

## EXPLANATORY NOTE

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

These Regulations amend certain provisions in the Housing Benefit (General) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1987 in relation to those persons who are undertaking qualifying courses as defined for the purposes of Parts II and V of the Jobseeker's Allowance Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1996 in regulation 17A(7) of those Regulations.

Regulations 2 to 5 provide that discretionary payments made to persons undertaking qualifying courses to meet, or help meet special needs, shall, for the purposes of housing benefit, be disregarded for the purposes of assessing that person's income or capital or, where such payments are made to third parties, shall not be taken into account as their notional income or notional capital.