
STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

2001 No. 299

ROAD TRAFFIC

**The Road Traffic (Health Services Charges)
(Appeals) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2001**

Made - - - - 13th August 2001

Coming into operation 10th September 2001

The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety in exercise of the powers conferred upon it by sections 29(4), 30(5), 31 and 57(1) and (3) of the Health and Personal Social Services Act (Northern Ireland) 2001(1), and of all other powers enabling it in that behalf, hereby makes the following Regulations:

Part I

General

Citation, commencement, interpretation and extent

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Road Traffic (Health Services Charges) (Appeals) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2001 and shall come into operation on 10th September 2001.

(2) In these Regulations—

“the Act” means the Health and Personal Social Services Act (Northern Ireland) 2001 and any reference to a numbered section is to the section so numbered in the Act;

“the 1998 Order” means the Social Security (Northern Ireland) Order 1998;

“appeal” means, except in regulation 17, an appeal against a certificate under section 29;

“chairman” means a panel member nominated to be chairman of an appeal tribunal in accordance with Article 8(3) of the 1998 Order;

“clerk to the appeal tribunal” means a clerk assigned to the appeal tribunal in accordance with regulation 37 of the Decisions and Appeals Regulations;

“compensator” means a person making a compensation payment within the meaning of section 23(3);

“the Decisions and Appeals Regulations” means the Social Security and Child Support (Decisions and Appeals) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1999(2);

“Department” means the Department for Social Development;

“legally qualified panel member” means a panel member who satisfies the requirements of paragraph 1 of Schedule 2 to the Decisions and Appeals Regulations;

“panel” means the panel constituted under Article 7 of the 1998 Order in accordance with regulation 35 of and Schedule 2 to the Decisions and Appeals Regulations;

“panel member” means a person appointed to the panel;

“party to the proceedings” means the Department and any person entitled under section 29 to make an appeal;

“President” means the President of appeal tribunals appointed under Article 6 of the 1998 Order.

Service of notices and documents

2. Where, by any provision of these Regulations—
 - (a) any notice or other document is required to be given or sent to the clerk to the appeal tribunal or to an officer authorised by the Department, that notice or document shall be treated as having been so given or sent on the day that it is received by the clerk to the appeal tribunal or, as the case may be, by an officer authorised by the Department; and
 - (b) any notice (including notification of a decision of the Department) or other document is required to be given or sent to any person other than the clerk to the appeal tribunal or, as the case may be, to an officer authorised by the Department, that notice or document shall, if sent by ordinary post to that person’s last known address, be treated as having been so given or sent on the day that it is posted.

Part II

Treatment of Appeal as Application for Review

Application

3. The Department may treat any appeal under section 29 as an application for review under section 28.

Part III

Rights of appeal and procedure for Bringing Appeals

Notice of right of appeal

4. A person with a right of appeal under section 29 shall be given written notice of his right of appeal against the certificate.

Time within which an appeal is to be brought

- 5.—(1) Any appeal against a certificate shall be brought—

- (a) not later than one month after the date on which the compensator discharged the liability under section 23;
 - (b) where the certificate is reviewed by the Department in accordance with section 28, not later than one month after the date on which the certificate is confirmed or, as the case may be, a fresh certificate is issued; or
 - (c) where an agreement is made under which an earlier compensation payment is treated as having been made in final discharge of a claim made by, or in respect of, a traffic casualty and arising out of the injury or death, not later than one month after the date of that agreement.
- (2) Where a dispute arises as to whether an appeal was brought within the time limit specified in this regulation, the dispute shall be referred to, and be determined by a legally qualified panel member.
- (3) The time limit specified in this regulation for bringing an appeal may be extended in accordance with regulation 6.

Late appeals

6.—(1) The time within which an appeal must be brought may be extended where the conditions specified in paragraphs (2) to (7) are satisfied, but no appeal shall in any event be brought more than one year after the expiration of the last day for appealing under regulation 5.

(2) An application for an extension of time under this regulation shall be made in accordance with regulation 7 and shall be determined by a legally qualified panel member.

(3) An application under this regulation shall contain particulars of the grounds on which the extension of time is sought.

(4) An application for an extension of time shall not be granted unless the legally qualified panel member is satisfied that—

- (a) if the application is granted there are reasonable prospects that the appeal will be successful; and
- (b) it is in the interests of justice for the application to be granted.

(5) For the purposes of paragraph (4), it is not in the interests of justice to grant an application unless the legally qualified panel member is satisfied that special circumstances exist which are wholly exceptional and relevant to the application and as a result of those special circumstances it was not practicable for the application to be made within the time limit specified in regulation 5.

(6) In determining whether it is in the interests of justice to grant an application, the legally qualified panel member shall have regard to the principle that the greater the amount of time that has elapsed between the expiry of the time within which the appeal is to be brought under regulation 5 and the making of the application for an extension of time, the more compelling should be the special circumstances on which the application is based.

(7) In determining whether it is in the interests of justice to grant an application, no account shall be taken of the following—

- (a) that the applicant or any person acting for him was unaware of, or misunderstood, the law applicable to his case (including ignorance or misunderstanding of the time limits imposed by these Regulations); or
- (b) that a court has taken a different view of the law from that previously understood and applied.

(8) An application under this regulation for an extension of time which has been refused may not be renewed.

(9) The legally qualified panel member who determines an application under this regulation shall record a summary of his decision in such written form as has been approved by the President.

(10) As soon as practicable after the decision is made a copy of the decision shall be sent or given to every party to the proceedings.

Making of appeals and applications

7.—(1) An appeal, or an application for an extension of time for making an appeal to an appeal tribunal, shall be in writing either on a form approved for the purpose by the Department or in such other format as it accepts as sufficient for the purpose and shall—

- (a) be signed by—
 - (i) the person who, under section 29, has a right of appeal; or
 - (ii) where the person mentioned in head (i) has provided written authority to a representative to act on his behalf, that representative;
- (b) be sent or delivered to the Department;
- (c) contain the following particulars—
 - (i) the date of the certificate against which the appeal is made;
 - (ii) the ground under section 29 to which the appeal relates; and
 - (iii) a summary of the reasons relied on by the person making the appeal to support his contention that the certificate is wrong.

(2) A form which is not completed in accordance with the instruction on it—

- (a) except where paragraph (3) applies, does not satisfy the requirements of paragraph (1); and
- (b) may be returned by the Department to the sender for completion in accordance with those instructions.

(3) Where the Department is satisfied that the form, although not completed in accordance with the instructions on it, includes sufficient information to enable the appeal or application to proceed, it may treat the form as satisfying the requirements of paragraph (1).

(4) Where an appeal or application is made in writing otherwise than on the approved form (“the letter”), and the letter includes sufficient information to enable the appeal or application to proceed, the Department may treat the letter as satisfying the requirements of paragraph (1).

(5) Where the letter does not include sufficient information to enable the appeal or application to proceed, the Department may request further information in writing (“further particulars”) from the person who wrote the letter.

(6) Where a form is returned under paragraph 2(b) or where further particulars are requested under paragraph (5) and such form and particulars are completed and returned to the Department within 14 days, or within such other period as the Department directed, the time for making the appeal shall be extended by 14 days or by such other period as the Department may direct.

(7) Where a person to whom a form is returned or from whom further particulars are requested does not complete and return the form or send further particulars within the period of time specified in paragraph (6)—

- (a) the Department shall forward a copy of the form or, as the case may be, the letter, together with any other relevant documents or evidence to a legally qualified panel member; and
- (b) the legally qualified panel member shall determine whether the form or the letter satisfies the requirements of paragraph (1), and shall inform the appellant or applicant and the Department of his determination.

(8) Where—

- (a) a form is duly completed and returned or further particulars are sent after the expiry of the period of time allowed in accordance with paragraph (6); and
- (b) no decision has been made under paragraph (7) at the time the form or the further particulars are received by the Department;

that form or those further particulars shall also be forwarded to the legally qualified panel member who shall determine whether the form or the letter satisfies the requirements of paragraph (1), and shall inform the appellant or applicant and the Department of his determination.

(9) The date of an appeal shall be the date on which all the particulars required under paragraph (1) are received by the Department.

(10) The particulars referred to in paragraph (9) shall be forwarded to the clerk to the appeal tribunal.

Part IV

Procedure in Connection with Determination of Appeals

Consideration and determination of appeals

8.—(1) A legally qualified panel member may give directions requiring a party to the proceedings to comply with any provision of these Regulations and may at any stage of the proceedings, either of his own motion or on a written application made to the clerk to the appeal tribunal by any party to the proceedings, give such directions as he may consider necessary or desirable for the just, effective and efficient conduct of the proceedings and may direct any party to the proceedings to provide such particulars or to produce such documents as may be reasonably required.

(2) Where a clerk to the appeal tribunal is authorised to take steps in relation to the procedure of the tribunal he may give directions requiring any party to the proceedings to comply with any provision of these Regulations.

Directions concerning oral hearings

9.—(1) Where an appeal is made to an appeal tribunal, the clerk to the appeal tribunal shall direct every party to the proceedings to notify the clerk to the appeal tribunal in writing whether he wishes to have an oral hearing of the appeal or whether he is content for the appeal to proceed without an oral hearing.

(2) A notification given in accordance with paragraph (1) shall be sent to the clerk to the appeal tribunal within 14 days of the date of issue of the direction under that paragraph or within such longer period as the clerk to the appeal tribunal may direct.

(3) Where a party to the proceedings notifies the clerk to the appeal tribunal in accordance with paragraph (2) that he wishes to have an oral hearing of the appeal, the appeal tribunal shall hold an oral hearing.

(4) The chairman or, in the case of an appeal tribunal which has only one member, that member, may of his own motion direct that an oral hearing of the appeal be held if he is satisfied that such a hearing is necessary to enable the appeal tribunal to reach a decision.

Withdrawal of appeal

10.—(1) An appeal may be withdrawn by the appellant or his representative either—

- (a) at an oral hearing; or

(b) at any other time before the appeal is determined, by giving notice in writing of the withdrawal to the clerk to the appeal tribunal.

(2) If an appeal is withdrawn in accordance with paragraph (1)(a), the clerk to the appeal tribunal shall send notice in writing to any party to the proceedings who is not present when the appeal is withdrawn, informing him that the appeal has been withdrawn.

(3) If an appeal is withdrawn in accordance with paragraph (1)(b), the clerk to the appeal tribunal shall send notice in writing to every party to the proceedings informing them that the appeal has been withdrawn.

Non-disclosure of medical advice or evidence

11.—(1) Where, in connection with an appeal there is medical advice or medical evidence relating to a person which has not been disclosed to him and in the opinion of a legally qualified panel member the disclosure to that person of that advice or evidence would be harmful to his health, such advice or evidence shall not be required to be disclosed to that person.

(2) Advice or evidence such as is mentioned in paragraph (1) shall not be disclosed to any person acting for or representing the person to whom it relates unless a legally qualified panel member is satisfied that it is in the interests of the person to whom the advice or evidence relates to do so.

(3) A tribunal shall not be precluded from taking into account for the purposes of the determination advice or evidence which has not been disclosed to a person under the provisions of paragraph (1) or (2).

Part V

Oral Hearings

Procedure at oral hearings

12.—(1) Except where paragraph (2) applies, not less than 14 days notice (beginning with the day on which notice is given and ending on the day before the hearing of the appeal is to take place) of the time and place of any oral hearing of an appeal shall be given to every party to the proceedings, and if such notice has not been given to a person to whom it should have been given under the provisions of this paragraph the hearing may proceed only with the consent of that person.

(2) Any party to the proceedings may waive his right to receive not less than 14 days notice of the time and place of any oral hearing by giving notice to the clerk to the appeal tribunal.

(3) If a party to the proceedings to whom notice has been given under paragraph (1) fails to appear at the hearing, the chairman or, in the case of an appeal tribunal which has only one member, that member, may, having regard to all the circumstances including any explanation offered for the absence, proceed with the hearing notwithstanding his absence, or give such directions with a view to the determination of the appeal as he may think proper.

(4) If a party to the proceedings has waived his right to be given notice under paragraph (2), the chairman, or in the case of an appeal tribunal which has only one member, that member, may proceed with the hearing notwithstanding his absence.

(5) Any oral hearing shall be in public except—

(a) where the appellant requests a private hearing; or

(b) where the chairman or, in the case of an appeal tribunal which has only one member, that member, is satisfied that intimate personal or financial circumstances may have to be disclosed or that considerations of national security are involved, in which case the hearing shall be in private.

(6) Any party to the proceedings shall be entitled to be present and be heard at an oral hearing.

(7) A person who has the right to be heard at a hearing may be accompanied and may be represented by another person whether having professional qualifications or not and, for the purposes of the proceedings at the hearing, any such representative shall have all the rights and powers to which the person whom he represents is entitled.

(8) The following persons shall also be entitled to be present at an oral hearing (whether or not it is otherwise in private) but shall take no part in the proceedings—

- (a) the President;
- (b) any person undergoing training as a panel member or as a clerk to an appeal tribunal;
- (c) any person acting on behalf of the President in the training or supervision of panel members or in the monitoring of standards of decision making by panel members; and
- (d) with the leave of the chairman or, in the case of an appeal tribunal which has only one member, that member, and the consent of every party to the proceedings actually present, any other person.

(9) Nothing in paragraph (8) affects the rights of any person mentioned in sub-paragraphs (a) and (b) of that paragraph at any oral hearing where he is sitting as a member of the tribunal or acting as its clerk, and nothing in this regulation prevents the presence at an oral hearing of any witness or of any person whom the chairman or, in the case of an appeal tribunal which has only one member, that member, permits to be present in order to assist the clerk.

(10) Any person entitled to be heard at an oral hearing may address the tribunal, may give evidence, may call witnesses and may put questions directly to any other person called as a witness.

(11) For the purpose of arriving at its decision an appeal tribunal shall, and for the purpose of discussing any question of procedure may, notwithstanding anything contained in these Regulations, order all persons not being members of the tribunal, other than the person acting as clerk to the appeal tribunal, to withdraw from the hearing except that—

- (a) the President or any person mentioned in paragraph (8)(c); and
- (b) with the leave of the chairman, or in the case of an appeal tribunal which has only one member, that member, any person mentioned in paragraph (8)(b) or (d);

may remain present at any such hearing.

Postponement and adjournment

13.—(1) Where a person to whom notice of an oral hearing is given wishes to request a postponement of that hearing, he shall do so in writing to the clerk to the appeal tribunal stating his reasons for the request, and the clerk to the appeal tribunal may grant or refuse the request as he thinks fit or may pass the request to a legally qualified panel member who may grant or refuse the request as he thinks fit.

(2) Where the clerk to the appeal tribunal or, as the case may be, the legally qualified panel member, refuses a request to postpone the hearing he shall—

- (a) notify in writing the person making the request of the refusal; and
- (b) place before the appeal tribunal at the hearing both the request for the postponement and notification of its refusal.

(3) The legally qualified panel member or the clerk to the appeal tribunal may of his own motion at any time before the beginning of the hearing postpone the hearing.

(4) An oral hearing may be adjourned by the appeal tribunal at any time on the application of any party to the proceedings or of its own motion.

(5) Where a hearing has been adjourned and it is not practicable, or would cause undue delay, for it to be resumed before an appeal tribunal consisting of the same member or members the appeal shall be heard by a differently constituted appeal tribunal and the proceedings shall be by way of a complete rehearing.

Part VI

Decisions of Appeal Tribunals and Related Matters

Decisions of appeal tribunals

14.—(1) Every decision of an appeal tribunal shall be recorded in summary by the chairman or, in the case of an appeal tribunal which has only one member, by that member.

(2) The record of the decision specified in paragraph (1) shall be in such written form as shall have been approved by the President and shall be signed by the chairman, or in the case of an appeal tribunal which has only one member, by that member.

(3) As soon as may be practicable after an appeal has been decided by an appeal tribunal, a copy of the record of the decision prepared in accordance with paragraphs (1) and (2) shall be sent or given to every party to the proceedings who shall also be informed of—

(a) his right under paragraph (4); and

(b) the conditions governing appeals to the High Court under section 31.

(4) A party to the proceedings may apply in writing to the chairman or, in the case of an appeal tribunal which has only one member, that member, for a statement of the reasons for the tribunal's decision within one month of the sending or giving the record of the decision to every party to the proceedings and following the application the chairman, or in the case of an appeal tribunal which has only one member, that member, shall record a statement of the reasons and a copy of that statement shall be sent or given to every party to the proceedings as soon as may be practicable.

(5) If the decision is not unanimous, the record of the decision specified in paragraph (1) shall indicate that one of the members dissented and the statement of reasons referred to in paragraph (4) shall include the reasons given by that member for dissenting.

Record of tribunal proceedings

15.—(1) A record of the proceedings at an oral hearing, which is sufficient to indicate the evidence taken, shall be made by the chairman or, in the case of an appeal tribunal which has only one member, that member, in such medium as he may determine.

(2) Such record shall be preserved by the clerk to the appeal tribunal for six months from the date of the decision made by the appeal tribunal to which the record relates and any party to the proceedings may within that period apply in writing for a copy of that record and a copy shall be supplied to him.

Correction of accidental errors

16.—(1) The clerk to the appeal tribunal or a legally qualified panel member may at any time correct accidental errors in any decision, or the record of any such decision, of an appeal tribunal made under the Act.

(2) A correction made to, or to the record of, a decision shall be deemed to be part of the decision or record of that decision and written notice of it shall be given as soon as practicable to every party to the proceedings.

(3) Without prejudice to regulation 17, there shall be no appeal against a correction made under this regulation or a refusal to make such a correction.

(4) Nothing in this Part shall be construed as derogating from any power to correct errors or set aside decisions which is exercisable apart from these Regulations.

Appeals to the High Court

17.—(1) An appeal to the High Court against a decision of an appeal tribunal under section 30 may be made on the ground that the decision was erroneous in point of law.

(2) An appeal under this regulation may be brought by—

- (a) the Department; or
- (b) the person to whom the certificate was issued.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety on 13th August 2001.

L.S.

Andrew M. Hamilton
Senior Officer of the
Department of Health, Social Services and
Public Safety

Status: This is the original version (as it was originally made). This item of legislation is currently only available in its original format.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations.)

The Regulations provide for the procedural rules and other requirements for bringing appeals against certificates of health services charges issued by virtue of provisions in the Health and Personal Social Services Act (Northern Ireland) 2001.

Part I of the Regulations contains provisions relating to commencement, citation, interpretation and extent and to service of documents.

Part II of the Regulations makes provision for the appeals against certificates of health services charges to be treated as applications for review.

Parts III, IV, V and VI of the Regulations concern rights of appeal and procedural rules for bringing and determining appeals and the right to appeal against a decision of an appeal tribunal to the High Court on a point of law.