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STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

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**2000 No. 897**

**The Social Security (Work-focused Interviews) Regulations 2000**

**PART I  
GENERAL**

**Citation and commencement**

**1.** These Regulations may be cited as the Social Security (Work-focused Interviews) Regulations 2000 and shall come into force on 3rd April 2000.

**Interpretation**

**2.—(1)** In these Regulations—

“the Act” means the Welfare Reform and Pensions Act 1999;

“the 1998 Act” means the Social Security Act 1998<sup>(1)</sup>;

“benefit week”—

- (a) in relation to housing benefit and council tax benefit, means a period of 7 days beginning on a Monday;
- (b) in relation to any other specified benefit, means any period of 7 days corresponding to the week in respect of which the relevant social security benefit is due to be paid;

“the designated authority” means any of the following—

- (a) the Secretary of State;
- (b) a person providing services to the Secretary of State;
- (c) a local authority;
- (d) a person providing services to, or authorised to exercise any functions of, any such authority;

“the Careers Service” means a person of any description with whom the Secretary of State has made an arrangement under section 10(1) of the Employment and Training Act 1973<sup>(2)</sup> and any person to whom he has given a direction under section 10(2) of that Act;

“the Council Tax Benefit Regulations” means the Council Tax Benefit (General) Regulations 1992<sup>(3)</sup>;

“the Claims and Payments Regulations” means the Social Security (Claims and Payments) Regulations 1987<sup>(4)</sup>;

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(1) 1998 c. 14.

(2) 1973 c. 50; section 10 was inserted by section 45 of the Trade Union Reform and Employment Rights Act 1993 (c. 19).

(3) S.I. 1992/1814.

(4) S.I. 1987/1968.

“the Housing Benefit Regulations” means the Housing Benefit (General) Regulations 1987(5);

“interview” means a work-focused interview;

“specified benefit” means a benefit other than widow’s payment to which section 2A of the Administration Act applies by virtue of subsection (2) of that section;

“work-focused interview” has the meaning given in regulation 3.

(2) In these Regulations, a “relevant person” is a person who resides in an area identified in Schedule 1.

(3) For the purposes of these Regulations—

(a) “remunerative work” has the meaning prescribed in regulation 4 of the Housing Benefit Regulations; and

(b) “part-time work” means work for which payment is made and which is not remunerative work.

(4) Where a claim for benefit is made by a person (“the appointee”) on behalf of another, references in these Regulations to a person claiming benefit shall be treated as a reference to the person on whose behalf the claim is made and not to the appointee.

(5) These Regulations apply in respect of a specified benefit claimed on or after 3rd April 2000.

(6) In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires, a reference—

(a) to a numbered section is to the section of the Act bearing that number;

(b) to a numbered regulation or Schedule is to the regulation in or Schedule to these Regulations bearing that number;

(c) in a regulation or Schedule to a numbered paragraph is to the paragraph in that regulation or Schedule bearing that number;

(d) in a paragraph to a lettered or numbered sub-paragraph is to the sub-paragraph in that paragraph bearing that letter or number.

### **Work-focused interview**

**3.** In these Regulations, a “work-focused interview” means an interview with a relevant person conducted for any or all of the following purposes—

(a) assessing a person’s prospects for existing or future employment (whether paid or voluntary);

(b) assisting or encouraging a person to enhance his prospects of such employment;

(c) identifying activities which the person may undertake to strengthen his existing or future prospects of such employment;

(d) identifying current or future employment or training opportunities suitable to the person’s needs; and

(e) identifying educational opportunities connected with the existing or future employment prospects or needs of the person.