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STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

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**2002 No. 1985**

The Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal (General Provisions and Disability Claims Procedure) Regulations 2002

PART IV

DETERMINATION OF CLAIMS

**Procedure at a hearing**

**32.**—(1) At the beginning of the hearing the chairman shall explain the order of proceedings which the tribunal proposes to adopt.

(2) The tribunal shall conduct the hearing in such manner as it considers the most suitable to the clarification of the issues and generally to the just handling of the proceedings; it shall, as far as appears to it appropriate, seek to avoid formality in its proceedings.

(3) The tribunal shall determine the order in which the parties are heard and the issues determined.

(4) The tribunal may, if it is satisfied that it is just and reasonable to do so, permit—

- (a) the parent to rely on grounds not stated in his notice of claim or the statement of his case;
- (b) the responsible body to rely on grounds not specified in its statement of its case.

(5) If at or after the beginning of a hearing a member of the tribunal other than the chairman is absent, the hearing may, with the consent of the parties, be conducted by the other two members and in that event the tribunal shall be deemed to be properly constituted and the decision of the tribunal shall be taken by those two members.