

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO
THE CHILD BENEFIT (GENERAL) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 2017
2017 No. 607

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This explanatory memorandum has been prepared by HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) and is laid before Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

2. Purpose of the instrument

- 2.1 This statutory instrument (SI) amends regulation 1(3) of the Child Benefit (General) Regulations 2006 (S.I. 2006/223) to add a new approved training programme that is coming into effect in Northern Ireland from 1 June 2017, and to remove several approved training programmes that have already come to an end, and no longer exist in Northern Ireland.

3. Matters of special interest to Parliament

Matters of special interest to the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments

- 3.1 None.

Other matters of interest to the House of Commons

- 3.2 As this instrument is subject to negative resolution procedure and has not been prayed against, consideration as to whether there are other matters of interest to the House of Commons does not arise at this stage.

4. Legislative Context

- 4.1 Entitlement to Child Benefit in respect of a young person under the age of 20 is dependent (amongst other things) on the qualifying young person being in “approved training”.
- 4.2 The list of approved training is provided under regulation 1(3) of the Child Benefit (General) Regulations 2006, and the ones in Northern Ireland are listed under regulation 1(3), in sub-paragraph (d) of the paragraph beginning “approved training means arrangements made by the Government”.
- 4.3 This instrument makes changes to include in the definition of “approved training” in Northern Ireland in regulation 1(3) a new approved training programme - ‘PEACE IV Children and Young People 2.1’, that is coming into effect in Northern Ireland on 1 June 2017. It also removes several training programmes listed under the definition of “approved training” in regulation 1(3) that have already ended and no longer exist.
- 4.4 The Child Tax Credit Regulations (S.I. 2002/2007) provide a cross reference to regulation 1(3) of the Child Benefit (General) Regulations 2006 for definition of “approved training”. So the changes made in this instrument to the definition of “approved training” in Northern Ireland will also apply in relation to Child Tax Credit for the purposes of determining entitlement to this benefit.

5. Extent and Territorial Application

- 5.1 The extent of this instrument is the United Kingdom.
- 5.2 The territorial application of this instrument is the United Kingdom.

6. European Convention on Human Rights

- 6.1 As the instrument is subject to negative resolution procedure and does not amend primary legislation, no statement is required.

7. Policy background

What is being done and why

- 7.1 The Department for Economy in Northern Ireland is introducing ‘PEACE IV Children and Young People 2.1’, a new “approved training” programme aimed at young people who are marginalised and disadvantaged, and want young people under age 20 undertaking this training programme to continue to be eligible for the payment of Child Benefit and Child Tax Credit while undertaking this training.
- 7.2 This new approved training, provided under the Employment and Training Act (Northern Ireland) 1950, is starting on 1 June 2017.
- 7.3 It replaces the following training programmes that have become obsolete and are no longer available: United Youth Pilot; Collaboration and Innovation Programme; Programme Led Apprenticeships; Pathways for Young People” element of “Pathways for Success.
- 7.4 This SI therefore amends the definition of “approved training” in regulation 1(3) of the Child Benefit (General) Regulations 2006 to include the new approved training - ‘PEACE IV Children and Young People 2.1, and to remove from the list, the obsolete training programmes listed in paragraph 7.3

Consolidation

- 7.5 There is no current plan to consolidate the Child Benefit (General) Regulations 2006.

8. Consultation outcome

- 8.1 There is no statutory requirement to consult on these amendment regulations and no public consultation has been undertaken. However, the Social Security Advisory Committee (SSAC) has considered these regulatory changes under its Memorandum of Understanding with HM Treasury and HM Revenue and Customs.

9. Guidance

- 9.1 These amendments will be reflected in the Child Benefit Technical Manual and the Tax Credits Technical Manual, both of these are accessible on GOV.UK.

10. Impact

- 10.1 There is no impact on business, charities or voluntary bodies.
- 10.2 There is no impact on the public sector.
- 10.3 An Impact Assessment has not been prepared for this instrument.

11. Regulating small business

11.1 The legislation does not apply to activities that are undertaken by small businesses.

12. Monitoring & review

12.1 These are technical changes and do not require further review.

13. Contact

13.1 May Cantell at HM Revenue & Customs, telephone: 03000 586596 or email: may.cantel@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk, can answer any queries regarding the instrument.