare Reform Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2010 \(c. 13\), ss. 3\(2\)\(a\), 36\(1\)\(b\)](#)
- F24** S. 2A(7A) inserted (13.8.2010) by [Welfare Reform Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2010 \(c. 13\), ss. 28\(1\), 36\(1\)\(k\)](#)
- F25** Words in s. 2A(8) inserted (13.8.2010) by [Welfare Reform Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2010 \(c. 13\), ss. 3\(2\)\(b\), 36\(1\)\(b\)](#)

**[<sup>F26</sup>2AA Full entitlement to certain benefits conditional on work-focused interview for partner**

- (1) Regulations may make provision for or in connection with imposing, at a time when—
- (a) a person (“the claimant”) who—
    - [<sup>F27</sup>(i) has not attained pensionable age (but see subsection (1A)), and]
    - [<sup>F27</sup>(ii) has a partner who has also not attained pensionable age,]
 is entitled to a benefit to which this section applies at a higher rate referable to his partner; and
  - (b) prescribed circumstances exist,
- a requirement for the partner to take part in [<sup>F28</sup>one or more work-focused interviews] as a condition of the benefit continuing to be payable to the claimant at that rate.

[ For the purposes of subsection (1) a man born before [<sup>F30</sup>6 December 1953] is treated <sup>F29</sup>(1A) as attaining pensionable age when a woman born on the same day as the man would attain pensionable age.]

- (2) The benefits to which this section applies are—
- (a) income support;
  - (b) an income-based jobseeker’s allowance other than a joint-claim jobseeker’s allowance;
  - (c) incapacity benefit;
  - (d) severe disablement allowance; and
  - (e) [<sup>F31</sup>carer’s allowance][<sup>F32</sup>; and
  - (f) an employment and support allowance.]
- (3) For the purposes of this section a benefit is payable to a person at a higher rate referable to his partner if the amount that is payable in his case—
- (a) is more than it would be if the person concerned was not a member of a couple; or
  - (b) includes an increase of benefit for his partner as an adult dependant of his.
- (4) Regulations under this section may, in particular, make provision—



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- (a) for securing, where the partner of the claimant would otherwise be required to take part in work-focused interviews relating to two or more benefits—
    - (i) that the partner is required instead to take part in only one such interview, and
    - (ii) that the interview is capable of counting for the purposes of all those benefits;
  - (b) in a case where the claimant has more than one partner, for determining which of those partners is required to take part in the work-focused interview or requiring each of them to take part in such an interview;
  - (c) for determining the persons by whom work-focused interviews are to be conducted;
  - (d) conferring power on such persons or the designated authority to determine when and where work-focused interviews are to take place (including power in prescribed circumstances to determine that they are to take place in the homes of those being interviewed);
  - (e) prescribing the circumstances in which partners attending work-focused interviews are to be regarded as having or not having taken part in them;
  - (f) for securing that if—
    - (i) a partner who has been notified of a requirement to take part in a work-focused interview fails to take part in it, and
    - (ii) it is not shown (by him or by the claimant), within the prescribed period, that he had good cause for that failure,the amount payable to the claimant in respect of the benefit in relation to which the requirement applied is to be reduced by the specified amount until the specified time;
  - (g) prescribing—
    - (i) matters which are or are not to be taken into account in determining whether a partner does or does not have good cause for any failure to comply with the regulations, or
    - (ii) circumstances in which a partner is or is not to be regarded as having or not having good cause for any such failure.
- (5) Regulations under this section may, in relation to a reduction under subsection (4)(f) above, provide—
- (a) for the amount of the reduction to be calculated in the first instance by reference to such amount as may be prescribed;
  - (b) for the amount as so calculated to be restricted, in prescribed circumstances, to the prescribed extent;
  - (c) where the claimant is entitled to two or more benefits in relation to each of which a requirement to take part in a work-focused interview applied, for determining the extent to, and the order in, which those benefits are to be reduced in order to give effect to the reduction required in his case.
- (6) Regulations under this section may provide that any requirement to take part in a work-focused interview that would otherwise apply to a partner by virtue of such regulations—
- (a) is, in any prescribed circumstances, either not to apply or not to apply until the specified time;
  - (b) is not to apply if the designated authority determines that such an interview would not be of assistance to him or appropriate in the circumstances;

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- (c) is not to apply until such time as the designated authority determines (if that authority determines that such an interview would not be of assistance to him or appropriate in the circumstances until that time),

and the regulations may make provision for treating a partner to whom any such requirement does not apply, or does not apply until a particular time, as having complied with that requirement to such extent and for such purposes as are specified.

[ Information supplied in pursuance of regulations under this section shall be taken for <sup>F33</sup>(6A) all purposes to be information relating to social security.]

(7) In this section—

[<sup>F34</sup>“couple” has the meaning given by section 133(1) of the Contributions and Benefits Act;]

“designated authority” means such of the following as may be specified—

- (a) a Northern Ireland department;
- (b) a person providing services to a Northern Ireland department;
- (c) any other body established by or under a statutory provision;
- (d) a person providing services to, or authorised to exercise any function of, any such body;

“partner” means a person who is a member of the same couple as the claimant;

“specified” means prescribed by or determined in accordance with regulations;

“work-focused interview” has the same meaning as in section 2A above.]

#### Textual Amendments

- F26** S. 2AA inserted (10.9.2003) by [Social Security Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2002 \(c. 10\)](#), **ss. 5, 9(1)**; S.R. 2003/396, art. 2
- F27** S. 2AA(1)(a)(i)(ii) substituted (13.8.2010) by [Welfare Reform Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2010 \(c. 13\)](#), **ss. 29(3)(a), 36(1)(l)**
- F28** Words in s. 2AA(1) substituted (13.8.2010) by [Welfare Reform Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2010 \(c. 13\)](#), **ss. 29(4), 36(1)(l)**
- F29** S. 2AA(1A) inserted (13.8.2010) by [Welfare Reform Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2010 \(c. 13\)](#), **ss. 29(3)(b), 36(1)(l)**
- F30** Words in s. 2AA(1A) substituted (2.6.2012) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2012 \(c. 3\)](#), s. 34(2), **Sch. 1 para. 2**
- F31** Words in s. 2AA(2)(e) substituted (21.10.2002 for certain purposes, otherwise 1.4.2003) by [The Deregulation \(Carer's Allowance\) Order \(Northern Ireland\) 2002 \(S.R. 2002/321\)](#), arts. 1(1)(b), **2(2)(b)(ii)**
- F32** S. 2AA(2)(f) and word added (1.7.2008 for specified purposes, 27.10.2008 in so far as not already in force) by [Welfare Reform Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2007 \(c. 2\)](#), s. 60(1), **Sch. 3 para. 4(3)**; S.R. 2008/276, art. 2(2)(c), Sch. Pt. 1
- F33** S. 2AA(6A) inserted (13.8.2010) by [Welfare Reform Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2010 \(c. 13\)](#), **ss. 28(2), 36(1)(k)**
- F34** Words in s. 2AA(7) substituted (5.12.2005) by [Civil Partnership Act 2004 \(c. 33\)](#), s. 263(8)(d), **Sch. 24 para. 107**; S.I. 2005/3255, art. 2(1), Sch.

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## **[<sup>F35</sup>2B Supplementary provisions relating to work-focused interviews.**

(1) Chapter II of Part II of the Social Security (Northern Ireland) Order 1998 (social security decisions and appeals) shall have effect in relation to relevant decisions [<sup>F36</sup>made under regulations under section 2A or 2AA above] subject to and in accordance with subsections (3) to (8) below (and in those subsections “the 1998 Order” means that Order).

(2) For the purposes of this section a “relevant decision” [<sup>F37</sup>, in relation to regulations under section 2A above, is a decision] that a person—

- (a) has failed to comply with a requirement to take part in an interview which applied to him by virtue of the regulations, or
- (b) has not shown, within the prescribed period mentioned in section 2A(3)(e)(ii) above, that he had good cause for such a failure.

[ For the purposes of this section a “relevant decision”, in relation to regulations under <sup>F38</sup>(2A) section 2AA above, is a decision that—

- (a) the partner of a person entitled to a benefit has failed to comply with a requirement to take part in an interview which applied to the partner by virtue of the regulations, or
- (b) it has not been shown, within the prescribed period mentioned in section 2AA(4)(f)(ii) above, that the partner had good cause for such a failure.]

(3) Article 9(1)(c) of the 1998 Order (decisions falling to be made under certain statutory provisions are to be made by the Department) shall have effect subject to any provisions of regulations under section 2A [<sup>F39</sup>or 2AA] above by virtue of which relevant decisions fall to be made otherwise than by the Department.

(4) For the purposes of each of Articles 10 and 11 of the 1998 Order (revision and supersession of decisions of Department) any relevant decision made otherwise than by the Department shall be treated as if it were such a decision made by the Department (and accordingly may be revised by it under Article 10 or superseded by a decision made by it under Article 11).

(5) Subject to any provisions of regulations under either Article 10 or 11 of the 1998 Order, any relevant decision made, or (by virtue of subsection (4) above) treated as made, by the Department may be—

- (a) revised under Article 10 by a person or authority exercising functions under regulations under section 2A [<sup>F40</sup>or 2AA] above other than the Department, or
- (b) superseded under Article 11 by a decision made by such a person or authority, as if that person or authority were the Department.

(6) Regulations shall make provision for conferring (except in any prescribed circumstances) a right of appeal under Article 13 of the 1998 Order (appeal to appeal tribunal) against—

- (a) any relevant decision, and
- (b) any decision under Article 11 of that Order superseding any such decision, whether made by the Department or otherwise.

(7) Subsections (4) to (6) above apply whether—

- (a) the relevant decision, or
- (b) (in the case of subsection (6)(b)) the decision under Article 11 of the 1998 Order,

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is as originally made or has been revised (by the Department or otherwise) under Article 10 of that Order; and regulations under subsection (6) above may make provision for treating, for the purposes of Article 13 of that Order, any decision made or revised otherwise than by the Department as if it were a decision made or revised by it.

(8) Article 13 of the 1998 Order shall not apply to any decision falling within subsection (6) above except in accordance with regulations under that subsection.

(9) In the following provisions, namely—

- (a) section 3(1) of the Social Security Act 1998 (use of information), and
- (b) Article 69(6) of the Welfare Reform and Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 1999 (supply of information),

any reference to information relating to social security includes any information supplied by a person for the purposes of an interview which he is required to take part in by virtue of section 2A [<sup>F41</sup>or 2AA] above.

(10) In this section “interview” means a work-focused interview within the meaning of section 2A above.]

#### Textual Amendments

- F35** Ss. 2A, 2B and preceding cross-heading inserted (1.12.1999) by S.I. 1999/3147 (N.I. 11), **arts. 1(4), 54**
- F36** Words in s. 2B(1) inserted (10.9.2003) by **Social Security Act (Northern Ireland) 2002 (c. 10), s. 9(1), Sch. 1 para. 6(a); S.R. 2003/396, art. 2**
- F37** Words in s. 2B(2) substituted (10.9.2003) by **Social Security Act (Northern Ireland) 2002 (c. 10), s. 9(1), Sch. 1 para. 6(b); S.R. 2003/396, art. 2**
- F38** S. 2B(2A) inserted (10.9.2003) by **Social Security Act (Northern Ireland) 2002 (c. 10), s. 9(1), Sch. 1 para. 6(c); S.R. 2003/396, art. 2**
- F39** Words in s. 2B(3) inserted (10.9.2003) by **Social Security Act (Northern Ireland) 2002 (c. 10), s. 9(1), Sch. 1 para. 6(d); S.R. 2003/396, art. 2**
- F40** Words in s. 2B(5)(a) inserted (10.9.2003) by **Social Security Act (Northern Ireland) 2002 (c. 10), s. 9(1), Sch. 1 para. 6(d); S.R. 2003/396, art. 2**
- F41** Words in s. 2B(9) inserted (10.9.2003) by **Social Security Act (Northern Ireland) 2002 (c. 10), s. 9(1), Sch. 1 para. 6(d); S.R. 2003/396, art. 2**

#### [<sup>F42</sup>2C] Optional work-focused interviews.

(1) Regulations may make provision for conferring on the prescribed authorities functions in connection with conducting work-focused interviews in cases where such interviews are requested or consented to by persons to whom this section applies.

(2) This section applies to [<sup>F43</sup>—

- (a) persons making claims for or entitled to any of the benefits listed in section 2A(2) above or any prescribed benefit; and
- (b) partners of persons entitled to any of the benefits listed in section 2AA(2) above or any prescribed benefit,]

and it so applies regardless of whether such persons have, in accordance with regulations under section 2A [<sup>F44</sup>or 2AA] above, already taken part in interviews conducted under such regulations.

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- (3) The functions which may be conferred on the prescribed authorities by regulations under this section include functions relating to—
- (a) the obtaining and receiving of information for the purposes of work-focused interviews conducted under the regulations;
  - (b) the recording and forwarding of information supplied at, or for the purposes of, such interviews;
  - (c) the taking of steps to identify potential employment or training opportunities for persons taking part in such interviews.
- (4) Regulations under this section may make different provision for different areas.
- (5) In this section—
- “authorities” means a Northern Ireland department and any other body established by or under a statutory provision;
- “work-focused interview”, in relation to a person to whom this section applies, means an interview conducted for such purposes connected with employment or training in the case of such a person as may be prescribed; and the purposes which may be so prescribed include—
- (a) purposes connected with the existing or future employment or training prospects or needs of such a person, and
  - (b) (in particular) assisting or encouraging such a person to enhance his employment prospects.]

#### Textual Amendments

- F42** S. 2C inserted (1.12.1999) by [S.I. 1999/3147 \(N.I. 11\)](#), [arts. 1\(4\)](#), 55
- F43** Words in s. 2C(2) substituted (10.9.2003) by [Social Security Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2002 \(c. 10\)](#), s. 9(1), [Sch. 1 para. 7\(a\)](#); [S.R. 2003/396](#), art. 2
- F44** Words in s. 2C(2) inserted (10.9.2003) by [Social Security Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2002 \(c. 10\)](#), s. 9(1), [Sch. 1 para. 7\(b\)](#); [S.R. 2003/396](#), art. 2

#### [<sup>F45</sup>2D Work-related activity

- (1) Regulations may make provision for or in connection with imposing on a person who—
- (a) is entitled to income support, and
  - (b) is not a lone parent of a child under the age of 3,
- a requirement to undertake work-related activity in accordance with regulations as a condition of continuing to be entitled to the full amount of income support payable apart from the regulations.
- (2) Regulations may make provision for or in connection with imposing on a person (“P”) who—
- (a) is under pensionable age, and
  - (b) is a member of a couple the other member of which (“C”) is entitled to a benefit to which subsection (3) applies at a higher rate referable to P,
- a requirement to undertake work-related activity in accordance with regulations as a condition of the benefit continuing to be payable to C at that rate.
- (3) The benefits to which this subsection applies are—

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- (a) income support;
  - (b) an income-based jobseeker's allowance other than a joint-claim jobseeker's allowance; and
  - (c) an income-related employment and support allowance.
- (4) Regulations under this section may, in particular, make provision—
- (a) prescribing circumstances in which a person is to be subject to any requirement imposed by the regulations (a “relevant requirement”);
  - (b) for notifying a person of a relevant requirement;
  - (c) prescribing the time or times at which a person who is subject to a relevant requirement is required to undertake work-related activity and the amount of work-related activity the person is required at any time to undertake
  - (d) prescribing circumstances in which a person who is subject to a relevant requirement is, or is not, to be regarded as undertaking work-related activity;
  - (e) in a case where C is a member of more than one couple, for determining which of the members of the couples is to be subject to a relevant requirement or requiring each of them to be subject to a relevant requirement;
  - (f) for securing that the appropriate consequence follows if—
    - (i) a person who is subject to a relevant requirement has failed to comply with the requirement, and
    - (ii) it is not shown, within a prescribed period, that the person had good cause for that failure;
  - (g) prescribing the evidence which a person who is subject to a relevant requirement needs to provide in order to show compliance with the requirement;
  - (h) prescribing matters which are, or are not, to be taken into account in determining whether a person had good cause for any failure to comply with a relevant requirement;
  - (i) prescribing circumstances in which a person is, or is not, to be regarded as having good cause for any such failure.
- (5) For the purposes of subsection (4)(f) the appropriate consequence is that the amount of the benefit payable is to be reduced by the prescribed amount until the prescribed time.
- (6) Regulations under subsection (5) may, in relation to any such reduction, provide—
- (a) for the amount of the reduction to be calculated in the first instance by reference to such amount as may be prescribed;
  - (b) for the amount as so calculated to be restricted, in prescribed circumstances, to the prescribed extent.
- (7) Regulations under this section may include provision that in such circumstances as the regulations may provide a person's obligation under the regulations to undertake work-related activity at a particular time is not to apply, or is to be treated as not having applied.
- (8) Regulations under this section must include provision for securing that lone parents are entitled (subject to meeting any prescribed conditions) to restrict the times at which they are required to undertake work-related activity.
- (9) For the purposes of this section and sections 2E and 2F—
- (a) “couple” has the meaning given by section 133(1) of the Contributions and Benefits Act;

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- (b) “lone parent” means a person who—
    - (i) is not a member of a couple, an
    - (ii) is responsible for, and a member of the same household as, a child;
  - (c) “prescribed” means specified in, or determined in accordance with, regulations;
  - (d) “work-related activity”, in relation to a person, means activity which makes it more likely that the person will obtain or remain in work or be able to do so;
  - (e) any reference to a person attaining pensionable age is, in the case of a man born before [F46 6 December 1953], a reference to the time when a woman born on the same day as the man would attain pensionable age;
  - (f) any reference to a benefit payable to C at a higher rate referable to P is a reference to any case where the amount payable is more than it would be if C and P were not members of the same couple.
- (10) For the purposes of this section regulations may make provision—
- (a) as to circumstances in which one person is to be treated as responsible or not responsible for another;
  - (b) as to circumstances in which persons are to be treated as being or not being members of the same household.
- (11) Information supplied in pursuance of regulations under this section is to be taken for all purposes to be information relating to social security.

#### Textual Amendments

- F45** Ss. 2D-2H inserted (13.8.2010) by [Welfare Reform Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2010 \(c. 13\)](#), [ss. 2\(2\)](#), [36\(1\)](#)  
(a)
- F46** Words in [s. 2D\(9\)\(e\)](#) substituted (2.6.2012) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2012 \(c. 3\)](#), [s. 34\(2\)](#),  
[Sch. 1 para. 3](#)

## 2E Action plans in connection with work-focused interviews

- (1) The Department must in prescribed circumstances provide a document (referred to in this section as an “action plan”) prepared for such purposes as may be prescribed to a person who is subject to a requirement imposed under section 2A or 2AA in relation to any of the following benefits.
- (2) The benefits are—
- (a) income support;
  - (b) an income-based jobseeker's allowance other than a joint-claim jobseeker's allowance; and
  - (c) an income-related employment and support allowance.
- (3) Regulations may make provision about—
- (a) the form of action plans;
  - (b) the content of action plans;
  - (c) the review and updating of action plans.
- (4) Regulations under this section may, in particular, make provision for action plans which are provided to a person who is subject under section 2D to a requirement to

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undertake work-related activity to contain particulars of activity which, if undertaken, would enable the requirement to be met.

- (5) Regulations may make provision for reconsideration of an action plan at the request of the person to whom it is provided and may, in particular, make provision about
- (a) the circumstances in which reconsideration may be requested;
  - (b) the period within which any reconsideration must take place;
  - (c) the matters to which regard must be had when deciding on reconsideration whether the plan should be changed;
  - (d) notification of the decision on reconsideration;
  - (e) the giving of directions for the purpose of giving effect to the decision on reconsideration.
- (6) In preparing any action plan, the Department must have regard (so far as practicable) to its impact on the well-being of any person under the age of 16 who may be affected by it.

#### Textual Amendments

**F45** Ss. 2D-2H inserted (13.8.2010) by [Welfare Reform Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2010 \(c. 13\), ss. 2\(2\), 36\(1\)](#)  
 (a)

## 2F Directions about work-related activity

- (1) In prescribed circumstances, the Department may by direction given to a person subject to a requirement imposed under section 2D provide that the activity specified in the direction is—
- (a) to be the only activity which, in the person's case, is to be regarded as being work-related activity; or
  - (b) to be regarded, in the person's case, as not being work-related activity.
- (2) But a direction under subsection (1) may not specify medical or surgical treatment as the only activity which, in any person's case, is to be regarded as being work-related activity.
- (3) A direction under subsection (1) given to any person—
- (a) must be reasonable, having regard to the person's circumstances;
  - (b) must be given to the person by being included in an action plan provided to the person under section 2E; and
  - (c) may be varied or revoked by a subsequent direction under subsection (1).
- (4) Where a direction under subsection (1) varies or revokes a previous direction, it may provide for the variation or revocation to have effect from a time before the giving of the direction.

#### Textual Amendments

**F45** Ss. 2D-2H inserted (13.8.2010) by [Welfare Reform Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2010 \(c. 13\), ss. 2\(2\), 36\(1\)](#)  
 (a)



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## 2G Contracting-out

- (1) The following functions of the Department may be exercised by, or by employees of, such person (if any) as the Department may authorise for the purpose, namely—
  - (a) conducting interviews under section 2A or 2AA;
  - (b) providing documents under section 2E;
  - (c) giving, varying or revoking directions under section 2F.
- (2) Regulations may provide for any of the following functions of the Department to be exercisable by, or by employees of, such person (if any) as the Department may authorise for the purpose
  - (a) any function under regulations under any of sections 2A to 2F, except the making of an excluded decision (see subsection (3));
  - (b) the function under Article 10(1) of the 1998 Order (revision of decisions) so far as relating to decisions (other than excluded decisions) that relate to any matter arising under regulations under any of sections 2A to 2F;
  - (c) the function under Article 11(1) of the 1998 Order (superseding of decisions) so far as relating to decisions (other than excluded decisions) of the Department that relate to any matter arising under regulations under any of sections 2A to 2F;
  - (d) any function under Chapter 2 of Part 2 of the 1998 Order (social security decisions), except Article 25(2) and (3) (decisions involving issues arising on appeal in other cases), which relates to the exercise of any of the functions within paragraphs (a) to (c).
- (3) Each of the following is an “excluded decision” for the purposes of subsection (2)—
  - (a) a decision about whether a person has failed to comply with a requirement imposed by regulations under section 2A, 2AA or 2D;
  - (b) a decision about whether a person had good cause for failure to comply with such a requirement;
  - (c) a decision about the reduction of a benefit in consequence of a failure to comply with such a requirement.
- (4) Regulations under subsection (2) may provide that a function to which that subsection applies may be exercised—
  - (a) either wholly or to such extent as the regulations may provide,
  - (b) either generally or in such cases as the regulations may provide, and
  - (c) either unconditionally or subject to the fulfilment of such conditions as the regulations may provide.
- (5) An authorisation given by virtue of any provision made by or under this section may authorise the exercise of the function concerned—
  - (a) either wholly or to such extent as may be specified in the authorisation,
  - (b) either generally or in such cases as may be so specified, and
  - (c) either unconditionally or subject to the fulfilment of such conditions as may be so specified;but, in the case of an authorisation given by virtue of regulations under subsection (2), this subsection is subject to the regulations.
- (6) An authorisation given by virtue of any provision made by or under this section—
  - (a) may specify its duration
  - (b) may be revoked at any time by the Department, and

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- (c) does not prevent the Department or any other person from exercising the function to which the authorisation relates.
- (7) Anything done or omitted to be done by or in relation to an authorised person (or an employee of that person) in, or in connection with, the exercise or purported exercise of the function concerned is to be treated for all purposes as done or omitted to be done by or in relation to the Department.
- (8) But subsection (7) does not apply—
  - (a) for the purposes of so much of any contract made between the authorised person and the Department as relates to the exercise of the function, or
  - (b) for the purposes of any criminal proceedings brought in respect of anything done by the authorised person (or an employee of that person).
- (9) Any decision which an authorised person makes in exercise of the function concerned has effect as a decision of the Department under Article 9 of the 1998 Order.
- (10) Where—
  - (a) the authorisation of an authorised person is revoked at any time, and
  - (b) at the time of the revocation so much of any contract made between the authorised person and the Department as relates to the exercise of the function is subsisting,
 the authorised person is entitled to treat the contract as repudiated by the Department (and not as frustrated by reason of the revocation).
- (11) In this section—
  - (a) “the 1998 Order” means the Social Security (Northern Ireland) Order 1998;
  - (b) “authorised person” means a person authorised to exercise any function by virtue of any provision made by or under this section;
  - (c) references to functions of the Department under any enactment (including one comprised in regulations) include functions which the Department has by virtue of the application of Article 9(1)(c) of the 1998 Order in relation to the enactment.

#### **Textual Amendments**

**F45** Ss. 2D-2H inserted (13.8.2010) by [Welfare Reform Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2010 \(c. 13\)](#), **ss. 2(2), 36(1)**  
 (a)

## **2H Good cause for failure to comply with regulations**

- (1) This section applies to any regulations made under section 2A, 2AA or 2D that prescribe matters to be taken into account in determining whether a person has good cause for any failure to comply with the regulations.
- (2) The provision made by the regulations prescribing those matters must include provision relating to—
  - (a) the person's physical or mental health or condition
  - (b) the availability of child care.]

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#### Textual Amendments

**F45** Ss. 2D-2H inserted (13.8.2010) by [Welfare Reform Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2010 \(c. 13\)](#), **ss. 2(2), 36(1)** (a)

### *[<sup>F47</sup>Bereavement benefits]*

#### Textual Amendments

**F47** S. 3 and preceding cross-heading substituted (24.4.2000 for certain purposes, otherwise 9.4.2001) by [S.I. 1999/3147 \(N.I. 11\)](#), art. 67, **Sch. 8 para. 16** (with art. 75); [S.R. 2000/133](#), art. 2(3)(a), **Sch. Pt. I**

### **[<sup>F48</sup>3 Late claims for bereavement benefit where death is difficult to establish.**

(1) This section applies where a person's spouse [<sup>F49</sup>or civil partner] has died or maybe presumed to have died on or after the appointed day and the circumstances are such that—

- (a) more than 12 months have elapsed since the date of death; and
- (b) either—
  - (i) the spouse's [<sup>F50</sup>or civil partner's] body has not been discovered or identified or, if it has been discovered and identified, the surviving spouse [<sup>F49</sup>or civil partner] does not know that fact; or
  - (ii) less than 12 months have elapsed since the surviving spouse [<sup>F49</sup>or civil partner] first knew of the discovery and identification of the body.

(2) Where this section applies, notwithstanding that any time prescribed for making a claim for a bereavement benefit in respect of the death has elapsed, then—

- (a) in any case falling within paragraph (b)(i) of subsection (1) above, where it has been decided under Article 9 of the Social Security (Northern Ireland) Order 1998 that the spouse [<sup>F49</sup>or civil partner] has died or is presumed to have died; or
- (b) in any case falling within paragraph (b)(ii) of subsection (1) above where the identification was made not more than 12 months before the surviving spouse [<sup>F49</sup>or civil partner] first knew of the discovery and identification of the body, such a claim may be made or treated as made at any time before the expiration of the period of 12 months beginning with the date on which that decision was made or, as the case may be, the date on which the surviving spouse [<sup>F49</sup>or civil partner] first knew of the discovery and identification.

<sup>F51</sup>(3) .....

(4) In subsection (1) above “the appointed day” means the day appointed for the coming into operation of Articles 51 to 53 of the Welfare Reform and Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 1999.]

[<sup>F52</sup>(5) In subsection (2) “bereavement benefit” means—

- (a) bereavement support payment, or
- (b) widowed parent's allowance.]

*Status: Point in time view as at 19/10/2023.*

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#### Textual Amendments

- F48** S. 3 and preceding cross-heading substituted (24.4.2000 for certain purposes, otherwise 9.4.2001) by S.I. 1999/3147 (N.I. 11), art. 67, **Sch. 8 para. 16** (with art. 75); S.R. 2000/133, art. 2(3)(a), **Sch. Pt. I**
- F49** Words in s. 3 inserted (5.12.2005) by Civil Partnership Act 2004 (c. 33), s. 263(8)(d), **Sch. 24 para. 108(a)**; S.I. 2005/3255, art. 2(1), Sch.
- F50** Words in s. 3 inserted (5.12.2005) by Civil Partnership Act 2004 (c. 33), s. 263(8)(d), **Sch. 24 para. 108(b)**; S.I. 2005/3255, art. 2(1), Sch.
- F51** S. 3(3) repealed (6.4.2017) by Pensions Act (Northern Ireland) 2015 (c. 5), s. 53(1), **Sch. 16 para. 23(2)**; S.R. 2017/44, art. 2(2) (with arts. 3, 4)
- F52** S. 3(5) inserted (6.4.2017) by Pensions Act (Northern Ireland) 2015 (c. 5), s. 53(1), **Sch. 16 para. 23(3)**; S.R. 2017/44, art. 2(2) (with arts. 3, 4)

#### 4 Treatment of payments of benefit to certain widows.

In any case where—

- (a) a claim for a widow's pension or a widowed mother's allowance is made, or treated as made, before 14th August 1990 (the date of the coming into operation of paragraph 16(2) of Schedule 6 to the <sup>M1</sup>Social Security (Northern Ireland) Order 1990); and
- (b) the Department has made a payment to or for the claimant on the ground that, if the claim had been received immediately after that date, she would have been entitled to that pension or allowance, or entitled to it at a higher rate, for the period in respect of which the payment is made,

the payment so made shall be treated as a payment of that pension or allowance; and, if and to the extent that an award of the pension or allowance, or an award at a higher rate, is made for the period in respect of which the payment was made, the payment shall be treated as made in accordance with that award.

#### Marginal Citations

**M1** S.I. 1990/1511 (N.I. 15).

### *Claims and payments regulations*

#### 5 Regulations about claims for and payments of benefit.

(1) Regulations may provide—

- (a) for requiring a claim for a benefit to which this section applies to be made by such person, in such manner and within such time as may be prescribed;
- (b) for treating such a claim made in such circumstances as may be prescribed as having been made at such date earlier or later than that at which it is made as may be prescribed;
- (c) for permitting such a claim to be made, or treated as if made, for a period wholly or partly after the date on which it is made;
- (d) for permitting an award on such a claim to be made for such a period subject to <sup>F53</sup>(i) the condition that the requirements for entitlement are satisfied at a prescribed time after the making of the award, or

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- (ii) other prescribed conditions;]
- [<sup>F54</sup>(e) for any such award to be revised under Article 10 of the Social Security (Northern Ireland) Order 1998, or superseded under Article 11 of that Order, if any of [<sup>F55</sup>the conditions referred to in paragraph (d)] are found not to have been satisfied;]
- (f) for the disallowance on any ground of a person’s claim for a benefit to which this section applies to be treated as a disallowance of any further claim by that person for that benefit until the grounds of the original disallowance have ceased to exist;
- (g) for enabling one person to act for another in relation to a claim for a benefit to which this section applies [<sup>F56</sup>(including in particular, in the case of a benefit to be claimed by persons jointly, enabling one person to claim for such persons jointly)] and for enabling such a claim to be made and proceeded with in the name of a person who has died;
- <sup>F57</sup>(h) .....
- <sup>F57</sup>(hh) .....
- (i) for a claim for any one benefit to which this section applies to be treated, either in the alternative or in addition, as a claim for any other such benefit that may be prescribed;
- (j) for the person to whom, time when and manner in which a benefit to which this section applies is to be paid and for the information and evidence to be furnished in connection with the payment of such a benefit;
- (k) for notice to be given of any change of circumstances affecting the continuance of entitlement to such a benefit or payment of such a benefit [<sup>F58</sup>or of any other change of circumstance of a prescribed description] ;
- (l) for the day on which entitlement to such a benefit is to begin or end;
- (m) for calculating the amounts of such a benefit according to a prescribed scale or otherwise adjusting them so as to avoid fractional amounts or facilitate computation;
- (n) for extinguishing the right to payment of such a benefit if payment is not obtained within such period, not being less than 12 months, as may be prescribed from the date on which the right is treated under the regulations as having arisen;
- [<sup>F59</sup>(o) for suspending payment, in whole or in part, where it appears to the Department that a question arises whether—
  - (i) the conditions for entitlement are or were fulfilled;
  - (ii) an award ought to be revised;
  - (iii) an appeal ought to be brought against an award;]
- [<sup>F60</sup>(p) for withholding payments of a benefit to which this section applies in prescribed circumstances and for subsequently making withheld payments in prescribed circumstances;]
- (q) for the circumstances and manner in which payments of such a benefit may be made to another person on behalf of the beneficiary for any purpose, which may be to discharge, in whole or in part, an obligation of the beneficiary or any other person;
- (r) for the payment or distribution of such a benefit to or among persons claiming to be entitled on the death of any person and for dispensing with strict proof of their title;
- [<sup>F61</sup>(s) for the making of a payment on account of such a benefit—

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- (i) in cases where it is impracticable for a claim to be made or determined immediately, or for an award to be determined or paid in full immediately,
- (ii) in cases of need, or
- (iii) in cases where the Department considers in accordance with prescribed criteria that the payment can reasonably be expected to be recovered;]

[<sup>F62</sup>(t) for treating any payment on account made by virtue of paragraph (s) above as made on account of any benefit to which this section applies that is subsequently awarded or paid.]

[<sup>F63</sup>(1A) Regulations may make provision for requiring a person of a prescribed description to supply any information or evidence which is, or could be, relevant to—

- (a) a claim or award relating to a benefit to which this section applies, or
- (b) potential claims or awards relating to such a benefit.]

(2) This section applies to the following benefits—

- [<sup>F64</sup>(za) universal credit;]
- [<sup>F65</sup>(zb) state pension or a lump sum under Part 1 of the Pensions Act (Northern Ireland) 2015;]
- [<sup>F66</sup>(zc) bereavement support payment under section 29 of the Pensions Act (Northern Ireland) 2015;]
- (a) benefit as defined in section 121 of the Contributions and Benefits Act;
- [<sup>F67</sup>(aa) a jobseeker’s allowance;]
- [<sup>F68</sup>(ab) state pension credit;]
- [<sup>F69</sup>(ac) an employment and support allowance;]
- [<sup>F70</sup>(ad) personal independence payment;]
- (b) income support;
- <sup>F71</sup>(c) .....
- <sup>F71</sup>(d) .....
- (e) housing benefit;
- (f) any social fund payments such as are mentioned in section 134(1)(a) or (2) of the Contributions and Benefits Act;
- [<sup>F72</sup>(fa) health in pregnancy grant;]
- (g) child benefit; and
- (h) Christmas bonus.

<sup>F73</sup>(2A) .....

[<sup>F74</sup>(2B) The power in subsection (1)(j) to make provision for the person to whom a benefit is to be paid includes, in the case of a benefit awarded to persons jointly, power to make provision for the Department to determine to which of them all or any part of a payment should be made, and in particular for the Department—

- (a) to determine that payment should be made to whichever of those persons they themselves nominate, or
- (b) to determine that payment should be made to one of them irrespective of any nomination by them.]

[<sup>F75</sup>(3) Subsection (1)(o) above shall have effect in relation to housing benefit as if the reference to the Department were a reference to the authority paying the benefit.]

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(4) Subsection (1)(g), (j), (m), (q) and (r) above shall have effect as if statutory sick pay and statutory maternity pay were benefits to which this section applies.

[<sup>F76</sup>(cc) Subsection (1)(g), (j), (m), (q) and (r) above shall have effect as if—

- (a) [<sup>F77</sup>statutory paternity pay, statutory adoption pay [<sup>F78</sup>, statutory shared parental pay and statutory parental bereavement pay]] were benefits to which this section applies; and
- (b) for the words “Regulations may” at the beginning of subsection (1) there were substituted the words “ The Department for Employment and Learning may by regulations subject to negative resolution (within the meaning of section 166(12)) ”.]

[<sup>F79</sup>(5) As it has effect in relation to [<sup>F80</sup>universal credit or] housing benefit subsection (1) (q) above authorises provision requiring the making of payments of benefit to another person, on behalf of the beneficiary, in such circumstances as may be prescribed.]

#### Textual Amendments

- F53** Words in s. 5(1)(d) substituted (2.5.2016) by The Welfare Reform (Northern Ireland) Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/2006), arts. 2(2), **103(2)**; S.R. 2016/215, art. 2(6)(a)
- F54** S. 5(1)(e) substituted (5.7.1999, 6.9.1999, 5.10.1999, 18.10.1999 and 29.11.1999 for different purposes, otherwise *prosp.*) by S.I. 1998/1506 (N.I. 10), arts. 1(2), 78(1), **Sch. 6 para. 60(1)(a)**; S.R. 1999/310, art. 2(1)(b), **Sch. 1**; S.R. 1999/371, art. 2(b), **Sch. 1**, S.R. 1999/407, art. 2(b), **Sch.**, S.R. 1999/428, art. 2(b), **Sch. 1** and S.R. 1999/472, art. 2(1), **Sch. 1** (subject to art. 2(2) of the said S.R. 1999/472)
- F55** Words in s. 5(1)(e) substituted (2.5.2016) by The Welfare Reform (Northern Ireland) Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/2006), arts. 2(2), **103(3)**; S.R. 2016/215, art. 2(6)(a)
- F56** Words in s. 5(1)(g) inserted (2.5.2016) by The Welfare Reform (Northern Ireland) Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/2006), arts. 2(2), **103(4)**; S.R. 2016/215, art. 2(6)(a)
- F57** S. 5(1)(h)(hh) repealed (2.5.2016) by The Welfare Reform (Northern Ireland) Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/2006), arts. 2(2), **104(2)**; S.R. 2016/215, art. 2(6)(a); S.R. 2016/215, art. 2(6)(a)
- F58** Words in s. 5(1)(k) inserted (2.5.2016) by The Welfare Reform (Northern Ireland) Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/2006), arts. 2(2), **103(5)**; S.R. 2016/215, art. 2(6)(a)
- F59** S. 5(1)(o) ceased to have effect (5.7.1999, 6.9.1999, 5.10.1999, 18.10.1999, 29.11.1999 and 2.7.2001 for different purposes, otherwise *prosp.*) by virtue of S.I. 1998/1506 (N.I. 10), art. 78(1), **Sch. 6 para. 60(1)(b)**; S.R. 1999/310, art. 2(1)(b), **Sch. 1**; S.R. 1999/371, art. 2(b), **Sch. 1**, S.R. 1999/407, art. 2(b), **Sch.**, S.R. 1999/428, art. 2(b), **Sch. 1**; S.R. 1999/472, art. 2(1), **Sch. 1** (subject to art. 2(2) of the said S.R. 1999/472) and S.R. 2001/260, art. 2(a)  
S. 5(1)(o) repealed (2.7.2001 for certain purposes, otherwise *prosp.*) by S.I. 1998/1506 (N.I. 10), arts. 1(2), 78(2), **Sch. 7**; S.R. 2001/260, **art. 2**
- F60** S. 5(1)(p) ceased to have effect (5.7.1999, 6.9.1999, 5.10.1999, 18.10.1999, 29.11.1999 and 2.7.2001 for different purposes, otherwise *prosp.*) by virtue of S.I. 1998/1506 (N.I. 10), art. 78(1), **Sch. 6 para. 60(1)(b)**; S.R. 1999/310, art. 2(1)(b), **Sch. 1**; S.R. 1999/371, art. 2(b), **Sch. 1**, S.R. 1999/407, art. 2(b), **Sch.**, S.R. 1999/428, art. 2(b), **Sch. 1**, S.R. 1999/472, art. 2(1), **Sch. 1** (subject to art. 2(2) of the said S.R. 1999/472) and S.R. 2001/260, **art. 2(a)**  
S. 5(1)(p) repealed (2.7.2001 for certain purposes, otherwise *prosp.*) by S.I. 1998/1506 (N.I. 10), arts. 1(2), 78(2), **Sch. 7**; S.R. 2001/260, **art. 2**
- F61** S. 5(1)(s) substituted (2.5.2016) by The Welfare Reform (Northern Ireland) Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/2006), arts. 2(2), **106(1)**; S.R. 2016/215, art. 2(6)(a)
- F62** S. 5(1)(t) added (*retrospectively*) by S.I. 1993/1579 (N.I. 8), **art. 3(1)(4)**
- F63** S. 5(1A) inserted (2.5.2016) by The Welfare Reform (Northern Ireland) Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/2006), arts. 2(2), **104(3)**; S.R. 2016/215, art. 2(6)(a)

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- F64** S. 5(2)(za) inserted (2.5.2016) by The Welfare Reform (Northern Ireland) Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/2006), art. 2(2), **Sch. 2 para. 5(a)**; S.R. 2016/215, art. 2(2)(aa)(c)(v)
- F65** S. 5(2)(zb) inserted (6.4.2016 unless brought into operation earlier by an order under s. 53(1) of the amending Act) by Pensions Act (Northern Ireland) 2015 (c. 5), s. 53(3), **Sch. 12 para. 10**
- F66** S. 5(2)(zc) inserted (6.4.2017) by Pensions Act (Northern Ireland) 2015 (c. 5), s. 53(1), **Sch. 16 para. 24**; S.R. 2017/44, art. 2(2) (with arts. 3, 4)
- F67** S. 5(2)(aa) inserted (3.5.1996) by S.I. 1995/2705 (N.I. 15), art. 40(1), **Sch. 2 para. 22**; S.R. 1996/180, **art. 2(a)**
- F68** S. 5(2)(ab) inserted (2.12.2002 for certain purposes, 7.4.2003 in so far as not already in force) by State Pension Credit Act (Northern Ireland) 2002 (c. 14), ss. 11, 21(2), **Sch. 1 Pt. 1 para. 3(a)**; S.R. 2002/366, **art. 2(1)(i)**; S.R. 2003/211, art. 2(a)
- F69** S. 5(2)(ac) inserted (1.7.2008 for specified purposes, 27.10.2008 in so far as not already in force) by Welfare Reform Act (Northern Ireland) 2007 (c. 2), s. 60(1), **Sch. 3 para. 4(4)**; S.R. 2008/276, art. 2(2)(c), Sch. Pt. 1
- F70** S. 5(2)(ad) inserted (2.5.2016) by The Welfare Reform (Northern Ireland) Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/2006), art. 2(2), **Sch. 9 para. 8**; S.R. 2016/215, art. 2(5)(h)(i)
- F71** S. 5(2)(c)(d) repealed (8.4.2003) by Tax Credits Act 2002 (c. 21), s. 61, **Sch. 6**; S.I. 2003/962, art. 2(4)(e), Sch. 2 (with art. 3)
- F72** S. 5(2)(fa) inserted (21.7.2008 for specified purposes, 1.1.2009 in so far as not already in force) by Health and Social Care Act 2008 (c. 14), **ss. 135(1)**, 170; S.I. 2008/3137, art. 2
- F73** S. 5(2A) repealed (2.5.2016) by The Welfare Reform (Northern Ireland) Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/2006), arts. 2(2), **104(4)**; S.R. 2016/215, art. 2(6)(a)
- F74** S. 5(2B) inserted (2.5.2016) by The Welfare Reform (Northern Ireland) Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/2006), arts. 2(2), **105**; S.R. 2016/215, art. 2(6)(a)
- F75** S. 5(3) repealed (2.7.2001 for certain purposes, otherwise prosp.) by S.I. 1998/1506 (N.I. 10), art. 78(1), Sch. 6 para. 60(2), **Sch. 7**; S.R. 2001/260, **art. 2**
- F76** S. 5(4A) inserted (8.12.2002) by The Employment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002 (S.I. 2002/2836), arts. 1(2)(3), 17(1), **Sch. 2 para. 2(1)** (with art. 16); S.R. 2002/356, **art. 2(2)**, Sch. 1 Pt. II
- F77** Words in s. 5(4A)(a) substituted (15.3.2015 for specified purposes, 5.4.2015 in so far as not already in force) by Work and Families Act (Northern Ireland) 2015 (c. 1), s. 23(1), **Sch. 1 para. 3(2)**; S.R. 2015/86, arts. 3(2)(i), 4(2)(h), 5 (with art. 7(2))
- F78** Words in s. 5(4A) substituted (23.3.2022) by Parental Bereavement (Leave and Pay) Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 (c. 5), ss. 4, 5(5)(6), **Sch. Pt. 1 para. 10**; S.R. 2022/136, arts. 2, 3
- F79** S. 5(5) inserted (*retrospectively*) by S.I. 1995/2597 (N.I. 20), **art. 3(1)(2)**
- F80** Words in s. 5(5) inserted (2.5.2016) by The Welfare Reform (Northern Ireland) Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/2006), art. 2(2), **Sch. 2 para. 5(b)**; S.R. 2016/215, art. 2(2)(aa)(c)(v)

#### **Modifications etc. (not altering text)**

- C10** S. 5 extended by S.I. 1991/2628 (N.I. 23), **art. 40** (as substituted 22.11.2000 for specified purposes, otherwise prosp.) by Child Support, Pensions and Social Security Act (Northern Ireland) 2000 (c. 4), **ss. 20**, 68(1)(2) (with s. 66(6)); S.R. 2000/358, art. 2(b), **Sch. Pt. II**
- C11** S. 5 applied (1.6.2018) by Justice Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 (c. 21), **ss. 5(7)**, 61(2); S.R. 2018/99, art. 2(a)
- C12** S. 5(1) modified (1.7.1998) by S.I. 1998/1506 (N.I. 10), arts. 1(3)(c)(d), 77, **Sch. 5 para. 5**
- C13** S. 5(1) modified (1.7.2008 for specified purposes, 27.10.2008 in so far as not already in force) by Welfare Reform Act (Northern Ireland) 2007 (c. 2), **ss. 5(2)**, 60(1); S.R. 2008/276, art. 2(2)(c), Sch. Pt. 1



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<sup>F81</sup> [ Sharing of functions as regards certain claims and information ]

**Textual Amendments**

**F81** S. 5A and preceding cross-heading inserted (1.12.1999) by S.I. 1999/3147 (N.I. 11), arts. 1(4), 68

<sup>F82</sup> **5A Sharing of functions as regards certain claims and information.**

- (1) Regulations may, for the purpose of supplementing the persons or bodies to whom claims for relevant benefits may be made, make provision as regards any relevant benefit, for claims for that benefit to be made to any relevant authority (if such claims could not otherwise be made to that authority).
- (2) Regulations may make provision for or in connection with—
  - (a) the forwarding by a relevant authority of—
    - (i) claims received by virtue of any provision authorised by subsection (1) above, and
    - (ii) information or evidence supplied in connection with making such claims (whether supplied by persons making the claims or by other persons);
  - (b) the receiving and forwarding by a relevant authority of information or evidence relating to social security [<sup>F83</sup>or work] matters supplied by, or the obtaining by a relevant authority of such information or evidence from—
    - (i) persons making, or who have made, claims for a relevant benefit, or
    - (ii) other persons in connection with such claims,including information or evidence not relating to the claims or benefit in question;
  - (c) the recording by a relevant authority of information or evidence relating to social security [<sup>F83</sup>or work] matters supplied to, or obtained by, the authority and the holding by the authority of such information or evidence (whether as supplied or obtained or as recorded);
  - (d) the giving of information or advice with respect to social security [<sup>F83</sup>or work] matters by a relevant authority to persons making, or who have made, claims for a relevant benefit.
  - <sup>F84</sup> [ (e) the verification by a relevant authority of information or evidence supplied to or obtained by the authority in connection with a claim for or an award of a relevant benefit. ]
- (3) In paragraphs (b) [<sup>F85</sup>, (d) and (e)] of subsection (2) above—
  - (a) references to claims for a relevant benefit are to such claims whether made as mentioned in subsection (1) above or not; and
  - (b) references to persons who have made such claims include persons to whom awards of benefit have been made on the claims.
- (4) Regulations under this section may make different provision for different areas.
- (5) Regulations under any other statutory provision may make such different provision for different areas as appears to the Department expedient in connection with any exercise by regulations under this section of the power conferred by subsection (4) above.
- (6) In this section—

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- (a) “benefit” includes child support (any reference to a claim being read, in relation to child support, as a reference to an application [<sup>F86</sup>(or an application treated as having been made)] under the Child Support (Northern Ireland) Order 1991 for a [<sup>F87</sup>maintenance calculation]);
- (b) “relevant authority” means—
  - (i) a Northern Ireland department,
  - (ii) a person providing services to a Northern Ireland department,
  - (iii) any other body established by or under a statutory provision, or
  - (iv) a person providing services to, or authorised to exercise any function of, such a body;
- (c) “relevant benefit” means housing benefit or any other benefit prescribed for the purposes of this section;
- (d) [<sup>F88</sup> “social security or work matters” ] means matters relating to social security, child support or war pensions [<sup>F89</sup>, or employment or training] and in this paragraph “war pension ” means a war pension within the meaning of section 25 of the Social Security Act 1989 (establishment and functions of war pensions committees).]

#### Textual Amendments

- F82** S. 5A and preceding cross-heading inserted (1.12.1999) by S.I. 1999/3147 (N.I. 11), **arts. 1(4), 68**
- F83** Words in s. 5A(2) inserted (24.11.2002) by Social Security Act (Northern Ireland) 2002 (c. 10), s. 8(1), **Sch. 1 para. 8(a); S.R. 2002/358, art. 2**
- F84** S. 5A(2)(e) added (29.6.2007) by Welfare Reform Act (Northern Ireland) 2007 (c. 2), **ss. 38(2)(a), 60(2)(a)**
- F85** Words in s. 5A(3) substituted (29.6.2007) by Welfare Reform Act (Northern Ireland) 2007 (c. 2), **ss. 38(2)(b), 60(2)(a)**
- F86** Words in s. 5A(6)(a) inserted (3.3.2003 for specified purposes) by Child Support, Pensions and Social Security Act (Northern Ireland) 2000 (c. 4), s. 68(1)(2), **Sch. 3 para. 29(a)** (with s. 66(6)); S.R. 2000/358, art. 3, **Sch.**
- F87** Words in s. 5A(6)(a) substituted (3.3.2003 for specified purposes) by Child Support, Pensions and Social Security Act (Northern Ireland) 2000 (c. 4), s. 68(1)(2), **Sch. 3 para. 29(b)** (with s. 66(6)); S.R. 2000/358, art. 3, **Sch.**
- F88** Words in s. 5A(6)(d) substituted (24.11.2002) by Social Security Act (Northern Ireland) 2002 (c. 10), s. 8(1), **Sch. 1 para. 8(b); S.R. 2002/358, art. 2**
- F89** Words in s. 5A(6)(d) inserted (24.11.2002) by Social Security Act (Northern Ireland) 2002 (c. 10), s. 8(1), **Sch. 1 para. 8(b); S.R. 2002/358, art. 2**

#### [<sup>F90</sup>5B Use of social security information

- (1) A relevant authority may use for a relevant purpose any social security information which it holds.
- (2) Regulations may make provision as to the procedure to be followed by a relevant authority for the purposes of any function it has relating to the administration of a specified benefit if the authority holds social security information which—
  - (a) is relevant for the purposes of anything which may or must be done by the authority in connection with a claim for or an award of the benefit, and

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- (b) was used by another relevant authority in connection with a claim for or an award of a different specified benefit or was verified by that other authority in accordance with regulations under section 5A(2)(e) above.
- (3) A relevant purpose is anything which is done in relation to a claim which is made or which could be made for a specified benefit if it is done for the purpose of—
  - (a) identifying persons who may be entitled to such a benefit;
  - (b) encouraging or assisting a person to make such a claim;
  - (c) advising a person in relation to such a claim.
- (4) Social security information means—
  - (a) information relating to social security, child support or war pensions;
  - (b) evidence obtained in connection with a claim for or an award of a specified benefit.
- (5) A specified benefit is a benefit which is specified in regulations for the purposes of this section.
- (6) Expressions used in this section and in section 5A have the same meaning in this section as in that section.
- (7) This section does not affect any power which exists apart from this section to use for one purpose social security information obtained in connection with another purpose.]

#### Textual Amendments

**F90** S. 5B inserted (8.10.2007) by [Welfare Reform Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2007 \(c. 2\)](#), ss. **38(1)**, 60(1); S.R. 2007/429, art. 2(1)(a)

### *Industrial injuries benefit*

## **6 Notification of accidents, etc.**

Regulations may provide—

- (a) for requiring the prescribed notice of an accident in respect of which industrial injuries benefit may be payable to be given within the prescribed time by the employed earner to the earner's employer or other prescribed person;
- (b) for requiring employers—
  - (i) to make reports, to such person and in such form and within such time as may be prescribed, of accidents in respect of which industrial injuries benefit may be payable;
  - (ii) to furnish to the prescribed person any information required for the determination of claims, or of questions arising in connection with claims or awards;
  - (iii) to take such other steps as may be prescribed to facilitate the giving notice of accidents, the making of claims and the determination of claims and of questions so arising.

## **7 Medical examination and treatment of claimants.**

- (1) Regulations may provide for requiring claimants for disablement pension—

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- (a) to submit themselves from time to time to medical examination for the purpose of determining the effect of the relevant accident, or the treatment appropriate to the relevant injury or loss of faculty;
  - (b) to submit themselves from time to time to appropriate medical treatment for the injury or loss of faculty.
- (2) Regulations under subsection (1) above requiring persons to submit themselves to medical examination or treatment may—
- (a) require those persons to attend at such places and at such times as may be required; and
  - (b) with the consent of the Department of Finance and Personnel provide for the payment by the Department to those persons of travelling and other allowances (including compensation for loss of remunerative time).

## 8 Obligations of claimants.

- (1) Subject to subsection (3) below, regulations may provide for disqualifying a claimant for the receipt of industrial injuries benefit—
- (a) for failure without good cause to comply with any requirement of regulations to which this subsection applies (including in the case of a claim for industrial death benefit, a failure on the part of some other person to give the prescribed notice of the relevant accident);
  - (b) for wilful obstruction of, or other misconduct in connection with, any examination or treatment to which he is required under regulations to which this subsection applies to submit himself, or in proceedings under this Act for the determination of his right to benefit or to its receipt,
- or for suspending proceedings on the claim or payment of benefit as the case may be, in the case of any such failure, obstruction or misconduct.
- (2) The regulations to which subsection (1) above applies are—
- (a) any regulations made by virtue of section 5(1)(h), (j) or (k) above, so far as relating to industrial injuries benefit; and
  - (b) regulations made by virtue of section 6 or 7 above.
- (3) Regulations under subsection (1) above providing for disqualification for the receipt of benefit for any of the following matters, that is to say—
- (a) for failure to comply with the requirements of regulations under section 7(1) or (2) above;
  - (b) for obstruction of, or misconduct in connection with, medical examination or treatment,
- shall not be made so as to disentitle a claimant to benefit for a period exceeding 6 weeks on any disqualification.

### *Disability working allowance*

## <sup>F919</sup> Initial claims and repeat claims.

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#### Textual Amendments

**F91** S. 9 repealed (8.4.2003) by [Tax Credits Act 2002 \(c. 21\)](#), s. 61, [Sch. 6](#); S.I. 2003/962, art. 2(4)(e), [Sch. 2](#) (with art. 3)

### *The social fund*

## 10 Necessity of application for certain payments.

[<sup>F92</sup>(1) A social fund payment such as is mentioned in section 134(1)(b) of the Contributions and Benefits Act may be awarded to a person only if an application for such a payment has been made by him or on his behalf in such form and manner as may be prescribed.

(2) The Department may by regulations—

- (a) make provision with respect to the time at which an application for such a social fund payment is to be treated as made;
- (b) prescribe conditions that must be satisfied before any determination in connection with such an application may be made or any award of such a payment may be paid;
- (c) prescribe circumstances in which such an award becomes extinguished.]

#### Textual Amendments

**F92** S. 10 repealed (28.11.2016 for specified purposes) by [The Welfare Reform \(Northern Ireland\) Order 2015 \(S.I. 2015/2006\)](#), art. 2(2), [Sch. 12 Pt. 7](#); S.R. 2016/411, art. 2(3)(b) (with art. 4)

### *[<sup>F93</sup>Health in pregnancy grant*

#### Textual Amendments

**F93** S. 10A and crossheading inserted (21.7.2008 for specified purposes, 1.1.2009 in so far as not already in force) by [Health and Social Care Act 2008 \(c. 14\)](#), ss. 135(3), 170; S.I. 2008/3137, art. 2

## 10A Necessity of application for health in pregnancy grant

(1) No person is entitled to health in pregnancy grant unless she claims it in the manner, and within the time, prescribed in relation to health in pregnancy grant by regulations under section 5.

(2) No person is entitled to health in pregnancy grant unless subsection (3) or (4) is satisfied in relation to her.

(3) This subsection is satisfied in relation to a person if her claim for health in pregnancy grant is accompanied by—

- (a) a statement of her national insurance number and information or evidence establishing that that number has been allocated to her; or
- (b) information or evidence enabling the national insurance number that has been allocated to her to be ascertained.

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- (4) This subsection is satisfied in relation to a person if she makes an application for a national insurance number to be allocated to her which is accompanied by information or evidence enabling a national insurance number to be allocated to her.
- (5) The Commissioners for Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs may by regulations make provision disapplying subsection (2) in the case of prescribed descriptions of persons making a claim.]

### *Child benefit*

## 11 Necessity of application for child benefit.

- (1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, no person shall be entitled to child benefit unless he claims it in the manner, and within the time, prescribed in relation to child benefit by regulations under section 5 above.

[<sup>F94</sup>(1A) No person shall be entitled to child benefit unless subsection (1B) below is satisfied in relation to him.

(1B) This subsection is satisfied in relation to a person if—

- (a) his claim for child benefit is accompanied by—
- (i) a statement of his national insurance number and information or evidence establishing that that number has been allocated to him; or
  - (ii) information or evidence enabling the national insurance number that has been allocated to him to be ascertained; or
- (b) he makes an application for a national insurance number to be allocated to him which is accompanied by information or evidence enabling such a number to be so allocated.

(1C) Regulations may make provision disapplying subsection (1A) above in the case of—

- (a) prescribed descriptions of persons making claims, or
- (b) prescribed descriptions of children [<sup>F95</sup>or qualifying young persons] in respect of whom child benefit is claimed,

or in other prescribed circumstances.]

- (2) Except where regulations otherwise provide, no person shall be entitled to child benefit for any week on a claim made by him after that week if child benefit in respect of the same child [<sup>F96</sup>or qualifying young person] has already been paid for that week to another person, whether or not that other person was entitled to it.

#### Textual Amendments

**F94** S. 11(1A)-(1C) inserted (18.4.2000 for certain purposes, otherwise 15.5.2000) by [S.I. 1999/3147 \(N.I. 11\)](#), [art. 66](#) (with [art. 75](#)); [S.R. 2000/133](#), [art. 2\(2\)](#)

**F95** Words in s. 11(1C) inserted (10.4.2006) by [Child Benefit Act 2005 \(c. 6\)](#), s. 6(2), [Sch. 1 para. 46\(2\)](#)

**F96** Words in s. 11(2) inserted (10.4.2006) by [Child Benefit Act 2005 \(c. 6\)](#), s. 6(2), [Sch. 1 para. 46\(3\)](#)

#### Modifications etc. (not altering text)

**C14** S. 11(1A) excluded (7.4.2003) by [The Child Benefit \(General\) Regulations 2003 \(S.I. 2003/493\)](#), regs. 1(1), 37

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**C15** S. 11(1A) excluded (10.4.2006) by [The Child Benefit \(General\) Regulations 2006 \(S.I. 2006/223\)](#), regs. 1(1), 37

## [<sup>F97</sup> 11A Election not to receive child benefit

- (1) A person (“P”) who is entitled to child benefit in respect of one or more children may elect for all payments of the benefit to which P is entitled not to be made.
- (2) An election may be made only if P reasonably expects that, in the absence of the election, P or another person would be liable to a high income child benefit charge in respect of the payments to which the election relates made for weeks in the first tax year.
- (3) An election has effect in relation to payments made for weeks beginning after the election is made.
- (4) But where entitlement to child benefit is backdated, an election may have effect in relation to payments for weeks beginning in the period of three months ending immediately before the claim for the benefit was made.
- (5) An election may be revoked.
- (6) A revocation has effect in relation to payments made for weeks beginning after the revocation is made.
- (7) But if—
  - (a) P makes an election which results in all payments, in respect of child benefit, to which P is entitled for one or more weeks in a tax year not being paid, and
  - (b) had no election been made, neither P nor any other person would have been liable to a high income child benefit charge in relation to the payments,P may, no later than two years after the end of the tax year, revoke the election so far as it relates to the payments.
- (8) Subsections (2) to (7) are subject to directions under subsection (9).
- (9) The Commissioners for Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs may give directions as to—
  - (a) the form of elections and revocations under this section, the manner in which they are to be made and the time at which they are to be treated as made, and
  - (b) the circumstances in which, if child benefit is not being paid to a person at the full rate or the Commissioners are satisfied that there are doubts as to a person's entitlement to child benefit for a child, an election or revocation is not to have effect or its effect is to be postponed.
- (10) For the purposes of this section—
  - “child” includes a qualifying young person;
  - “first tax year”, in relation to an election, means the tax year in which the first week beginning after the election is made falls;
  - “week” means a period of 7 days beginning with a Monday; and a week is in a tax year if (and only if) the Monday with which it begins is in the tax year.]

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#### Textual Amendments

**F97** S. 11A inserted (with effect in accordance with Sch. 1 para. 7 of the amending Act) by [Finance Act 2012 \(c. 14\)](#), [Sch. 1 para. 4](#)

### *Statutory sick pay*

## 12 Duties of employees etc. in relation to statutory sick pay.

- (1) Any employee who claims to be entitled to statutory sick pay from his employer shall, if so required by his employer, provide such information as may reasonably be required for the purpose of determining the duration of the period of entitlement in question or whether a period of entitlement exists as between them.
- (2) The Department may by regulations [<sup>F98</sup>made with the concurrence of the Inland Revenue] direct—
  - (a) that medical information required under subsection (1) above shall, in such cases as may be prescribed, be provided in a prescribed form;
  - (b) that an employee shall not be required under subsection (1) above to provide medical information in respect of such days as may be prescribed in a period of incapacity for work.
- (3) Where an employee asks an employer of his to provide him with a written statement, in respect of a period before the request is made, of one or more of the following—
  - (a) the days within that period which the employer regards as days in respect of which he is liable to pay statutory sick pay to that employee;
  - (b) the reasons why the employer does not so regard the other days in that period;
  - (c) the employer's opinion as to the amount of statutory sick pay to which the employee is entitled in respect of each of those days,
 the employer shall, to the extent to which the request was reasonable, comply with it within a reasonable time.

#### Textual Amendments

**F98** Words in s. 12(2) inserted (1.4.1999) by [S.I. 1999/671](#), art. 4, [Sch. 3 para. 41](#); [S.R. 1999/149](#), art. 2(c), [Sch. 2](#) (subject to arts. 3-6 of that S.R.)

### *Statutory maternity pay*

## 13 Duties of women etc. in relation to statutory maternity pay.

- (1) A woman shall provide the person who is liable to pay her statutory maternity pay—
  - (a) with evidence as to her pregnancy and the expected date of confinement in such form and at such time as may be prescribed; and
  - (b) where she commences work after her confinement but within the maternity pay period, with such additional information as may be prescribed.

<sup>F99</sup>[(1A) Any regulations for the purposes of subsection (1) above must be made with the concurrence of the Inland Revenue.]



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(2) Where a woman asks an employer or former employer of hers to provide her with a written statement, in respect of a period before the request is made, of one or more of the following—

- (a) the weeks within that period which he regards as weeks in respect of which he is liable to pay statutory maternity pay to the woman;
- (b) the reasons why he does not so regard the other weeks in that period; and
- (c) his opinion as to the amount of statutory maternity pay to which the woman is entitled in respect of each of the weeks in respect of which he regards himself as liable to make a payment,

the employer or former employer shall, to the extent to which the request was reasonable, comply with it within a reasonable time.

**Textual Amendments**

**F99** S. 13(1A) inserted (1.4.1999) by S.I. 1999/671, art. 4, **Sch. 3 para. 42**; S.R. 1999/149, art. 2(c), **Sch. 2** (subject to arts. 3-6 of that S.R.)

*[<sup>F100</sup> Payments in respect of mortgage interest, etc.*

**Textual Amendments**

**F100** S. 13A and cross-heading inserted (retrospective to 1.7.1992) by S.I. 1992/1309 (N.I. 9), art. 3(2), **Sch. para. 1**

**<sup>F101</sup>13A Payment out of benefit of sums in respect of mortgage interest, etc.]**

**Textual Amendments**

**F101** S. 13A repealed (6.4.2018) by The Welfare Reform and Work (Northern Ireland) Order 2016 (S.I. 2016/999), arts. 2(1), **15(1)**; S.R. 2018/66, art. 2(1) (with art. 2(2)(3))

**[<sup>F102</sup>13B Expenses in respect of vehicle hire, etc.**

(1) This section applies where—

- (a) a relevant benefit component is payable in respect of a person (“the beneficiary”),
- (b) an agreement has been entered into by or on behalf of the beneficiary with a relevant provider for the lease or hire purchase of a motor vehicle, and
- (c) by virtue of regulations under section 5(1), the Department pays all or part of the relevant benefit component to the relevant provider for the purpose of discharging, in whole or in part, an obligation of the beneficiary under the agreement.

(2) Regulations may make provision—

- (a) for the expenses of the Department in administering the making of payments to relevant providers to be defrayed, in whole or in part, at the expense

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of relevant providers, whether by requiring them to pay prescribed fees or by deducting and retaining a prescribed part of the payments that would otherwise be made to them or by such other method as may be prescribed;

- (b) for the recovery from a relevant provider of any fees or other sums due from that provider under paragraph (a).

(3) In this section—

“relevant benefit component” means—

- (a) the mobility component of disability living allowance, if it is payable at the higher rate (see section 73(11)(a) of the Contributions and Benefits Act), or
- (b) the mobility component of personal independence payment, if it is payable at the enhanced rate (see Article 84(2) of the Welfare Reform (Northern Ireland) Order 2015);

“relevant provider” means a person whose business consists of or includes the supply by way of lease or hire purchase of motor vehicles to persons in respect of whom a relevant benefit component is payable.]

#### Textual Amendments

**F102** S. 13B inserted (13.10.2016) by [The Welfare Reform and Work \(Northern Ireland\) Order 2016 \(S.I. 2016/999\)](#), arts. 2(2)(d), 17

### *Emergency payments*

#### **14 Emergency payments by [<sup>F103</sup>Health and Social Care trusts] and other bodies.**

(1) The Department may make arrangements—

- (a) with a [<sup>F104</sup>trust] ; or
- (b) with any other body,

for the making on behalf of the Department by members of the staff of any [<sup>F104</sup>trust] or body of payments on account of benefits to which section 5 above applies in circumstances corresponding to those in which the Department itself has the power to make such payments under subsection (1)(s) of that section; and a Board shall have power to enter into any such arrangements.

(2) A payment under any such arrangements shall be treated for the purposes of any statutory provision as if it had been made by the Department.

(3) The Department shall repay a [<sup>F105</sup>trust] or other body such amount as the Department determines to be the reasonable administrative expenses incurred by the [<sup>F105</sup>trust] or body in making payments in accordance with arrangements under this section.

[<sup>F106</sup>(4) In this section “trust” means a Health and Social Care trust.]

#### Textual Amendments

**F103** Words in s. 14 heading substituted (1.4.2022) by [Health and Social Care Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2022 \(c. 3\)](#), s. 8(1)(b), [Sch. 1 para. 152\(c\)](#); S.R. 2022/102, art. 2(b)

**F104** Word in s. 14(1) substituted (1.4.2022) by [Health and Social Care Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2022 \(c. 3\)](#), s. 8(1)(b), [Sch. 1 para. 152\(a\)](#); S.R. 2022/102, art. 2(b)

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**F105** Word in s. 14(3) substituted (1.4.2022) by Health and Social Care Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 (c. 3), s. 8(1)(b), **Sch. 1 para. 152(a)**; S.R. 2022/102, art. 2(b)

**F106** S. 14(4) substituted (1.4.2022) by Health and Social Care Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 (c. 3), s. 8(1)(b), **Sch. 1 para. 152(b)**; S.R. 2022/102, art. 2(b)

**Status:**

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**Changes to legislation:**

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