

## 1986 No. 158

## HOUSING; RATES

**The Housing Benefits (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1986**

*Made* . . . . . 3rd June 1986

*Coming into operation*—

*regulations 1, 2(1) and (3)* . . . . . 6th June 1986

*regulation 2(2)* . . . . . 28th July 1986

Whereas the Secretary of State for Social Services has made regulations under section 28(1) of the Social Security and Housing Benefits Act 1982(a) and by virtue of Article 4 of the Housing Benefits (Northern Ireland) Order 1983(b) corresponding regulations may be made for Northern Ireland:

Now, therefore, the Department of Health and Social Services, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Article 3(2) of that Order and acting jointly with the Department of the Environment, in exercise of the powers conferred on them by Article 3(1) of that Order, in each case with the consent of the Department of Finance and Personnel, and in exercise of all other powers enabling them in that behalf, hereby make the following regulations:

*Citation, commencement and interpretation*

1.—(1) These regulations, which may be cited as the Housing Benefits (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1986, shall come into operation as follows—

(a) regulations 1, 2(1) and (3) on 6th June 1986;

(b) regulation 2(2) on 28th July 1986.

(2) In these regulations “the principal regulations” means the Housing Benefits Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1985(c).

*Amendment of the principal regulations*

2.—(1) The principal regulations shall be amended in accordance with the following provisions.

(2) In each provision of the principal regulations specified in column 1 of the Schedule to these regulations, for the amount specified in relation to it in column 2 of that Schedule there shall be substituted the amount specified in relation to it in column 3 of that Schedule.

(3) In regulation 28 (end of benefit period)—

(a) for paragraphs (1) to (4) there shall be substituted the following paragraph—

“(1) Subject to paragraph (5) and to regulations 33(1)(a) and 34(1)(a)—

(a) except where an authority extends a benefit period in accordance with sub-paragraph (b), a person’s benefit period shall end on such a date, not later than twelve months after the date of notification, as may be determined by the appropriate authority;

(a) 1982 c. 24

(b) S.I. 1983/1121 (N.I. 14)

(c) S.R. 1985 No. 282

- (b) where the date on which a person's benefit period would otherwise end falls between 1st March in any year, and the sixth day after the date in that year on which any regulations which increase the amounts of needs allowances under regulation 15 come into operation, the appropriate authority may extend the benefit period so as to end not later than that sixth day.”;
- (b) in paragraph (5), “Notwithstanding the preceding paragraphs,” shall be omitted;
- (c) in paragraph (7), for “paragraphs (2) and (3)” there shall be substituted “paragraph (1)”.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Health and Social Services on 3rd June 1986.

(L.S.) *A. N. Burns*  
Assistant Secretary

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of the Environment on 3rd June 1986.

(L.S.) *N. Campbell*  
Assistant Secretary

The Department of Finance and Personnel hereby consents to the foregoing Regulations.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Finance and Personnel on 3rd June 1986.

(L.S.) *R. G. Smartt*  
Assistant Secretary

## Amounts increased in the principal regulations

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
<i>Provision of the principal regulations</i>	<i>Old Amount</i>	<i>New Amount</i>
Regulation 15 (needs allowances)—		
paragraph (1)(a)	£47·70	£48·10
paragraph (1)(b)	£70·20	£70·85
paragraph (1)(c)	£70·20	£70·85
paragraph (2)(a)	£53·20	£53·65
paragraph (2)(b)	£75·70	£76·40
paragraph (2)(c)	£75·70	£76·40
paragraph (2)(d)	£78·25	£79·00
paragraph (3)(b)	£14·50	£14·60
Schedule 2 (amounts to be disregarded when ascertaining weekly income)—		
paragraph 20(ab)	£23·60	£23·85
Schedule 3 (deductions for fuel, services and rent)—		
paragraph 3(a)	£ 6·55	£ 6·70

## EXPLANATORY NOTE

*(This note is not part of the Regulations.)*

These regulations amend the Housing Benefits Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1985 ("the principal regulations"). They correspond to provision contained in regulations made by the Secretary of State for Social Services in relation to Great Britain and accordingly, by virtue of section 10(2) of, and paragraph 21 of Schedule 3 to, the Social Security Act 1980 (c. 30) are not subject to the requirement of section 10(1) of that Act for prior reference to the Social Security Advisory Committee.

The regulations increase amounts specified in the principal regulations which are used to calculate a person's entitlement to a housing benefit (a rate rebate, rent rebate or rent allowance) (regulation 2(2) and the Schedule).

They also provide that a person's benefit period (the duration of his award) should end not later than twelve months from the date he is told of his entitlement except where the award would end between 1st March in any year and six days after the date in that year of the coming into operation of regulations which increase amounts used to calculate his entitlement; in such a case a person's benefit period may be extended until the sixth day after such regulations come into operation (regulation 2(3)).