

2017 No. 900

SOCIAL SECURITY

**The Income-related Benefits (Subsidy to Authorities)
Amendment Order 2017**

<i>Made</i> - - - -	<i>6th September 2017</i>
<i>Laid before Parliament</i>	<i>12th September 2017</i>
<i>Coming into force</i> - -	<i>26th October 2017</i>

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions makes the following Order in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 140B(1), (3), (4) and (4A), 140C(1) and (3), 140F(2) and 189(4) to (7) of the Social Security Administration Act 1992(a).

In accordance with section 189(8) of that Act(b), the Secretary of State has obtained the consent of the Treasury.

In accordance with section 176(1) of that Act(c), the Secretary of State has consulted with organisations appearing to the Secretary of State to be representative of the authorities concerned.

Citation, commencement and interpretation

1.—(1) This Order may be cited as the Income-related Benefits (Subsidy to Authorities) Amendment Order 2017 and comes into force on 26th October 2017.

(2) Article 2(3) and Schedule 1 have effect for the purpose of determining subsidy payable for the relevant year beginning with 1st April 2016.

(3) Articles 2(2)(a) and (4) and 3 and Schedules 2, 3 and 4 have effect for the purpose of determining subsidy payable for the relevant year beginning with 1st April 2017.

(4) Articles 2(2)(b) and (5), 4 and 5 have effect from 1st April 2017.

(5) In this Order—

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- (a) 1992 c.5. Sections 140B, 140C and 140F were inserted by paragraph 4 of Schedule 12 to the Housing Act 1996 (c.52). Section 140B was amended by section 10 of, and paragraph 7 of Schedule 1 to, the Social Security Administration (Fraud) Act 1997 (c.47) (“the Fraud Act”). Section 189(1) and (4) was amended by paragraph 109 of Schedule 7 to the Social Security Act 1998 (c.14). Section 189(4) was amended by S.I. 2013/252. Section 189(7) was amended by paragraph 24 of Schedule 9 to the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (c.14) and paragraph 10 of Schedule 1 to the Fraud Act. Sections 140B, 140F and 189 were repealed, to the extent they relate to council tax benefit, by section 147 of, and paragraph 1 of Schedule 14 to, the Welfare Reform Act 2012 (c.5) with effect from 1st April 2013 and subject to savings and transitional provisions in articles 9 and 10 of S.I. 2013/358.
- (b) Section 189(8) was amended by paragraph 3(5) of Schedule 13 to the Housing Act 1996, paragraph 10 of Schedule 4 to the Social Security (Recovery of Benefits) Act 1997 (c.27), paragraph 3 of Schedule 4 to the Tax Credits Act 2002 (c.21), paragraph 29 of Schedule 1 to the Pensions Act 2007 (c.22) and paragraph 57(3) of Schedule 3 to the Transfer of Functions Act.
- (c) Section 176(1)(b) was amended by paragraph 3(4) of Schedule 13 to the Housing Act 1996 and was repealed, to the extent it relates to council tax benefit, by section 147 of, and paragraph 1 of Schedule 14 to, the Welfare Reform Act 2012 with effect from 1st April 2013 and subject to savings and transitional provisions in articles 9 and 10 of S.I. 2013/358.

“the 1998 Order” means the Income-related Benefits (Subsidy to Authorities) Order 1998(a);
“relevant year” means the period of a year beginning on 1st April in any calendar year in respect of which a claim for subsidy is made.

The amount of an authority’s subsidy

2.—(1) The 1998 Order is amended as follows.

(2) In article 12(1) (amount of subsidy)(b)—

(a) after sub-paragraph (b), insert—

“(ba) for an authority which is a participating authority for the purposes of Schedule 1ZA (additional amount of subsidy: right benefit initiative), the additional amount specified by that Schedule; and”.

(b) omit sub-paragraph (c).

(3) For Schedule 1 (sums to be used in the calculation of subsidy)(c) substitute the Schedule 1 set out in Schedule 1 to this Order.

(4) After the substituted Schedule 1 insert the Schedule 1ZA set out in Schedule 2 to this Order.

(5) Omit Schedule 1A (additional amount of subsidy: activities to reduce fraud and error)(d).

Rent rebate deductions from an authority’s subsidy

3.—(1) Schedule 4A to the 1998 Order (rent rebate limitation deductions (Housing Revenue Account Dwellings))(e) is amended as follows.

(2) In Part 2 (England), in paragraph 3 (amount of deduction), for sub-paragraph (3)(f) substitute—

“(3) The rebate proportion for 2017-18 is 0.739.”.

(3) For Part 3 (weekly rent limits for purposes of Part 2: authorities in England)(g), substitute the Part 3 set out in Schedule 3 to this Order.

(4) For Part 5 (amounts for purposes of Part 4, paragraph 4: authorities in Wales)(h), substitute the Part 5 set out in Schedule 4 to this Order.

Amendment relating to requirement of audit

4. In article 6(1) of the 1998 Order (requirement of audit), before sub-paragraph (ia)(i) insert—

“(iza) shall, in the case of an authority in England, inform the Secretary of State in writing of the identity of the authority’s auditor by 1st March in the year before the relevant year;”.

Amendments relating to the removal of the temporary accommodation management fee

5.—(1) In article 17A of the 1998 Order (subsidy in respect of self-contained licensed accommodation, and leased accommodation, provided by an authority as temporary or short term accommodation)(j), for paragraph (3) substitute—

(a) S.I. 1998/562.

(b) Article 12(1) was substituted by S.I. 2015/1784.

(c) Schedule 1 was substituted by S.I. 2016/986.

(d) Schedule 1A was inserted by S.I. 2015/1784 and substituted by S.I. 2016/986.

(e) Schedule 4A was inserted by S.I. 2004/646.

(f) In Part 2 of Schedule 4A, paragraph 3(3) was substituted by S.I. 2016/986.

(g) Part 3 of Schedule 4A was substituted by S.I. 2016/986.

(h) Part 5 of Schedule 4A was substituted by S.I. 2016/986.

(i) Article 6(1)(ia) was inserted by S.I. 2004/646.

(j) Article 17A was inserted by S.I. 2009/2580. Relevant amendments were made by S.I. 2010/2509 and 2011/2957.

“(3) The maximum amount referred to in paragraph (2) is 90% of the local housing allowance for January 2011 for the category specified in paragraphs 1(1)(b) to (f) of Schedule 3B to the Rent Officers Order (as in force on 1st January 2011) which applies to the accommodation and is applicable to the broad rental market area in which the accommodation is situated.”.

(2) In article 17C of the 1998 Order (subsidy in respect of self-contained accommodation, or owned or leased accommodation, made available by a registered housing association as temporary or short-term accommodation) (a), for paragraph (3) substitute—

“(3) The maximum amount referred to in paragraph (2) is 90% of the local housing allowance for January 2011 for the category specified in paragraphs 1(1)(b) to (f) of Schedule 3B to the Rent Officers Order (as in force on 1st January 2011) which applies to the accommodation and is applicable to the broad rental market area in which the accommodation is situated.”.

Signed by authority of the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions

Caroline Dinanage
Minister of State

3.00 p.m. on 6th September 2017

Department for Work and Pensions

We consent.

Guto Bebb
Heather Wheeler

4.30 p.m. on 6th September 2017

Two of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty’s Treasury

SCHEDULE 1

Article 2(3)

Schedule to be substituted for Schedule 1 to the 1998 Order

“SCHEDULE 1

Article 12(1)(b)

Sums to be used in the calculation of subsidy

Relevant Year 2016-2017

<i>Local authority</i>	<i>Administration subsidy (£)</i>
England	
Adur	239,361
Allerdale	388,617
Amber Valley	436,268
Arun	594,152
Ashfield	568,445
Ashford	456,560
Aylesbury Vale	554,905
Babergh	270,772
Barking and Dagenham	1,487,728

(a) Article 17C was inserted by S.I. 2010/2509. Relevant amendments were made by S.I. 2011/2957.

Barnet	1,983,571
Barnsley	1,200,666
Barrow in Furness	314,070
Basildon	860,228
Basingstoke and Deane	570,840
Bassetlaw	452,184
Bath and North East Somerset	657,627
Bedford	697,134
Bexley	921,470
Birmingham	6,967,023
Blaby	234,242
Blackburn with Darwen	728,947
Blackpool	1,132,344
Bolsover	336,288
Bolton	1,437,004
Boston	317,754
Bournemouth	1,011,463
Bracknell Forest	407,212
Bradford	2,508,702
Braintree	533,398
Breckland	466,381
Brent	2,570,544
Brentwood	211,522
Brighton and Hove	1,598,023
Bristol	2,331,174
Broadland	303,472
Bromley	1,166,348
Bromsgrove	227,442
Broxbourne	401,944
Broxtowe	355,545
Burnley	518,704
Bury	800,499
Calderdale	971,253
Cambridge	458,426
Camden	1,889,807
Cannock Chase	405,344
Canterbury	547,372
Carlisle	419,173
Castle Point	317,074
Central Bedfordshire	770,267
Charnwood	452,903
Chelmsford	517,186
Cheltenham	420,437
Cherwell	478,755
Cheshire East	1,110,396
Cheshire West and Chester	1,186,465
Chesterfield	536,945
Chichester	428,924
Chiltern	262,400
Chorley	348,649
Christchurch	174,890
City of London	115,379
Colchester	665,298

Copeland	296,444
Corby	371,894
Cornwall	2,358,177
Cotswold	266,221
Coventry	1,852,761
Craven	150,798
Crawley	591,482
Croydon	2,857,228
Dacorum	595,269
Darlington	560,601
Dartford	357,119
Daventry	220,237
Derby	1,194,714
Derbyshire Dales	190,626
Doncaster	1,491,236
Dover	524,625
Dudley	1,363,579
Durham	2,773,983
Ealing	2,349,180
East Cambridgeshire	257,413
East Devon	415,612
East Dorset	229,725
East Hampshire	310,948
East Hertfordshire	411,362
East Lindsey	640,428
East Northamptonshire	263,138
East Riding of Yorkshire	1,077,319
East Staffordshire	399,793
Eastbourne	575,919
Eastleigh	361,984
Eden	151,583
Elmbridge	375,486
Enfield	2,190,716
Epping Forest	449,809
Epsom and Ewell	217,599
Erewash	459,482
Exeter	523,324
Fareham	261,623
Fenland	425,415
Forest Heath	225,549
Forest of Dean	310,180
Fylde	269,558
Gateshead	1,213,703
Gedling	405,509
Gloucester	585,074
Gosport	404,626
Gravesham	457,288
Great Yarmouth	645,301
Greenwich	1,986,246
Guildford	416,193
Hackney	2,911,058
Halton	740,355
Hambleton	256,327

Hammersmith and Fulham	1,574,353
Harborough	171,182
Haringey	2,201,015
Harlow	538,766
Harrogate	424,664
Harrow	1,146,635
Hart	179,695
Hartlepool	691,229
Hastings	642,567
Havant	448,017
Havering	947,838
Herefordshire	653,012
Hertsmere	429,087
High Peak	341,955
Hillingdon	1,387,006
Hinckley and Bosworth	277,818
Horsham	335,787
Hounslow	1,745,677
Huntingdonshire	516,717
Hyndburn	437,706
Ipswich	718,461
Isle of Wight	670,562
Isles of Scilly	2,337
Islington	2,133,342
Kensington and Chelsea	1,328,602
Kettering	362,173
King's Lynn and West Norfolk	558,631
Kingston upon Hull	1,889,654
Kingston upon Thames	616,677
Kirklees	1,806,991
Knowsley	1,066,461
Lambeth	2,757,394
Lancaster	558,474
Leeds	4,294,079
Leicester	1,965,729
Lewes	388,017
Lewisham	2,763,366
Lichfield	271,527
Lincoln	540,282
Liverpool	3,504,956
Luton	1,181,434
Maidstone	544,898
Maldon	184,029
Malvern Hills	243,139
Manchester	3,793,429
Mansfield	532,350
Medway	1,209,030
Melton	154,934
Mendip	397,774
Merton	899,375
Mid Devon	272,459
Mid Suffolk	245,962
Mid Sussex	332,703

Middlesbrough	1,122,064
Milton Keynes	1,241,963
Mole Valley	237,577
New Forest	502,464
Newark and Sherwood	407,555
Newcastle under Lyme	448,046
Newcastle upon Tyne	1,787,851
Newham	2,382,073
North Devon	402,184
North Dorset	213,865
North East Derbyshire	359,714
North East Lincolnshire	894,989
North Hertfordshire	469,654
North Kesteven	309,099
North Lincolnshire	701,060
North Norfolk	386,702
North Somerset	815,151
North Tyneside	1,125,820
North Warwickshire	207,413
North West Leicestershire	305,353
Northampton	1,005,968
Northumberland	1,371,480
Norwich	979,686
Nottingham	2,092,335
Nuneaton and Bedworth	535,310
Oadby and Wigston	139,504
Oldham	1,275,259
Oxford	672,867
Pendle	437,721
Peterborough	1,027,312
Plymouth	1,413,589
Poole	559,843
Portsmouth	1,296,083
Preston	675,675
Purbeck	163,000
Reading	941,363
Redbridge	1,170,598
Redcar and Cleveland	817,915
Redditch	360,526
Reigate and Banstead	440,927
Ribble Valley	139,744
Richmond upon Thames	140,525
Richmondshire	651,675
Rochdale	1,178,780
Rochford	215,893
Rossendale	287,704
Rother	344,409
Rotherham	1,313,811
Rugby	384,474
Runnymede	261,632
Rushcliffe	248,294
Rushmoor	409,789
Rutland	104,340

Ryedale	191,803
Salford	1,642,643
Sandwell	1,888,987
Scarborough	554,874
Sedgemoor	563,555
Sefton	1,332,950
Selby	243,819
Sevenoaks	359,500
Sheffield	2,788,177
Shepway	546,844
Shropshire	982,519
Slough	836,685
Solihull	731,363
South Bucks	179,332
South Cambridgeshire	349,687
South Derbyshire	256,779
South Gloucestershire	827,404
South Hams	280,564
South Holland	295,303
South Kesteven	450,302
South Lakeland	279,085
South Norfolk	368,657
South Northamptonshire	174,168
South Oxfordshire	336,217
South Ribble	316,288
South Somerset	586,063
South Staffordshire	299,298
South Tyneside	1,088,147
Southampton	1,414,345
Southend on Sea	1,004,099
Southwark	2,758,245
Spelthorne	329,957
St Albans	397,053
St Edmundsbury	377,332
St Helens	1,022,238
Stafford	375,936
Staffordshire Moorlands	264,964
Stevenage	465,247
Stockport	1,079,989
Stockton on Tees	1,010,110
Stoke on Trent	1,456,598
Stratford on Avon	373,496
Stroud	351,255
Suffolk Coastal	365,182
Sunderland	1,752,448
Surrey Heath	217,064
Sutton	993,329
Swale	629,396
Swindon	855,297
Tameside	1,239,209
Tamworth	304,562
Tandridge	255,514
Taunton Deane	459,996

Teignbridge	491,611
Telford and Wrekin	920,868
Tendring	745,283
Test Valley	358,141
Tewkesbury	265,222
Thanet	884,535
Three Rivers	293,520
Thurrock	773,144
Tonbridge and Malling	399,819
Torbay	851,069
Torridge	260,011
Tower Hamlets	2,742,695
Trafford	840,911
Tunbridge Wells	384,553
Uttlesford	209,704
Vale of White Horse	325,436
Wakefield	1,688,987
Walsall	1,568,366
Waltham Forest	1,629,008
Wandsworth	1,879,672
Warrington	753,186
Warwick	407,519
Watford	476,934
Waveney	573,438
Waverley	350,416
Wealden	375,204
Wellingborough	337,150
Welwyn Hatfield	491,392
West Berkshire	476,317
West Devon	195,677
West Dorset	347,000
West Lancashire	406,156
West Lindsey	360,095
West Oxfordshire	299,591
West Somerset	180,912
Westminster	1,804,699
Weymouth and Portland	361,269
Wigan	1,471,328
Wiltshire	1,488,627
Winchester	339,645
Windsor and Maidenhead	406,741
Wirral	1,725,916
Woking	307,992
Wokingham	279,147
Wolverhampton	1,611,622
Worcester	416,977
Worthing	431,290
Wychavon	368,291
Wycombe	536,149
Wyre	446,079
Wyre Forest	447,563
York	598,756

Wales

Blaenau Gwent	460,983
Bridgend	696,958
Caerphilly	868,954
Cardiff	1,824,139
Carmarthenshire	745,106
Ceredigion	270,528
Conwy	509,391
Denbighshire	482,915
Flintshire	565,130
Gwynedd	486,341
Isle of Anglesey	300,713
Merthyr Tydfil	355,472
Monmouthshire	305,814
Neath Port Talbot	774,659
Newport	843,100
Pembrokeshire	513,001
Powys	467,640
Rhondda Cynon Taf	1,204,137
Swansea	1,209,499
Torfaen	517,772
Vale of Glamorgan	504,769
Wrexham	637,981

Scotland

Aberdeen	844,323
Aberdeenshire	739,441
Angus	487,793
Argyll and Bute	416,487
Clackmannanshire	311,443
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	145,696
Dumfries and Galloway	778,669
Dundee	1,100,795
East Ayrshire	733,063
East Dunbartonshire	328,887
East Lothian	528,446
East Renfrewshire	237,514
Edinburgh	2,326,444
Falkirk	755,921
Fife	1,770,126
Glasgow	5,119,458
Highland	1,000,060
Inverclyde	582,297
Midlothian	420,756
Moray	343,032
North Ayrshire	931,281
North Lanarkshire	1,890,470
Orkney	97,067
Perth and Kinross	580,505
Renfrewshire	1,000,087
Scottish Borders	551,960

Shetland	86,142
South Ayrshire	608,306
South Lanarkshire	1,498,740
Stirling	329,244
West Dunbartonshire	697,543
West Lothian	877,747.”

SCHEDULE 2

Article 2(4)

New Schedule 1ZA to the 1998 Order

“SCHEDULE 1ZA

Article 12(1)(ba)

Additional amount of subsidy: Right Benefit Initiative

Interpretation

1. In this Schedule—

“participating authority” means an authority which notified the Secretary of State on or before 21st April 2017 that it is participating in the Right Benefit Initiative in the administration of housing benefit described in the Housing Benefit Circular HB A7/2017(a) (“the Right Benefit Initiative”);

“relevant activities” means activities carried out by a participating authority under the Right Benefit Initiative in order to reduce fraud and error in payments of housing benefit.

Additional amount: relevant year beginning with 1st April 2017

2. The additional amount of subsidy for a participating authority for the relevant year beginning with 1st April 2017 is the amount specified for that authority in the Housing Benefit Circular HB S6/2017 published by the Department for Work and Pensions on 30th March 2017(b).

Use and recovery of amount paid under paragraph 2

3.—(1) A participating authority must use the additional amount received under paragraph 2 in connection with relevant activities.

(2) The Secretary of State may recover some or all of the additional amount paid to a participating authority under paragraph 2 where satisfied that that authority has not used that amount in connection with relevant activities.”

(a) https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/605055/a7-2017.pdf.
(b) https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/605097/s6-2017.pdf.

SCHEDULE 3

Article 3(3)

Substitution of Part 3 of Schedule 4A to the 1998 Order

“PART 3

WEEKLY RENT LIMITS FOR PURPOSES OF PART 2: AUTHORITIES IN ENGLAND

Relevant Year 2017-2018

<i>Authority</i>	<i>Weekly rent limit (£)</i>
Adur	94.57
Arun	91.39
Ashfield	68.78
Ashford	89.54
Babergh	90.00
Barking and Dagenham	98.74
Barnet	108.99
Barnsley	75.32
Barrow in Furness	75.65
Basildon	88.48
Bassetlaw	73.03
Birmingham	83.47
Blackpool	71.79
Bolsover	82.49
Bournemouth	84.06
Brent	117.02
Brentwood	95.31
Brighton and Hove	85.00
Bristol	81.73
Broxtowe	75.02
Bury	77.26
Cambridge	103.75
Camden	122.33
Cannock Chase	76.21
Canterbury	89.02
Castle Point	89.11
Central Bedfordshire	102.73
Charnwood	74.97
Cheltenham	80.98
Cheshire West and Chester	83.10
Chesterfield	80.30
City of London	107.14
City of York	79.95
Colchester	88.24
Corby	79.46
Cornwall	71.60
Crawley	104.01
Croydon	106.91
Dacorum	109.31
Darlington	71.41
Dartford	90.72
Derby	79.36

Doncaster	73.82
Dover	84.93
Dudley	83.42
Ealing	102.38
East Devon	82.35
East Riding of Yorkshire	79.92
Eastbourne	80.19
Enfield	102.07
Epping Forest	100.18
Exeter	75.86
Fareham	91.74
Gateshead	77.05
Gosport	84.48
Gravesham	90.35
Great Yarmouth	75.49
Greenwich	104.07
Guildford	111.58
Hackney	101.74
Hammersmith and Fulham	116.96
Haringey	107.17
Harlow	92.92
Harrogate	81.31
Harrow	114.72
Hartlepool	101.64
Havering	97.30
High Peak	73.79
Hillingdon	110.12
Hinckley and Bosworth	79.19
Hounslow	103.52
Ipswich	82.91
Islington	121.51
Kensington and Chelsea	129.15
Kettering	82.14
Kingston upon Hull	75.77
Kingston upon Thames	113.11
Kirklees	70.39
Lambeth	109.89
Lancaster	77.93
Leeds	74.66
Leicester	72.52
Lewes	90.24
Lewisham	97.23
Lincoln	69.37
Luton	87.41
Manchester	74.29
Mansfield	73.78
Medway Towns	82.70
Melton	77.88
Mid Devon	79.31
Mid Suffolk	83.14
Milton Keynes	86.52
New Forest	100.20
Newark and Sherwood	78.78

Newcastle upon Tyne	75.82
Newham	98.07
North East Derbyshire	82.07
North Kesteven	77.37
North Tyneside	77.32
North Warwickshire	88.68
North West Leicestershire	79.73
Northampton	83.94
Northumberland	68.96
Norwich	80.04
Nottingham	75.67
Nuneaton and Bedworth	78.89
Oadby and Wigston	80.01
Oldham	76.32
Oxford City	109.99
Poole	85.94
Portsmouth	85.81
Reading	105.76
Redbridge	103.67
Redditch	78.80
Richmondshire	78.39
Rotherham	76.56
Rugby	87.49
Runnymede	111.32
Salford	77.13
Sandwell	82.13
Sedgemoor	78.41
Selby	79.04
Sheffield	72.54
Shepway	84.92
Shropshire	82.31
Slough	107.22
Solihull	83.02
South Cambridgeshire	108.00
South Derbyshire	80.64
South Holland	76.40
South Kesteven	79.50
South Tyneside	75.98
Southampton	85.66
Southend-on-Sea	87.15
Southwark	108.95
St Albans	114.77
Stevenage	98.81
Stockport	75.39
Stoke-on-Trent	71.11
Stroud	83.25
Sutton	108.03
Swindon	83.66
Tamworth	81.10
Tandridge	99.11
Taunton Deane	83.09
Tendring	84.70
Thanet	81.68

Thurrock	86.76
Tower Hamlets	111.77
Uttlesford	99.15
Waltham Forest	102.92
Wandsworth	126.00
Warwick	94.70
Waveney	80.82
Waverley	115.62
Wealden	85.11
Welwyn Hatfield	109.01
West Lancashire	76.90
Westminster	126.13
Wigan	77.71
Wiltshire	88.96
Winchester	102.19
Woking	105.23
Wokingham	116.34
Wolverhampton	80.53.”

SCHEDULE 4

Article 3(4)

Substitution of Part 5 of Schedule 4A to the 1998 Order

“PART 5

AMOUNTS FOR PURPOSES OF PART 4, PARAGRAPH 4: AUTHORITIES IN WALES

Relevant Year 2017-2018

<i>Local authority</i>	<i>(1) Specified amount “O”(£)</i>	<i>(2) Guideline rent increase “P” (£)</i>
Caerphilly	82.00	4.00
Cardiff	92.41	4.28
Carmarthenshire	81.59	3.97
Denbighshire	79.33	3.95
Flintshire	82.46	4.04
Isle of Anglesey	78.18	4.20
Pembrokeshire	83.06	3.77
Powys	83.45	3.97
Swansea	80.32	4.00
Vale of Glamorgan	89.40	4.20
Wrexham	81.62	4.00.”

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Order)

This Order amends the Income-related Benefits (Subsidy to Authorities) Order 1998 (S.I. 1998/562) (“the 1998 Order”) which provides for the calculation and payment of housing benefit subsidy to local authorities in England, Wales and Scotland which administer housing benefit. Section 140F(2) of the Social Security Administration Act 1992 (c.5) authorises the making, revocation or varying of an Order before, during or after the year to which it relates.

Article 2(3) substitutes Schedule 1 to the 1998 Order with a new Schedule 1 prescribing the sums to be used in the calculation of subsidy for the year beginning 1st April 2016.

Article 2(2)(a) and (4) and Schedule 2 have effect for the purposes of determining additional amounts of subsidy payable for the year beginning with 1st April 2017. In particular, it prescribes a system for the making of additional payments of subsidy to be made to local authorities which participate in the Right Benefit Initiative Scheme (“the RBI Scheme”), as notified by the Secretary of State to local authorities on 30th March 2017.

In the RBI scheme, participating authorities are given funding to carry out activities with a view to reducing fraud and error in relation to the payment of housing benefit based on its use of real time information. Some or all of the funding may be recovered if the Secretary of State is satisfied that the funding is not being used in connection with those activities. The amendments at article 2(2)(b) and (5) revoke provisions relating to the previous incentive scheme.

Hard copies of the circulars referenced in new Schedule 1ZA to the 1998 Order which set out details of the RBI Scheme and the amounts of the payment, are available from the Department for Work and Pensions, Caxton House, Tothill Street, London SW1H 9NA.

Article 3 has effect for the purposes of determining subsidy payable for the year beginning with 1st April 2017. Paragraph (2) amends paragraph 3 of Schedule 4A to provide that the rebate proportion figure for 2017/2018 is 0.739. Paragraph (3) substitutes Part 3 of Schedule 4A to the 1998 Order in respect of weekly rent limits for authorities in England. With respect to authorities in Wales, paragraph (4) substitutes Part 5 of Schedule 4A to the 1998 Order which sets out the specified amount “O” and the guideline rent increase “P” used when calculating deductions from subsidy under paragraph 4 in Part 4 of that Schedule.

The amendment in article 4 requires local authorities in England to inform the Secretary of State of the identity of their auditor before 1st March in the year before the year for which subsidy is payable.

The amendments in article 5 relate to the fact that the Secretary of State no longer subsidises the temporary accommodation management fee through the subsidy.

An impact assessment has not been produced for this instrument as it has no impact on the private sector or civil society organisations.

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