
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2015 No. 2006

The Welfare Reform (Northern Ireland) Order 2015

PART 2

Universal credit

CHAPTER 3

Supplementary and general

Regulations

Pilot schemes

47.—(1) Any power to make—

- (a) regulations under this Part,
- (b) regulations under the Administration Act relating to universal credit, or
- (c) regulations under the Social Security (Northern Ireland) Order 1998 relating to universal credit,

may be exercised so as to make provision for piloting purposes.

(2) In paragraph (1), “piloting purposes”, in relation to any provision, means the purposes of testing—

- (a) the extent to which the provision is likely to make universal credit simpler to understand or to administer,
- (b) the extent to which the provision is likely to promote—
 - (i) people remaining in work, or
 - (ii) people obtaining or being able to obtain work (or more work or better-paid work), or
- (c) the extent to which, and how, the provision is likely to affect the conduct of claimants or other people in any other way.

(3) Regulations made by virtue of this Article are in the remainder of this Article referred to as a “pilot scheme”.

(4) A pilot scheme may be limited in its application to—

- (a) one or more areas;
- (b) one or more classes of person;
- (c) persons selected—
 - (i) by reference to prescribed criteria, or
 - (ii) on a sampling basis.

(5) A pilot scheme may not have effect for a period exceeding 3 years, but—

- (a) the Department may by order provide that the pilot scheme is to continue to have effect after the time when it would otherwise expire for a period not exceeding 12 months (and may make more than one such order);
 - (b) a pilot scheme may be replaced by a further pilot scheme making the same or similar provision.
- (6) A pilot scheme may include consequential or transitional provision in relation to its expiry.