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STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

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**1997 No. 124**

**Pensions Increase (Review) Order (Northern Ireland) 1997**

**Citation and commencement**

1. This Order may be cited as the Pensions Increase (Review) Order (Northern Ireland) 1997 and shall come into operation on 7th April 1997.

**Interpretation**

2.—(1) In this Order—

“the Act of 1971” means the Pensions (Increase) Act (Northern Ireland) 1971(1);

“basic rate” and “derivative pension” have the meanings given by section 15(1)(2) of the Act of 1971;

“existing Orders” means the Orders referred to in the Schedule;

“official pension” has the meaning given by section 5(1) of the Act of 1971;

“the Order of 1975” means the Social Security Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 1975;

“pension authority” has the meaning given by section 7(1) of the Act of 1971;

“qualifying condition” means one of the conditions laid down in section 3 of the Act of 1971(3);

“relevant injury pension”, “substituted pension” and “widow’s pension” have the meanings given by section 15(1) of the Act of 1971.

(2) For the purpose of this Order the time when a pension “begins” is that stated in section 8(2) of the Act of 1971(4).

(3) Where, for the purposes of this Order, it is necessary to calculate the number of complete months in any period an incomplete month shall be treated as a complete month if it consists of at least 16 days.

**Increases in certain pensions**

3.—(1) The annual rate of an official pension may, if a qualifying condition is satisfied or the pension is a derivative or substituted pension or a relevant injury pension, be increased as set out in paragraphs (2) and (3) by the pension authority in respect of any period beginning on or after 7th April 1997.

(2) A pension beginning before 8th April 1996 may be increased by 2.1 per cent of the basic rate as increased by the amount of any increase under section 1 of the Act of 1971 or the existing Orders.

(3) A pension beginning on or after 8th April 1996 and before 7th April 1997 may be increased by 2.1 per cent multiplied by

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(1) 1971 c. 35 (N.I.)

(2) As amended by S.I. 1974/1267 (N.I. 2) Arts. 3(3) and 5(3)(b) and S.I. 1990/1509 (N.I. 13) Art. 3(6)

(3) As amended by S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1972 No. 264, S.I. 1974/1267 (N.I. 2) Art. 5(2) and (3), S.I. 1987/2203 (N.I. 22) Art. 72(3) and Sch. 5 Part I, S.I. 1990/1509 (N.I. 13) Art. 3 and S.I. 1995/3213 (N.I. 22) Art. 163

(4) As amended by S.I. 1990/1509 (N.I. 13) Art. 3(5)

A  
**B**

where

A is the number of complete months in the period between the beginning of the pension and 6th April 1997 and B is 12.

#### **Increase in certain lump sums**

4. In respect of any lump sum or instalment of a lump sum which became payable before 7th April 1997 but after 7th April 1996 there may be paid an increase of 2.1 per cent of the amount of the lump sum or instalment (as increased by the amount of any increase under section 1 of the Act of 1971 or under the existing Orders) multiplied by

A  
**B**

where—

- a A is the number of complete months in the period between the beginning date for the lump sum (or, if later, 8th April 1996) and the date on which it became payable; and
- b B is 12.

#### **Reduction in respect of guaranteed minimum pensions**

5. Where—

- (a) a person is entitled to a guaranteed minimum pension on 7th April 1997; and
- (b) entitlement to that guaranteed minimum pension arises from an employment from which (either directly or by virtue of the payment of transfer credit) entitlement to the official pension also arises,

the amount by reference to which any increase in the rate of an official pension provided for by this Order is to be calculated shall be reduced by an amount equal to the rate of the guaranteed minimum pension unless the Department of Finance and Personnel<sup>(5)</sup> in accordance with the provisions of Article 69A of the Order of 1975, otherwise directs.

6. The amount by reference to which any increase in the rate of a widow's or widower's pension provided for by this Order is to be calculated shall, where the pensioner becomes entitled on the death of the deceased spouse to a guaranteed minimum pension, be reduced in accordance with Article 69(5ZA)<sup>(6)</sup> of the Order of 1975.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Finance and Personnel on

5th March 1997.

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Grade 5

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(5) See S.I. 1982/338 (N.I. 6) Art. 4

(6) Inserted by S.I. 1990/1509 (N.I. 13) Art. 7(1)