

Status: Point in time view as at 10/04/2023.

Changes to legislation: Pension Schemes (Northern Ireland) Act 1993, Cross Heading: Guaranteed minimum pensions is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 23 May 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)



Pension Schemes (Northern Ireland) Act 1993

1993 CHAPTER 49

PART III

^{F1}[^{F1}SCHEMES THAT WERE CONTRACTED-OUT ETC.]
AND EFFECTS ON MEMBERS' STATE SCHEME RIGHTS ...

CHAPTER I

[^{F1}SCHEMES THAT WERE CONTRACTED-OUT: GUARANTEED
MINIMUM PENSIONS AND ALTERATION OF SCHEME RULES ETC.]

[^{F1}Guaranteed minimum pensions]

Textual Amendments

F1 S. 9 cross-heading substituted (6.4.2016) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2015 \(c. 5\), s. 53\(3\), Sch. 13 para. 12](#)

[^{F2}8E Former salary related contracted-out schemes to comply with GMP requirements

- (1) A scheme that was a salary related contracted-out scheme is to be treated as including whatever provision it needs to contain to comply with the GMP requirements.
- (2) A scheme complies with the GMP requirements if, in relation to any earner's service before the principal appointed day, it complies in all respects with sections 9 to 20E.
- (3) Where—
 - (a) a scheme is permitted by any of those sections to include provision subject to certain requirements, and

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(b) the scheme includes the provision but not the requirements,

the scheme is to be treated by subsection (1) as including the requirements.

- (4) This section overrides any provision of a scheme to the extent that the provision of the scheme conflicts with it.]

Textual Amendments

F2 S. 8E inserted (6.4.2016) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2015 \(c. 5\)](#), s. 53(3), [Sch. 13 para. 13\(1\)](#) (with [Sch. 13 para. 13\(2\)\(3\)](#))

9 Minimum pensions for earners.

- (1) Subject to the provisions of this Part, the scheme must—
- (a) provide for the earner to be entitled to a pension under the scheme if he attains pensionable age; and
 - (b) contain a rule to the effect that the weekly rate of the pension will be not less than his guaranteed minimum (if any) under sections 10 to 12.

[^{F3}(1A) But a scheme may be amended so as to omit provision of the kind specified in subsection (1)(a) and (b) if the conditions specified in section 20B are satisfied.]

- (2) In the case of an earner who [^{F4}was a married woman or widow who was liable] to pay primary Class 1 contributions at a reduced rate by virtue of section 19(4) of the ^{M1}Social Security Contributions and Benefits (Northern Ireland) Act 1992 [^{F5}at a time during a relevant year when she was in contracted-out employment by reference to the scheme], subject to the provisions of this Part, the scheme must—

- (a) provide for her to be entitled to a pension under the scheme if she attains pensionable age ^{F6} . . .
- (b) satisfy such other conditions as may be prescribed.

[^{F7}“Relevant year” has the meaning given by section 10(8).]

- (3) Subject to subsection (4), the scheme must provide for the pension to commence on the date on which the earner attains pensionable age and to continue for his life.
- (4) Subject to subsection (5), the scheme may provide for the commencement of the earner’s guaranteed minimum pension to be postponed for any period for which he continues in employment after attaining pensionable age.
- (5) The scheme must provide for the earner’s consent to be required—
 - (a) for any such postponement by virtue of employment to which the scheme does not relate; and
 - (b) for any such postponement after the expiration of five years from the date on which he attains pensionable age.
- (6) Equivalent pension benefits for the purposes of the former legislation are not to be regarded as constituting any part of the earner’s guaranteed minimum pension.
- (7) The benefits referred to in subsection (6) are any to which the earner may be immediately or prospectively entitled in respect of a period of employment which—
 - (a) was for him non-participating employment under that legislation; and
 - (b) was not on its termination the subject of any payment in lieu of contributions;

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but subsection (6) excludes only so much of those benefits as had to be provided in order that the employment should for that period be treated as non-participating.

(8) In this section “the former legislation” means Part III of the ^{M2}National Insurance Act (Northern Ireland) 1966 and the previous corresponding enactments.

Textual Amendments

- F3** S. 9(1A) inserted (3.3.2009 for specified purposes, 6.4.2009 in so far as not already in force) by Pensions Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (c. 1), **ss. 12(1), 21(1)**; S.R. 2009/75, art. 2(a)(b)
- F4** Words in s. 9(2) substituted (6.4.2016) by Pensions Act (Northern Ireland) 2015 (c. 5), s. 53(3), **Sch. 13 para. 14(a)**
- F5** Words in s. 9(2) inserted (6.4.2016) by Pensions Act (Northern Ireland) 2015 (c. 5), s. 53(3), **Sch. 13 para. 14(b)**
- F6** Words in s. 9(2)(a) repealed (6.4.1997) by S.I. 1995/3213 (N.I. 22), arts. 147, 168, Sch. 3 para. 19, **Sch. 5 Pt. III**; S.R. 1997/192, **art. 2(b)**
- F7** Words in s. 9(2) inserted (6.4.2016) by Pensions Act (Northern Ireland) 2015 (c. 5), s. 53(3), **Sch. 13 para. 14(c)**

Marginal Citations

- M1** 1992 c. 7.
- M2** 1966 c. 6 (N.I.).

10 Earner’s guaranteed minimum.

[^{F8}(1) An earner has a guaranteed minimum in relation to the pension provided by a scheme that was a salary related contracted-out scheme if in any tax week in a relevant year—

- (a) earnings were paid to or for the earner's benefit in respect of employment which was contracted-out by reference to the scheme; and
- (b) those earnings were in excess of the lower earnings limit for that tax week (or the prescribed equivalent if the earner was paid otherwise than weekly).]

(2) Subject to section 11(1), the guaranteed minimum shall be the weekly equivalent of an amount equal to the appropriate percentage of the total of the earner’s earnings factors for the relevant years, so far as derived from [^{F9}excess earnings mentioned in subsection (1)(b)] upon which primary Class 1 contributions have been paid or treated as paid.

[^{F10}(2A) Where any liability of a scheme in respect of an earner’s guaranteed minimum pension ceases by virtue of a civil recovery order, his guaranteed minimum in relation to the scheme is extinguished or reduced accordingly.]

^{F11}(3)

(4) Where the amount of a person’s earnings for any period is relevant for any purpose of subsection (1) or (2) and the [^{F12}Inland Revenue are] satisfied that records of those earnings have not been maintained or retained or are otherwise unobtainable, [^{F13}they] may for that purpose—

- (a) compute, in such manner as [^{F13}they][^{F14}think] fit, an amount which shall be regarded as the amount of those earnings; or
- (b) take their amount to be such sum as [^{F13}they] may specify in the particular case.

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- (5) In subsection (2) the “appropriate percentage” means—
- (a) in respect of the earner’s earnings factors for any tax year not later than the tax year 1987-88—
 - (i) if the earner was not more than 20 years under pensionable age on 6th April 1978, 1.25 per cent.;
 - (ii) in any other case 25/N per cent.;
 - (b) in respect of the earner’s earnings factors for the tax year 1988-89 and for subsequent tax years—
 - (i) if the earner was not more than 20 years under pensionable age on 6th April 1978, 1 per cent.;
 - (ii) in any other case 20/N per cent.;
 where N is the number of years in the earner’s working life (assuming he will attain pensionable age) which fall after 5th April 1978.
- (6) Regulations may prescribe rules as to the circumstances in which earnings factors are derived from earnings for the purposes of subsection (2).
- (7) For the purposes of subsection (2) the weekly equivalent of the amount there mentioned shall be calculated by dividing that amount by 52.
- (8) In this section “relevant year” means any tax year in the earner’s working life (not being earlier than the tax year 1978-79 [^{F15}or later than tax year ending immediately before the principal appointed day]).

Textual Amendments

- F8** S. 10(1) substituted (6.4.2016) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2015 \(c. 5\), s. 53\(3\), Sch. 13 para. 15\(2\)](#)
- F9** Words in s. 10(2) substituted (6.4.2016) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2015 \(c. 5\), s. 53\(3\), Sch. 13 para. 15\(3\)](#)
- F10** S. 10(2A) inserted (24.2.2003) by [Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 \(c. 29\), s. 458\(1\), Sch. 11 para. 23\(3\); S.I. 2003/120, art. 2, Sch. \(with arts. 34\) \(as amended \(20.2.2003\) by S.I. 2003/333, art. 14\)](#)
- F11** S. 10(3) repealed (6.4.1997) by of [S.I. 1995/3213 \(N.I. 22\) arts. 147, 168, Sch. 3 para. 20\(a\), Sch. 5 Pt. III; S.R. 1997/192, art. 2\(b\)](#)
- F12** Words in s. 10(4) substituted (24.3.1999 for certain purposes and otherwise 1.4.1999) by [S.I. 1999/671, arts. 1\(2\)\(b\), 3\(1\), Sch. 1 para. 41\(a\); S.R. 1999/149, art. 2\(c\), Sch. 2](#)
- F13** Words in s. 10(4) substituted (24.3.1999 for certain purposes and otherwise 1.4.1999) by [S.I. 1999/671, arts. 1\(2\)\(b\), 3\(1\), Sch. 1 para. 41\(b\); S.R. 1999/149, art. 2\(c\), Sch. 2](#)
- F14** Words in s. 10(4)(a) substituted (24.3.1999 for certain purposes and otherwise 1.4.1999) by [S.I. 1999/671, arts. 1\(2\)\(b\), 3\(1\), Sch. 1 para. 41\(c\); S.R. 1999/149, art. 2\(c\), Sch. 2](#)
- F15** Words in s. 10(8) inserted (6.4.1997) by [S.I. 1995/3213 \(N.I. 22\) art. 147, Sch. 3 para. 20\(b\); S.R. 1997/192, art. 2\(b\)](#)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** S. 10 applied (1.11.1995) by [S.R. 1995/389, arts. 4\(1\)\(3\)](#)
- C2** S. 10(1) modified (6.4.1997) by [S.R. 1996/509, reg. 6\(4\)](#)
- C3** S. 10(2) modified (1.4.2006) by [The Firefighters Pension Scheme Order \(Northern Ireland\) 2007 \(S.R. 2007/144\), Scheme, art. 79\(2\)\(b\)](#)
- C4** S. 10(2) modified (1.4.2006) by [The Firemens Pension Scheme Order \(Northern Ireland\) 2006 \(S.R. 2006/210\), arts. 1\(2\), 90\(2\)\(a\)](#)

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C5 S. 10(2) modified (1.4.2006) by [The Firemens Pension Scheme Order \(Northern Ireland\) 2006 \(S.R. 2006/210\)](#), arts. 1(2), **90(2)(b)**

11 Increase of guaranteed minimum where commencement of guaranteed minimum pension postponed.

- (1) Where in accordance with section 9(4) the commencement of an earner's guaranteed minimum pension is postponed for any period and there are at least seven complete weeks in that period, his guaranteed minimum in relation to the scheme shall, for each complete week in that period, be increased by one-seventh per cent.—
 - (a) of the amount of that minimum apart from this subsection; or
 - (b) if for that week (or a period which includes that week) a pension is paid to him under the scheme at a weekly rate less than that minimum, of the difference between that pension and that minimum.
- (2) In subsection (1) “week” means any period of seven consecutive days.
- (3) Where an earner's guaranteed minimum pension is increased under subsection (1), the increase of that part of it which is attributable to earnings factors for the tax year 1987-88 and earlier tax years shall be calculated separately from the increase of the rest.
- (4) Where one or more orders have come into operation under section 105 during the period for which the commencement of a guaranteed minimum pension is postponed, the amount of the guaranteed minimum pension for any week in that period shall be determined as if the order or orders had come into operation before the beginning of the period.

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C6** S. 11 applied (1.11.1995) by [S.R. 1995/389](#), **art. 4(1)(3)**
- C7** S. 11 applied (with effect in accordance with reg. 1 of the amending S.R.) by [The Health and Social Care \(Pension Scheme\) Regulations \(Northern Ireland\) 2008 \(S.R. 2008/256\)](#), regs. 1, **66(5)** (with regs. 134, 258)
- C8** S. 11(1): sums amended (with effect in accordance with arts. 1(2)(3), 7 of the amending S.R.) by [The Social Security Benefits Up-rating Order \(Northern Ireland\) 2023 \(S.R. 2023/43\)](#), arts. 1(1)(c), **5(2)**

[^{F16}11A Reduction of guaranteed minimum in consequence of pension debit.

- (1) Where—
 - (a) an earner has a guaranteed minimum in relation to the pension provided by a scheme, and
 - (b) his right to the pension becomes subject to a pension debit,
 his guaranteed minimum in relation to the scheme is, subject to subsection (2), reduced by the appropriate percentage.
- (2) Where the earner is in pensionable service under the scheme on the day on which the order or provision on which the pension debit depends takes effect, his guaranteed minimum in relation to the scheme is reduced by an amount equal to the appropriate percentage of the corresponding qualifying benefit.

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- (3) For the purposes of subsection (2), the corresponding qualifying benefit is the guaranteed minimum taken for the purpose of calculating the cash equivalent by reference to which the amount of the pension debit is determined.
- (4) For the purposes of this section, the appropriate percentage is—
- (a) if the order or provision on which the pension debit depends specifies the percentage value to be transferred, that percentage;
 - (b) if the order or provision on which the pension debit depends specifies an amount to be transferred, the percentage which the appropriate amount for the purposes of paragraph (1) of Article 26 of the Welfare Reform and Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 1999 (lesser of specified amount and cash equivalent of transferor’s benefits) represents of the amount mentioned in paragraph (3) of that Article (cash equivalent of transferor’s benefits).]

Textual Amendments

F16 S. 11A inserted (1.12.1999 for certain purposes and otherwise 1.12.2000) by [S.I. 1999/3147 \(N.I. 11\)](#), [arts. 1\(5\)\(a\), 29\(3\)](#); [S.R. 2000/133](#), [art. 2\(3\)](#), [Sch. Pt. IV](#)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C9** S. 11A modified (1.4.2015) by [The Firefighters Pension Scheme \(Consequential Provisions\) Regulations \(Northern Ireland\) 2015 \(S.R. 2015/166\)](#), [regs. 1, 6\(1\)](#)
- C10** S. 11A modified (1.4.2015) by [The Public Service \(Civil Servants and Others\) Pensions \(Consequential Provisions\) Regulations \(Northern Ireland\) 2015 \(S.R. 2015/81\)](#), [regs. 1\(1\), 6\(1\)](#)
- C11** S. 11A modified (1.4.2015) by [The Health Service Workers \(Consequential Provisions\) Regulations \(Northern Ireland\) 2015 \(S.R. 2015/167\)](#), [regs. 1, 6\(1\)](#)
- C12** S. 11A modified (1.4.2015) by [The Judicial Pensions Regulations \(Northern Ireland\) 2015 \(S.R. 2015/76\)](#), [reg. 1\(3\)](#), [Sch. 3 para. 4\(1\)](#)
- C13** S. 11A modified (1.4.2015) by [The Police Pensions \(Consequential Provisions\) Regulations \(Northern Ireland\) 2015 \(S.R. 2015/156\)](#), [regs. 1\(2\), 6\(1\)](#)
- C14** S. 11A modified (1.4.2015) by [The Teachers Pension Scheme \(Consequential Provisions\) Regulations \(Northern Ireland\) 2015 \(S.R. 2015/170\)](#), [regs. 1, 6\(1\)](#)

12 Revaluation of earnings factors for purposes of s. 10: early leavers, etc.

- (1) Subject to subsection (2), for the purpose of section 10(2) the earner’s earnings factor for any relevant year (so far as derived as mentioned in that section) shall be taken to be that factor as increased by the same percentage as that prescribed for the increase of that factor by the last order under Article 23 of the ^{M3}Social Security Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 1975 or section 130 of the ^{M4}Social Security Administration (Northern Ireland) Act 1992 to come into operation before the end of the final relevant year.
- (2) ^{F17}The scheme may provide that in a case where—
- (a) an earner was, before the second abolition date, in contracted-out employment by reference to a scheme, and
 - (b) the earner ceases to be in pensionable service under the scheme before the final relevant year,
- the earnings factors for that person shall be determined for the purposes of section 10(2) by reference to the last such order to come into operation before the

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end of the tax year in which the earner ceases to be in pensionable service under the scheme (“the last service tax year”).]

- (3) Where a scheme provides as mentioned in subsection (2) the scheme shall provide for the weekly equivalent mentioned in section 10(2) to be increased by at least [^{F18}the prescribed percentage for each relevant year after the last service tax year; and the provisions included by virtue of this subsection may also conform with such additional requirements as may be prescribed]
- (4) Except in such cases or classes of case as may be prescribed, the provision made by virtue of subsections (2) and (3) must be the same for all members of the scheme.
- (5) In this section—

[^{F19}“relevant year” means any tax year in the earner’s working life,]

[^{F20}“final relevant year” means the last tax year in the earner’s working life.]

Textual Amendments

- F17** S. 12(2) substituted (6.4.2016) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2015 \(c. 5\), s. 53\(3\), Sch. 13 para. 16](#) (with savings in [S.R. 2016/106](#), arts. 1(1), 2(4))
- F18** Words in s. 12(3) substituted (6.4.1996 for certain purposes only otherwise 6.4.1997) by [S.I. 1995/3213 \(NI 22\)](#), art. 147, Sch. 3 para. 21(a); [S.R. 1996/91](#), art. 2(d), [Sch. Pt. IV](#); [S.R. 1997/192](#), [art. 2\(b\)](#)
- F19** S. 12(5): Definition of “relevant year” substituted (1.12.1999 for certain purposes and otherwise 25.4.2000) by [S.I. 1999/3147 \(N.I. 11\)](#), arts. 1(5)(a), 17, [Sch. 2 para. 3](#) (with transitional provisions in [art. 75\(1\)](#)); [S.R. 2000/133](#), art. 2(3), [Sch. Pt. II](#)
- F20** Definition of “final relevant year” in s. 12(5) substituted (6.4.1997) by [S.I. 1995/3213 \(N.I. 22\)](#), art. 147, [Sch. 3 para. 21\(b\)](#); [S.R. 1997/192](#), [art. 2\(b\)](#)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C15** S. 12(1) modified (6.4.1997) by [S.R. 1996/509](#), [reg. 6\(5\)](#)
- C16** S. 12(1)(5) applied (1.11.1995) by [S.R. 1995/389](#), [arts. 4\(1\)\(3\)](#)
- C17** S. 12(1) applied (with modifications) by [S.R. 1996/618](#), reg. 13B(3) (as inserted (6.4.2016) by [The Occupational Pension Schemes \(Schemes that were Contracted-out\) Regulations \(Northern Ireland\) 2016 \(S.R. 2016/107\)](#), regs. 1(a), [22\(4\)](#))
- C18** S. 12(2)(3) modified by [S.R. 1996/618](#), reg. 13B(4)(5) (as inserted (6.4.2016) by [The Occupational Pension Schemes \(Schemes that were Contracted-out\) Regulations \(Northern Ireland\) 2016 \(S.R. 2016/107\)](#), regs. 1(a), [22\(4\)](#))
- C19** S. 12(3) modified (28.3.1997) by [S.R. 1997/192](#), [art. 3](#) (with [art. 9](#))

Marginal Citations

- M3** [S.I. 1975/1503 \(N.I. 15\)](#).
- M4** [1992 c. 8](#).

13 Minimum pensions for widows and widowers.

- (1) Subject to the provisions of this Part, the scheme must provide that if the earner dies leaving a [^{F21}widow, widower or surviving civil partner] (whether before or after attaining pensionable age), the [^{F21}widow, widower or surviving civil partner] will be entitled to a guaranteed minimum pension under the scheme.

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- ~~[^{F22}(1A) But a scheme may be amended so as to omit provision of the kind specified in subsection (1) if the conditions specified in section 20B are satisfied.]~~
- (2) The scheme must contain a rule to the effect that—
- (a) if the earner is a man [^{F23}, or a woman in a relevant gender change case,] who has a guaranteed minimum under section 10, the weekly rate of the widow's pension will be not less than the widow's guaranteed minimum;
 - (b) if the earner is a woman who has a guaranteed minimum under that section, the weekly rate of the widower's pension will be not less than the widower's guaranteed minimum.
 - [^{F24}(ba) if the earner is a man, or a woman in a relevant gender change case, who has a guaranteed minimum under that section, the weekly rate of the surviving civil partner's pension in the case of a surviving civil partner who is a woman will be not less than the widow's guaranteed minimum;]
 - [^{F25}(c) [^{F26}subject to paragraph (ba),] if the earner is a person who has a guaranteed minimum under that section, the weekly rate of the surviving civil partner's pension will not be less than the surviving civil partner's guaranteed minimum.]
 - [^{F27}(d) if the earner is a man who has a guaranteed minimum under that section, the weekly rate of the widower's pension will not be less than the surviving same sex spouse's guaranteed minimum;
 - (e) if the earner is a woman (other than in a relevant gender change case) who has a guaranteed minimum under that section, the weekly rate of the widow's pension will not be less than the surviving same sex spouse's guaranteed minimum.]
- (3) The widow's guaranteed minimum shall be half that of the earner.
- (4) The widower's [^{F28}or surviving civil partner's][^{F29}or surviving same sex spouse's] guaranteed minimum shall be one-half of that part of the earner's guaranteed minimum which is attributable to earnings factors for the tax year 1988-89 and subsequent tax years.
- [^{F30}(4A) [^{F31}Subject to subsection (4B)] The scheme must provide for the [^{F32}widow's, widower's or surviving civil partner's] pension to be payable to the [^{F33}widow, widower or surviving civil partner]—
- (a) for any period for which a Category B retirement pension is payable to the [^{F33}widow, widower or surviving civil partner] by virtue of the earner's contributions or would be so payable but for section 43(1) of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits (Northern Ireland) Act 1992 (persons entitled to more than one retirement pension);
 - [for life, in a case where—
 - [^{F34}(aa)
 - (i) the widow, widower or surviving civil partner attained state pension age on or after the second abolition date, and
 - (ii) the earner died on or after the date on which the widow, widower or surviving civil partner attained state pension age;
 - (ab) for any period after the widow, widower or surviving civil partner has attained state pension age, in a case where—
 - (i) the earner died before the widow, widower or surviving civil partner attained state pension age,

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- (ii) the widow, widower or surviving civil partner did not marry or form a civil partnership after the death and before attaining state pension age, and
- (iii) the widow, widower or surviving civil partner attained state pension age on or after the second abolition date;]
- (b) for any period for which widowed parent's allowance or bereavement allowance is payable to the ^{F33}widow, widower or surviving civil partner] by virtue of the earner's contributions; and
- (c) in the case of a ^{F33}widow, widower or surviving civil partner] whose entitlement by virtue of the earner's contributions to a widowed parent's allowance or bereavement allowance has come to an end at a time after the ^{F33}widow, widower or surviving civil partner] attained the age of 45, for so much of the period beginning with the time when the entitlement came to an end as neither—
- ^{F35}^{F36}(i) comprises a period during which—
- (a) the widow, widower or surviving civil partner, and
- (b) another person,
- are living together as if spouses of each other, nor]
- (ii) falls after the time of any—
- (a) marriage, or
- (b) formation of a civil partnership,
- by the widow or widower or surviving civil partner which takes place after the earner's death.]]
- ^{F37}(4B) Sub-paragraphs (i)(b) and (ii)(b) of subsection (4A)(c) do not apply where the earner dies before 5th December 2005.]
- (5) ^{F38}In the case of a woman who is the widow of a man,] the scheme ^{F39}must also make provision] for the widow's pension to be payable to her for any period for which a ^{F40} . . . widowed mother's allowance or widow's pension is payable to her by virtue of the earner's contributions ^{F40} . . .
- (6) ^{F41}In any other case,] the scheme ^{F42}must also make provision] for the ^{F43}widower's ^{F44}, widow's] or surviving civil partner's pension to be payable] in the prescribed circumstances and for the prescribed period.
- (7) The trustees or managers of the scheme shall supply to the ^{F45}Inland Revenue] any such information as ^{F46}the Inland Revenue] may require relating to the payment of pensions under the scheme to ^{F47}widows, widowers or surviving civil partners].
- ^{F48}(8) Where—
- (a) a lump sum is paid to an earner under provisions included in a scheme by virtue of section 17(1), and
- (b) those provisions are of a prescribed description,
- the earner shall be treated for the purposes of this section as having any guaranteed minimum under section 10 that he would have had but for that payment.]
- ^{F49}(9)
- ^{F50}(10) For the purposes of subsection (4A)(aa) and (ab) a person attains state pension age when he or she attains pensionable age within the meaning given by the rules in paragraph 1 of Schedule 2 to the Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 1995.]

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Changes to legislation: *Pension Schemes (Northern Ireland) Act 1993, Cross Heading: Guaranteed minimum pensions is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 23 May 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)*

^{F51}(11) This section is subject to regulations under section 34A.

- (12) In relation to an earner who is a woman, a reference in this section to a relevant gender change case is a reference to a case where—
- (a) the earner is a woman by virtue of a full gender recognition certificate having been issued under the Gender Recognition Act 2004, and
 - (b) the marriage of the earner and her widow ^{F52}, or the civil partnership between the earner and her surviving civil partner,] (that ends with the earner’s death) subsisted before the time when the certificate was issued.]

Textual Amendments

- F21** Words in s. 13(1) substituted (10.11.2005 for specified purposes, 5.12.2005 in so far as not already in force) by [The Civil Partnership \(Contracted-out Occupational and Appropriate Personal Pension Schemes\) \(Surviving Civil Partners\) Order \(Northern Ireland\) 2005 \(S.R. 2005/433\)](#), art. 1(2)(a)(3), **Sch. 1 para. 5(a)**
- F22** S. 13(1A) inserted (3.3.2009 for specified purposes, 6.4.2009 in so far as not already in force) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2008 \(c. 1\)](#), **ss. 12(2)**, 21(1); S.R. 2009/75, art. 2(a)(b)
- F23** Words in s. 13(2)(a) inserted (13.1.2020) by [The Marriage \(Same-sex Couples\) and Civil Partnership \(Opposite-sex Couples\) \(Northern Ireland\) Regulations 2019 \(S.I. 2019/1514\)](#), regs. 1(2), **68(3)(a)** (with regs. 6-9)
- F24** S. 13(2)(ba) inserted (7.12.2020) by [The Marriage and Civil Partnership \(Northern Ireland\) \(No. 2\) Regulations 2020 \(S.I. 2020/1143\)](#), regs. 1(2), **40(2)(a)**
- F25** S. 13(2)(c) inserted (10.11.2005 for specified purposes, 5.12.2005 in so far as not already in force) by [The Civil Partnership \(Contracted-out Occupational and Appropriate Personal Pension Schemes\) \(Surviving Civil Partners\) Order \(Northern Ireland\) 2005 \(S.R. 2005/433\)](#), art. 1(2)(a)(3), **Sch. 1 para. 5(b)**
- F26** Words in s. 13(2)(c) inserted (7.12.2020) by [The Marriage and Civil Partnership \(Northern Ireland\) \(No. 2\) Regulations 2020 \(S.I. 2020/1143\)](#), regs. 1(2), **40(2)(b)**
- F27** S. 13(2)(d)(e) inserted (13.1.2020) by [The Marriage \(Same-sex Couples\) and Civil Partnership \(Opposite-sex Couples\) \(Northern Ireland\) Regulations 2019 \(S.I. 2019/1514\)](#), regs. 1(2), **68(3)(b)** (with regs. 6-9)
- F28** Words in s. 13(4) inserted (10.11.2005 for specified purposes, 5.12.2005 in so far as not already in force) by [The Civil Partnership \(Contracted-out Occupational and Appropriate Personal Pension Schemes\) \(Surviving Civil Partners\) Order \(Northern Ireland\) 2005 \(S.R. 2005/433\)](#), art. 1(2)(a)(3), **Sch. 1 para. 5(c)**
- F29** Words in s. 13(4) inserted (13.1.2020) by [The Marriage \(Same-sex Couples\) and Civil Partnership \(Opposite-sex Couples\) \(Northern Ireland\) Regulations 2019 \(S.I. 2019/1514\)](#), regs. 1(2), **68(3)(c)** (with regs. 6-9)
- F30** S. 13(4A) inserted (1.1.2001) by [2000 c. 4 \(N.I.\)](#), s. 52, **Sch. 5 para. 1(1)** (with s. 66(6)); S.R. 2000/374, art. 2(c), **Sch. Pt. II**
- F31** Words in s. 13(4A) inserted (10.11.2005 for specified purposes, 5.12.2005 in so far as not already in force) by [The Civil Partnership \(Contracted-out Occupational and Appropriate Personal Pension Schemes\) \(Surviving Civil Partners\) Order \(Northern Ireland\) 2005 \(S.R. 2005/433\)](#), art. 1(2)(a)(3), **Sch. 1 para. 5(d)(i)**
- F32** Words in s. 13(4A) substituted (10.11.2005 for specified purposes, 5.12.2005 in so far as not already in force) by [The Civil Partnership \(Contracted-out Occupational and Appropriate Personal Pension Schemes\) \(Surviving Civil Partners\) Order \(Northern Ireland\) 2005 \(S.R. 2005/433\)](#), art. 1(2)(a)(3), **Sch. 1 para. 5(d)(ii)**
- F33** Words in s. 13(4A) substituted (10.11.2005 for specified purposes, 5.12.2005 in so far as not already in force) by [The Civil Partnership \(Contracted-out Occupational and Appropriate Personal Pension](#)

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- Schemes) (Surviving Civil Partners) Order (Northern Ireland) 2005 (S.R. 2005/433), art. 1(2)(a)(3), **Sch. 1 para. 5(d)(iii)**
- F34** S. 13(4A)(aa)(ab) inserted (6.4.2016) by Pensions Act (Northern Ireland) 2015 (c. 5), s. 53(3), **Sch. 13 para. 17(2)**
- F35** S. 13(4A)(c)(i) substituted (13.1.2020) by The Marriage (Same-sex Couples) and Civil Partnership (Opposite-sex Couples) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/1514), regs. 1(2), **68(3)(d)** (with regs. 6-9)
- F36** S. 13(4A)(c)(i)(ii) substituted (10.11.2005 for specified purposes, 5.12.2005 in so far as not already in force) by The Civil Partnership (Contracted-out Occupational and Appropriate Personal Pension Schemes) (Surviving Civil Partners) Order (Northern Ireland) 2005 (S.R. 2005/433), art. 1(2)(a)(3), **Sch. 1 para. 5(d)(iv)**
- F37** S. 13(4B) inserted (10.11.2005 for specified purposes, 5.12.2005 in so far as not already in force) by The Civil Partnership (Contracted-out Occupational and Appropriate Personal Pension Schemes) (Surviving Civil Partners) Order (Northern Ireland) 2005 (S.R. 2005/433), art. 1(2)(a)(3), **Sch. 1 para. 5(e)**
- F38** Words in s. 13(5) inserted (13.1.2020) by The Marriage (Same-sex Couples) and Civil Partnership (Opposite-sex Couples) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/1514), regs. 1(2), **68(3)(e)** (with regs. 6-9)
- F39** Words in s. 13(5) substituted (1.1.2001) by 2000 c. 4 (N.I.), s. 52, **Sch. 5 para. 1(2)(a)** (with s. 66(6)); S.R. 2000/374, art. 2(c)
S. 13(2)(3)(4) applied (1.11.1995) by S.R. 1995/389, **art. 5(1) c), Sch. Pt. II**
- F40** Words in s. 13(5) repealed (1.1.2001) by 2000 c. 4 (N.I.), ss. 52, 67, Sch. 5 para. 1(2)(b), **Sch. 9 Pt. III(4)** (with s. 66(6)); S.R. 2000/374, art. 2(c), **Sch. Pt. II**
- F41** Words in s. 13(6) inserted (13.1.2020) by The Marriage (Same-sex Couples) and Civil Partnership (Opposite-sex Couples) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/1514), regs. 1(2), **68(3)(f)(i)** (with regs. 6-9)
- F42** Words in s. 13(6) substituted (1.1.2001) by 2000 c. 4 (N.I.), s. 52, **Sch. 5 para. 1(3)** (with s. 66(6)); S.R. 2000/374, art. 2(c), **Sch. Pt. II**
- F43** Words in s. 13(6) substituted (10.11.2005 for specified purposes, 5.12.2005 in so far as not already in force) by The Civil Partnership (Contracted-out Occupational and Appropriate Personal Pension Schemes) (Surviving Civil Partners) Order (Northern Ireland) 2005 (S.R. 2005/433), art. 1(2)(a)(3), **Sch. 1 para. 5(f)**
- F44** Words in s. 13(6) inserted (13.1.2020) by The Marriage (Same-sex Couples) and Civil Partnership (Opposite-sex Couples) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/1514), regs. 1(2), **68(3)(f)(ii)** (with regs. 6-9)
- F45** Words in s. 13(7) substituted (24.3.1999 for certain purposes and otherwise 1.4.1999) by S.I. 1999/671, arts. 1(2)(b), 3(1), **Sch. 1 para. 42**; S.R. 1999/149, art. 2(c), **Sch. 2**
- F46** Words in s. 13(7) substituted (24.3.1999 for certain purposes and otherwise 1.4.1999) by S.I. 1999/671, arts. 1(2)(b), 3(1), **Sch. 1 para. 42**; S.R. 1999/149, art. 2(c), **Sch. 2**
- F47** Words in s. 13(7) substituted (10.11.2005 for specified purposes, 5.12.2005 in so far as not already in force) by The Civil Partnership (Contracted-out Occupational and Appropriate Personal Pension Schemes) (Surviving Civil Partners) Order (Northern Ireland) 2005 (S.R. 2005/433), art. 1(2)(a)(3), **Sch. 1 para. 5(g)**
- F48** S. 13(8) added (1.7.2005 for specified purposes, 6.4.2006 in so far as not already in force) by The Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/255 (N.I. 1), arts. 1(2), **261(2)** (with art. 285(5)); S.R. 2005/321, art. 2(15), Sch. Pt. 2
- F49** S. 13(9) omitted (13.1.2020) by virtue of The Marriage (Same-sex Couples) and Civil Partnership (Opposite-sex Couples) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/1514), regs. 1(2), **68(3)(g)** (with regs. 6-9)
- F50** S. 13(10) added (6.4.2016) by Pensions Act (Northern Ireland) 2015 (c. 5), s. 53(3), **Sch. 13 para. 17(3)**

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- F51** S. 13(11)(12) inserted (13.1.2020) by [The Marriage \(Same-sex Couples\) and Civil Partnership \(Opposite-sex Couples\) \(Northern Ireland\) Regulations 2019 \(S.I. 2019/1514\)](#), regs. 1(2), **68(3)(h)** (with regs. 6-9)
- F52** Words in s. 13(12)(b) inserted (7.12.2020) by [The Marriage and Civil Partnership \(Northern Ireland\) \(No. 2\) Regulations 2020 \(S.I. 2020/1143\)](#), regs. 1(2), **40(3)**

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C21** S. 13(3)(4) applied (with effect in accordance with reg. 1(2) of the amending Regulations) by [The Police Pension \(Northern Ireland\) Regulations 2009 \(S.R. 2009/79\)](#), regs. 1(2), **40(7)** (with reg. 4)

14 Treatment of insignificant amounts.

- (1) Where an amount is required to be calculated in accordance with the provisions of section 10(7), 11(1) or 13(2), (3) or (4) and, apart from this subsection, the amount so calculated is less than 0.5p, then, notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, that amount shall be taken to be zero, and other amounts so calculated shall be rounded to the nearest whole penny, taking 0.5p as nearest to the next whole penny above.
- (2) Where a guaranteed minimum pension is attributable in part to earnings factors for the period before the tax year 1988-89 and in part to earnings factors for that tax year or for that tax year and subsequent tax years, the pension shall be calculated by—
 - (a) applying subsection (1) separately to the amount attributable to the period before the tax year 1988-89 and to the amount attributable to that and subsequent tax years, and
 - (b) aggregating the two amounts so calculated.

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C22** S. 14 applied (1.11.1995) by [S.R. 1995/389](#), **art. 4(1)**

15 Discharge of liability where guaranteed minimum pensions secured by insurance policies or annuity contracts.

- (1) A transaction to which this section applies discharges the trustees or managers of an occupational pension scheme from their liability to provide for or in respect of any person guaranteed minimum pensions—
 - (a) if it is carried out not earlier than the time when that person’s pensionable service terminates; and
 - (b) if and to the extent that it results in guaranteed minimum pensions for or in respect of that person being appropriately secured; and
 - (c) if and to the extent that the requirements set out in paragraph (a), (b) or (c) of subsection (5) are satisfied.
- (2) This section applies to the following transactions—
 - (a) the taking out of a policy of insurance or a number of such policies;
 - (b) the entry into an annuity contract or a number of such contracts;
 - (c) the transfer of the benefit of such a policy or policies or such a contract or contracts.

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- (3) In this section “appropriately secured” means secured by an appropriate policy of insurance or an appropriate annuity contract, or by more than one such policy or contract.
- (4) A policy of insurance or annuity contract is appropriate for the purposes of this section if—
- (a) the [^{F53}insurer] with which it is or was taken out or entered into—
 - (i) is, or was at the relevant time, carrying on ^{F54}... long-term insurance business in the United Kingdom ^{F55}...; and
 - (ii) satisfies, or at the relevant time satisfied, prescribed requirements; and
 - (b) it may not be assigned or surrendered except on conditions which satisfy such requirements as may be prescribed; and
 - (c) it contains or is endorsed with terms whose effect is that the amount secured by it may not be commuted except on conditions which satisfy such requirements as may be prescribed; and
 - (d) it satisfies such other requirements as may be prescribed.
- (5) The requirements referred to in subsection (1) are—
- (a) that the arrangement for securing the amount by means of the policy or contract was made—
 - (i) at the written request of the earner or, if the earner has died, of the earner’s [^{F56}widow, widower or surviving civil partner]; or
 - (ii) with the consent of the earner or the [^{F56}widow, widower or surviving civil partner] given in writing in a prescribed form;
 - (b) that—
 - (i) the case is one such as is mentioned in section 92(2); and
 - (ii) the policy or contract only secures guaranteed minimum pensions;
 - (c) that—
 - (i) the case is not one such as is mentioned in section 92(2); and
 - (ii) such conditions as may be prescribed are satisfied.
- (6) In subsection (4)(a), “the relevant time” means the time when the policy of insurance was taken out or the annuity contract was entered into or, as the case may be, when the benefit of the policy or contract was transferred.

^{F57}(7)

Textual Amendments

- F53** Words in s. 15(4)(a) substituted (1.12.2001) by S.I. 2001/3649, arts. 1, 129(2)(a)
- F54** Word in s. 15(4)(a)(i) repealed (1.12.2001) by S.I. 2001/3649, arts. 1, 129(2)(b)
- F55** Words in s. 15(4)(a)(i) omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of The Occupational and Personal Pension Schemes (Amendment etc.) (Northern Ireland) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/193), regs. 1, 2(3); 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)
- F56** Words in s. 15(5)(a)(i)(ii) substituted (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership (Contracted-out Occupational and Appropriate Personal Pension Schemes) (Surviving Civil Partners) Order (Northern Ireland) 2005 (S.R. 2005/433), art. 1(3), Sch. 1 para. 6
- F57** S. 15(7) repealed (1.12.2001) by S.I. 2001/3649, arts. 1, 129(3)

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Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C23 S. 15 modified (1.4.2009) by [Local Government Pension Scheme \(Administration\) Regulations \(Northern Ireland\) 2009 \(S.R. 2009/33\)](#), regs. 1, **74(1)**

16 Transfer of accrued rights.

- (1) Regulations may prescribe circumstances in which and conditions subject to which—
- (a) a transfer of or a transfer payment in respect of—
 - (i) an earner’s accrued rights to guaranteed minimum pensions under a [^{F58}scheme that was a] contracted-out scheme;
 - (ii) an earner’s accrued rights to pensions under an occupational pension scheme ^{F59}... to the extent that those rights derive from his accrued rights to guaranteed minimum pensions under a [^{F60}scheme that was a] contracted-out scheme; or
 - (iii) the liability for the payment of guaranteed minimum pensions to or in respect of any person who has become entitled to them,
 may be made by an occupational pension scheme to another such scheme [^{F61}, to a personal pension scheme or to an overseas arrangement];
 - (b) a transfer of or a transfer payment in respect of an earner’s accrued rights to guaranteed minimum pensions which are appropriately secured for the purposes of section 15 may be made to an occupational pension scheme [^{F62}, a personal pension scheme or an overseas arrangement].
- (2) Any such regulations may be made so as to apply to earners who are not in employment at the time of the transfer.
- (3) Regulations under subsection (1) may provide that any provision of this Part (other than sections 14, 15 and 39 to 41, ^{F63}... so far as they apply to personal pension schemes) or of Chapter III of Part IV or Chapter II of Part V shall have effect, where there has been a transfer to which they apply, subject to such modifications as may be specified in the regulations.
- (4) Regulations under subsection (1) shall have effect in relation to transfers whenever made unless they provide that they are only to have effect in relation to transfers which take place after they come into operation.
- (5) The power conferred by subsection (1) is without prejudice to the generality of section 177(2) or section 17(5) of the ^{M5}Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954.
- (6) In the provisions mentioned in subsection (3) “accrued rights”, in relation to an earner, means the rights conferring prospective entitlement under the scheme in question to the pensions to be provided for the earner and the earner’s [^{F64}widow, widower or surviving civil partner] in accordance with sections 9 and 13, and references to an earner’s accrued rights to guaranteed minimum pensions shall be construed accordingly.

Textual Amendments

F58 Words in s. 16(1)(a)(i) inserted (6.4.2016) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2015 \(c. 5\)](#), s. 53(3), [Sch. 13 para. 18\(a\)](#)

F59 Words in s. 16(1)(a)(ii) omitted (6.4.2016) by virtue of [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2015 \(c. 5\)](#), s. 53(3), [Sch. 13 para. 18\(b\)\(i\)](#)

Status: Point in time view as at 10/04/2023.

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F60	Words in s. 16(1)(a)(ii) inserted (6.4.2016) by Pensions Act (Northern Ireland) 2015 (c. 5), s. 53(3), Sch. 13 para. 18(b)(ii)
F61	Words in s. 16(1)(a) substituted (1.1.2001) by 2000 c. 4 (N.I.), s. 52, Sch. 5 para. 2(1)(a) (with s. 66(6)); S.R. 2000/374, art. 2(c), Sch. Pt. II
F62	Words in s. 16(1)(b) substituted (1.1.2001) by 2000 c. 4 (N.I.), s. 52, Sch. 5 para. 2(1)(b) (with s. 66(6)); S.R. 2000/374, art. 2(c), Sch. Pt. II
F63	Words in s. 16(3) omitted (6.4.2015) by virtue of The Pensions (2008 No. 2 Act) (Abolition of Protected Rights) (Consequential Provisions) Order (Northern Ireland) 2012 (S.R. 2012/124), arts. 1(d), 31(2)
F64	Words in s. 16(6) substituted (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership (Contracted-out Occupational and Appropriate Personal Pension Schemes) (Surviving Civil Partners) Order (Northern Ireland) 2005 (S.R. 2005/433), art. 1(3), Sch. 1 para. 7
Modifications etc. (not altering text)	
C24	S. 16 modified (1.4.2009) by Local Government Pension Scheme (Administration) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009 (S.R. 2009/33), regs. 1, 74(1)
Marginal Citations	
M5	1954 c. 33 (N.I.).

17 Commutation, surrender and forfeiture.

- (1) [^{F65}A scheme may, in such circumstances and subject to such restrictions and conditions as may be prescribed, provide for the payment of a lump sum instead of a pension required to be provided by the scheme in accordance with section 9 or 13.]
- (2) Neither section 9 nor section 13 shall preclude a scheme from providing for the earner’s or the earner’s [^{F66}widow's, widower’s or surviving civil partner's] guaranteed minimum pension to be suspended or forfeited in such circumstances as may be prescribed.

Textual Amendments	
F65	S. 17(1) substituted (1.7.2005 for specified purposes, 6.4.2006 in so far as not already in force) by The Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/255 (N.I. 1), arts. 1(2), 261(1) (with art. 285(5)); S.R. 2005/321, art. 2(15), Sch. Pt. 2
F66	Words in s. 17(2) substituted (10.11.2005 for specified purposes, 5.12.2005 in so far as not already in force) by The Civil Partnership (Contracted-out Occupational and Appropriate Personal Pension Schemes) (Surviving Civil Partners) Order (Northern Ireland) 2005 (S.R. 2005/433), art. 1(2)(a)(3), Sch. 1 para. 8

^{F67}**18**

Textual Amendments	
F67	S. 18 repealed (6.4.1997) by S.I. 1995/3213 (N.I. 22), arts. 147, 168, Sch. 3 para. 23, Sch. 5 Pt. III ; S.R. 1997/192, art. 2(b)

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19 Securing of benefits.

^{F68}(1)

(2) Subject to subsection (3), the scheme must contain a rule by which any liabilities of the scheme in respect of—

- (a) guaranteed minimum pensions and accrued rights to guaranteed minimum pensions;
- (b) any such benefits as are excluded by section 9(6) from earners’ guaranteed minimum pensions;
- (c) pensions and other benefits (whether or not within paragraph (a) or (b)) in respect of which entitlement to payment has already arisen; and

^{F69}(d)

are accorded priority on a winding up over other liabilities under the scheme in respect of benefits attributable to any period of service after the rule has taken effect.

(3) The rule may also accord priority, on a winding up occurring after an earner has attained normal pension age, to liabilities of the scheme in respect of pensions and other benefits to which—

- (a) he will be entitled on ceasing to be in employment, or
- (b) the earner’s [^{F70}widow, widower or surviving civil partner] or any dependant of the earner’s will be entitled on the earner’s death.

(4) Subsections [^{F71}(2) and (3)] do not apply to public service pension schemes.

^{F68}(5)

(6) Subsections (2) and (3) do not apply to schemes falling within any category or description prescribed as being exempt from the requirements of those subsections.

(7) If the scheme provides for the payment out of any sum representing the surrender value of a policy of insurance taken out for the purposes of the scheme, it must make provision so that there may be no payment out in relation to guaranteed minimum pensions except in such circumstances as may be prescribed.

Textual Amendments

- F68** S. 19(1)(5) repealed (6.4.1997) by S.I. 1995/3213 (N.I. 22), art. 147, 168, Sch. 3 para. 24(a), **Sch. 5 Pt. III**; S.R. 1997/192, **art. 2(b)**
- F69** S. 19(2)(d) omitted (6.4.2016) by virtue of Pensions Act (Northern Ireland) 2015 (c. 5), s. 53(3), **Sch. 13 para. 19**
- F70** Words in s. 19(3)(b) substituted (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership (Contracted-out Occupational and Appropriate Personal Pension Schemes) (Surviving Civil Partners) Order (Northern Ireland) 2005 (S.R. 2005/433), art. 1(3), **Sch. 1 para. 9**
- F71** Words in s. 19(4) substituted (6.4.1997) by S.I. 1995/3213 (N.I. 22), art. 147, **Sch. 3 para. 24(b)**; S.R. 1997/192, **art. 2(b)**

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C25** S. 19(2)(3) excluded (6.4.1997) by S.I. 1995/3213 (N.I. 22), art. 147, **Sch. 3 para. 24**; S.R. 1997/192, **art. 2(b)**

^{F72}20

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Textual Amendments

F72 S. 20 repealed (6.4.1997) by S.I. 1995/3213 (N.I. 22), arts. 147, 168, Sch. 3 para. 25, **Sch. 5 Pt. III**; S.R. 1997/192, **art. 2(b)**

[^{F73}20A Conversion of guaranteed minimum pension into other benefits: introduction

[In this section and sections 20B to 20H—

^{F74}(1) (a) [^{F75}the rules specified in sections 9(1)(a) and (b) and 13(1) are referred to as the “guaranteed minimum pension rules”,]

(b) [^{F76}“GMP conversion” means—

- (i) the amendment of a scheme in relation to an earner who was alive immediately before the conversion date so that it no longer contains the rules specified in sections 9(1)(a) and (b) and 13(1), or
- (ii) the amendment of a scheme in relation to a person who, immediately before the conversion date, was the widow, widower or surviving civil partner of an earner so that it no longer contains the rules specified in section 13(1),]

[“P” means—

^{F77}(ba) (i) in relation to a GMP conversion within paragraph (b)(i), the earner mentioned in that provision;

(ii) in relation to a GMP conversion within paragraph (b)(ii), the survivor mentioned in that provision,]

(c) [^{F78}a “GMP-converted scheme” is a scheme which has been subject to GMP conversion,]

(d) “the conversion date” means the date on which that amendment takes effect,

(e) “the pre-conversion benefits” means the benefits provided under the scheme [^{F79}in relation to P] immediately before the conversion date [^{F80}(disregarding money purchase benefits)],

(f) “the post-conversion benefits” means the benefits which are provided under the converted scheme [^{F81}in relation to P][^{F82}(disregarding money purchase benefits)],

(g) “the converted scheme” means the scheme as it has effect immediately after conversion, and

(h) “the trustees” in relation to a scheme means the trustees, managers or other persons responsible under the scheme for effecting amendments of it.

[The Department must give such guidance (if any) as it thinks appropriate about GMP ^{F83}(2) conversion.]

Textual Amendments

F73 Ss. 20A-20H inserted (3.3.2009 for specified purposes, 6.4.2009 in so far as not already in force) by Pensions Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (c. 1), **ss. 12(3), 21(1)**; S.R. 2009/75, art. 2(a)(b)

F74 S. 20A(1): s. 20A renumbered as s. 20A(1) (6.4.2016) by Pensions Act (Northern Ireland) 2015 (c. 5), s. 53(3), **Sch. 13 para. 20(a)**

F75 S. 20A(1)(a) omitted (28.4.2022 for specified purposes) by virtue of Pension Schemes (Conversion of Guaranteed Minimum Pensions) Act 2022 (c. 33), **ss. 2(2)(a), 3(4)(b)**

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- F76** S. 20A(1)(b) substituted (28.4.2022 for specified purposes) by Pension Schemes (Conversion of Guaranteed Minimum Pensions) Act 2022 (c. 33), ss. 2(2)(b), 3(4)(b)
- F77** S. 20A(1)(ba) inserted (28.4.2022 for specified purposes) by Pension Schemes (Conversion of Guaranteed Minimum Pensions) Act 2022 (c. 33), ss. 2(2)(c), 3(4)(b)
- F78** S. 20A(1)(c) omitted (28.4.2022 for specified purposes) by virtue of Pension Schemes (Conversion of Guaranteed Minimum Pensions) Act 2022 (c. 33), ss. 2(2)(d), 3(4)(b)
- F79** Words in s. 20A(1)(e) inserted (28.4.2022 for specified purposes) by Pension Schemes (Conversion of Guaranteed Minimum Pensions) Act 2022 (c. 33), ss. 2(2)(e)(i), 3(4)(b)
- F80** Words in s. 20A(1)(e) omitted (28.4.2022 for specified purposes) by virtue of Pension Schemes (Conversion of Guaranteed Minimum Pensions) Act 2022 (c. 33), ss. 2(2)(e)(ii), 3(4)(b)
- F81** Words in s. 20A(1)(f) inserted (28.4.2022 for specified purposes) by Pension Schemes (Conversion of Guaranteed Minimum Pensions) Act 2022 (c. 33), ss. 2(2)(e)(i), 3(4)(b)
- F82** Words in s. 20A(1)(f) omitted (28.4.2022 for specified purposes) by virtue of Pension Schemes (Conversion of Guaranteed Minimum Pensions) Act 2022 (c. 33), ss. 2(2)(e)(ii), 3(4)(b)
- F83** S. 20A(2) added (6.4.2016) by Pensions Act (Northern Ireland) 2015 (c. 5), s. 53(3), Sch. 13 para. 20(b)

20B The conversion conditions

- (1) This section specifies the conditions referred to in sections 9(1A) and 13(1A) (for exemption from the requirement to guarantee a minimum pension).
- (2) Condition 1 is that the post-conversion benefits [^{F84}(disregarding money purchase benefits)] must be actuarially at least equivalent to the pre-conversion benefits [^{F84}(disregarding money purchase benefits)] .
- (3) Condition 2 is that if [^{F85}the earner][^{F85}P] was entitled immediately before the conversion date to the payment of a pension under the scheme, the converted scheme does not provide for a reduction of, or have the effect of reducing, the amount of that pension immediately after conversion.
- (4) Condition 3 is that the post-conversion benefits must not include money purchase benefits, apart from any money purchase benefits provided under the scheme immediately before the conversion date.
- (5) [^{F86}Condition 4 is that, in the case of a GMP conversion within section 20A(1)(b)(i) (GMP conversion in relation to earner)—
 - (a) the converted scheme provides benefits to or in respect of any widow, widower or surviving civil partner of P, and
 - (b) such conditions as may be prescribed are met in relation to those benefits.]
- (6) Condition 5 is that the procedural requirements of section 20E have been complied with.
- (7) In applying these conditions to a scheme [^{F87}in respect of an earner]—
 - (a) it is immaterial whether or not on the conversion date the scheme was also converted [^{F88}in respect of other earners][^{F88}in relation to persons other than P] , and
 - (b) it is immaterial (except for Condition 2) whether or not on the conversion date [^{F89} the earner][^{F89}P] was entitled to the payment of a pension under the scheme.

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Textual Amendments

- F73** Ss. 20A-20H inserted (3.3.2009 for specified purposes, 6.4.2009 in so far as not already in force) by Pensions Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (c. 1), ss. 12(3), 21(1); S.R. 2009/75, art. 2(a)(b)
- F84** Words in s. 20B(2) inserted (28.4.2022 for specified purposes) by Pension Schemes (Conversion of Guaranteed Minimum Pensions) Act 2022 (c. 33), ss. 2(3)(a), 3(4)(b)
- F85** Word in s. 20B(3) substituted (28.4.2022 for specified purposes) by Pension Schemes (Conversion of Guaranteed Minimum Pensions) Act 2022 (c. 33), ss. 2(3)(b), 3(4)(b)
- F86** S. 20B(5) substituted (28.4.2022 for specified purposes) by Pension Schemes (Conversion of Guaranteed Minimum Pensions) Act 2022 (c. 33), ss. 2(3)(c), 3(4)(b)
- F87** Words in s. 20B(7) omitted (28.4.2022 for specified purposes) by virtue of Pension Schemes (Conversion of Guaranteed Minimum Pensions) Act 2022 (c. 33), ss. 2(3)(d)(i), 3(4)(b)
- F88** Words in s. 20B(7)(a) substituted (28.4.2022 for specified purposes) by Pension Schemes (Conversion of Guaranteed Minimum Pensions) Act 2022 (c. 33), ss. 2(3)(d)(ii), 3(4)(b)
- F89** Word in s. 20B(7)(b) substituted (28.4.2022 for specified purposes) by Pension Schemes (Conversion of Guaranteed Minimum Pensions) Act 2022 (c. 33), ss. 2(3)(d)(iii), 3(4)(b)

20C Actuarial equivalence

Regulations may make provision for determining actuarial equivalence for the purpose of Condition 1 of section 20B.

Textual Amendments

- F73** Ss. 20A-20H inserted (3.3.2009 for specified purposes, 6.4.2009 in so far as not already in force) by Pensions Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (c. 1), ss. 12(3), 21(1); S.R. 2009/75, art. 2(a)(b)

20D Survivors' benefits

[^{F90}(1) This section specifies the benefits mentioned in Condition 4 of section 20B.

- (2) The first benefit is that if the earner [^{F91}is a man married to a woman or a woman married to a man in a relevant gender change case, and the earner] dies (whether before or after attaining normal pension age) leaving a widow, she is entitled to a pension of at least half the value of the pension to which the earner would have been entitled by reference to employment during the period—
- (a) beginning with 6th April 1978, and
 - (b) ending with 5th April 1997.
- (3) The second benefit is that if the earner [^{F92}is a married woman (other than in a relevant gender change case), a man married to a man, or [^{F93}(subject to subsection (3A))] a civil partner, and the earner] dies (whether before or after attaining normal pension age) leaving a widower [^{F94}, widow] or surviving civil partner, he or she is entitled to a pension of at least half the value of the pension to which the earner would have been entitled by reference to employment during the period—
- (a) beginning with 6th April 1988, and
 - (b) ending with 5th April 1997.

[^{F95}(3A) The third benefit is that if the earner is a man, or a woman in a relevant gender change case, who is a civil partner and the earner dies (whether before or after attaining normal pension age) leaving a surviving civil partner who is a woman, she is entitled to a

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pension of at least half the value of the pension to which the earner would have been entitled by reference to employment during the period—

- (a) beginning with 6th April 1978, and
- (b) ending with 5th April 1997.]

[^{F96}(4) In relation to an earner who is a woman, a reference in this section to a relevant gender change case is a reference to a case where—

- (a) the earner is a woman by virtue of a full gender recognition certificate having been issued under the Gender Recognition Act 2004, and
- (b) the marriage of the earner and her widow [^{F97}, or the civil partnership between the earner and her surviving civil partner,] (that ends with the earner’s death) subsisted before the time when the certificate was issued.

(5) This section is subject to regulations under section 34A.]]

Textual Amendments

- F73** Ss. 20A-20H inserted (3.3.2009 for specified purposes, 6.4.2009 in so far as not already in force) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2008 \(c. 1\), ss. 12\(3\), 21\(1\)](#); S.R. 2009/75, art. 2(a)(b)
- F90** S. 20D omitted (28.4.2022 for specified purposes) by virtue of [Pension Schemes \(Conversion of Guaranteed Minimum Pensions\) Act 2022 \(c. 33\), ss. 2\(4\), 3\(4\)\(b\)](#)
- F91** Words in s. 20D(2) inserted (13.1.2020) by [The Marriage \(Same-sex Couples\) and Civil Partnership \(Opposite-sex Couples\) \(Northern Ireland\) Regulations 2019 \(S.I. 2019/1514\), regs. 1\(2\), 68\(4\)\(a\)](#) (with regs. 6-9)
- F92** Words in s. 20D(3) inserted (13.1.2020) by [The Marriage \(Same-sex Couples\) and Civil Partnership \(Opposite-sex Couples\) \(Northern Ireland\) Regulations 2019 \(S.I. 2019/1514\), regs. 1\(2\), 68\(4\)\(b\)\(i\)](#) (with regs. 6-9)
- F93** Words in s. 20D(3) inserted (7.12.2020) by [The Marriage and Civil Partnership \(Northern Ireland\) \(No. 2\) Regulations 2020 \(S.I. 2020/1143\), regs. 1\(2\), 40\(4\)\(a\)](#)
- F94** Word in s. 20D(3) inserted (13.1.2020) by [The Marriage \(Same-sex Couples\) and Civil Partnership \(Opposite-sex Couples\) \(Northern Ireland\) Regulations 2019 \(S.I. 2019/1514\), regs. 1\(2\), 68\(4\)\(b\)\(ii\)](#) (with regs. 6-9)
- F95** S. 20D(3A) inserted (7.12.2020) by [The Marriage and Civil Partnership \(Northern Ireland\) \(No. 2\) Regulations 2020 \(S.I. 2020/1143\), regs. 1\(2\), 40\(4\)\(b\)](#)
- F96** S. 20D(4)(5) inserted (13.1.2020) by [The Marriage \(Same-sex Couples\) and Civil Partnership \(Opposite-sex Couples\) \(Northern Ireland\) Regulations 2019 \(S.I. 2019/1514\), regs. 1\(2\), 68\(4\)\(c\)](#) (with regs. 6-9)
- F97** Words in s. 20D(4)(b) inserted (7.12.2020) by [The Marriage and Civil Partnership \(Northern Ireland\) \(No. 2\) Regulations 2020 \(S.I. 2020/1143\), regs. 1\(2\), 40\(4\)\(c\)](#)

20E Procedural requirements

- (1) This section specifies the procedural requirements that must be complied with in order to satisfy Condition 5 of section 20B.
- (2) [^{F98}The employer] [^{F98}Each relevant person (if any)] in relation to the scheme must consent to the GMP conversion in advance.

[For the purposes of subsection (2) a person is “relevant” in relation to a scheme if such ^{F99}(2A) conditions as may be prescribed are met in relation to the person and the scheme.]

- (3) The trustees must take all reasonable steps to—
 - (a) consult [^{F100}the earner] [^{F100}P] in advance, and

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- (b) notify all members, and survivors, affected by the GMP conversion before, or as soon as is reasonably practicable after, the conversion date.
- (4) ^{F101}The Commissioners for Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs must be notified on or before the conversion date—
- (a) that the GMP conversion will occur or has occurred, and
 - (b) that it affects the earner.]

Textual Amendments

- F73** Ss. 20A-20H inserted (3.3.2009 for specified purposes, 6.4.2009 in so far as not already in force) by Pensions Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (c. 1), ss. 12(3), 21(1); S.R. 2009/75, art. 2(a)(b)
- F98** Words in s. 20E(2) substituted (28.4.2022 for specified purposes) by Pension Schemes (Conversion of Guaranteed Minimum Pensions) Act 2022 (c. 33), ss. 2(5)(a), 3(4)(b)
- F99** S. 20E(2A) inserted (28.4.2022 for specified purposes) by Pension Schemes (Conversion of Guaranteed Minimum Pensions) Act 2022 (c. 33), ss. 2(5)(b), 3(4)(b)
- F100** Word in s. 20E(3)(a) substituted (28.4.2022 for specified purposes) by Pension Schemes (Conversion of Guaranteed Minimum Pensions) Act 2022 (c. 33), ss. 2(5)(c), 3(4)(b)
- F101** S. 20E(4) omitted (28.4.2022 for specified purposes) by virtue of Pension Schemes (Conversion of Guaranteed Minimum Pensions) Act 2022 (c. 33), ss. 2(5)(d), 3(4)(b)

20F Transfer out

- (1) Regulations may prescribe—
- (a) restrictions on the transfer of the ^{F102}earner's accrued rights under a GMP-converted scheme]^{F102}accrued rights of a person in relation to whom GMP conversion has been effected] ;
 - (b) conditions which must be complied with on the transfer of the ^{F103}earner's accrued rights under a GMP-converted scheme]^{F103}accrued rights of a person in relation to whom GMP conversion has been effected] .
- (2) ^{F104}Section 16(2) and (5) shall apply to regulations under this section.]
- (3) ^{F105}Where—
- (a) a member of a scheme makes an application under section 91(1), and
 - (b) GMP conversion has not been effected in relation to the member,
- the trustees may with the member's consent adjust any cash equivalent so as to reflect rights that would have accrued if GMP conversion had been effected in relation to the member in accordance with Conditions 1 to 4 of section 20B.]

Textual Amendments

- F73** Ss. 20A-20H inserted (3.3.2009 for specified purposes, 6.4.2009 in so far as not already in force) by Pensions Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (c. 1), ss. 12(3), 21(1); S.R. 2009/75, art. 2(a)(b)
- F102** Words in s. 20F(1)(a) substituted (28.4.2022 for specified purposes) by Pension Schemes (Conversion of Guaranteed Minimum Pensions) Act 2022 (c. 33), ss. 2(6)(a), 3(4)(b)
- F103** Words in s. 20F(1)(b) substituted (28.4.2022 for specified purposes) by Pension Schemes (Conversion of Guaranteed Minimum Pensions) Act 2022 (c. 33), ss. 2(6)(a), 3(4)(b)
- F104** S. 20F(2) omitted (28.4.2022 for specified purposes) by virtue of Pension Schemes (Conversion of Guaranteed Minimum Pensions) Act 2022 (c. 33), ss. 2(6)(b), 3(4)(b)

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- F105** S. 20F(3) substituted (28.4.2022 for specified purposes) by [Pension Schemes \(Conversion of Guaranteed Minimum Pensions\) Act 2022 \(c. 33\), ss. 2\(6\)\(c\), 3\(4\)\(b\)](#)
- F106** Word in s. 20F(3) omitted (6.4.2015) by virtue of [Pension Schemes Act 2015 \(c. 8\), s. 89\(3\)\(b\), Sch. 4 para. 51](#) (with s. 87)

20G Powers to amend schemes

- (1) The trustees of an occupational pension scheme may by resolution modify it so as to effect GMP conversion [^{F107} (whether in relation to present earners, pensioners or survivors)] in accordance with the conditions of section 20B.
- (2) The subsisting rights provisions within the meaning of Article 67 of the Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 shall not apply to a power conferred by an occupational pension scheme to modify the scheme in so far as the power enables GMP conversion in accordance with the conditions of section 20B.
- (3) Where a scheme is amended to effect GMP conversion the trustees may include other amendments which they think are necessary or desirable as a consequence of, or to facilitate, the GMP conversion.
- (4) Where an occupational pension scheme is being wound up, the trustees may, before the winding up is completed, adjust rights under the scheme so as to reflect what would have happened if the scheme had been subject to GMP conversion in accordance with Conditions 1 to 4 of section 20B.
- (5) [^{F108}In the application of section 20E by virtue of subsection (1) above, a reference to the earner includes a reference to a pensioner or survivor whose pension is subjected to GMP conversion.]

Textual Amendments

- F73** Ss. 20A-20H inserted (3.3.2009 for specified purposes, 6.4.2009 in so far as not already in force) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2008 \(c. 1\), ss. 12\(3\), 21\(1\); S.R. 2009/75, art. 2\(a\)\(b\)](#)
- F107** Words in s. 20G(1) omitted (28.4.2022 for specified purposes) by virtue of [Pension Schemes \(Conversion of Guaranteed Minimum Pensions\) Act 2022 \(c. 33\), ss. 2\(7\)\(a\), 3\(4\)\(b\)](#)
- F108** S. 20G(5) omitted (28.4.2022 for specified purposes) by virtue of [Pension Schemes \(Conversion of Guaranteed Minimum Pensions\) Act 2022 \(c. 33\), ss. 2\(7\)\(b\), 3\(4\)\(b\)](#)

20H Enforcement of GMP conversion conditions

- (1) If the Regulatory Authority thinks that the conditions of section 20B have not been satisfied in relation to an amendment, modification or adjustment effected in accordance with any of sections 9(1A), 13(1A), 20F and 20G, the Regulatory Authority may make an order declaring the amendment, modification or adjustment void—
 - (a) in respect of a specified person or class of person,
 - (b) to a specified extent, and
 - (c) as from a specified time.
- (2) Where the Regulatory Authority makes an order under subsection (1) it may—
 - (a) require the trustees of the scheme concerned to take specified steps;

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- (b) declare that specified action of the trustees shall not be treated as a contravention of the scheme if it would not have been a contravention if the order under subsection (1) had not been made.
- (3) An order may be made under subsection (1) before or after the amendment, modification or adjustment takes effect.
- (4) If the Regulatory Authority thinks that the process of effecting a GMP conversion of a scheme has been commenced and that a relevant condition of section 20B is not being complied with, or may not be complied with, the Regulatory Authority may by order—
- (a) prohibit the taking of further steps in the GMP conversion (whether generally or in relation to specified steps), and
 - (b) require the trustees of the scheme to take specified steps before resuming the process of GMP conversion.
- (5) Article 10 of the Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 (civil penalties) shall apply to a trustee who has failed to take all reasonable steps to secure compliance with the conditions of section 20B in relation to an amendment, modification or adjustment effected in accordance with any of sections 9(1A), 13(1A), 20F and 20G.]

Textual Amendments

F73 Ss. 20A-20H inserted (3.3.2009 for specified purposes, 6.4.2009 in so far as not already in force) by Pensions Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (c. 1), **ss. 12(3)**, 21(1); S.R. 2009/75, art. 2(a)(b)

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Changes to legislation:

Pension Schemes (Northern Ireland) Act 1993, Cross Heading: Guaranteed minimum pensions is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 23 May 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations.