
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1997 No. 1182

**The Social Security Administration
(Fraud) (Northern Ireland) Order 1997**

Administration of housing benefit

Role of local government auditors in relation to housing benefit

6.—(1) The Department may request a local government auditor to conduct or assist the Department in conducting studies designed to improve economy, efficiency, effectiveness and quality of performance in the discharge by the Housing Executive of functions relating to the administration of housing benefit.

(2) In the following provisions of this Article “study” means a study which a local government auditor is requested to conduct, or assist the Department in conducting, under paragraph (1).

(3) If a local government auditor requires the Housing Executive or any officer or member of the Executive to supply him or an authorised person with such information as is needed for the purposes of the study, the Executive or officer or member shall supply the information.

(4) If a local government auditor requires the Housing Executive to make available for inspection by him or by an authorised person documents which relate to the Executive and are needed for the purposes of the study, the Executive shall make the documents available.

(5) Any information obtained under a requirement under paragraph (3) or (4) may be disclosed by a local government auditor to the Department for the purposes of any of its functions which are connected with housing benefit.

(6) In paragraphs (3) and (4) “authorised person” means a person authorised by a local government auditor for the purposes of this Article.

(7) A local government auditor shall send to the Department a copy of any report of a study; and the Department or a local government auditor may send a copy of a report of a study to the Housing Executive.

(8) Any report of a study may be published by the Department.

(9) A local government auditor shall not conduct, or assist the Department in conducting, a study unless, before he does so, the Department has made arrangements for the payment of such reasonable amount as may be agreed between it and the auditor in respect of the study.

(10) The Department may supply to a local government auditor any information held by it which relates to housing benefit and which appears to it to be relevant to the exercise of any function of the auditor.