

## **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

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

These Regulations amend the Health and Personal Social Services (Optical Charges and Payments) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1997 (“the 1997 Regulations”) which provide for payments to be made, by means of a voucher system, in respect of costs incurred by certain categories of persons in connection with the supply, replacement and repair of optical appliances. These Regulations also amend the General Ophthalmic Services Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1986 (“the 1986 Regulations”) which provide for the arrangements under which ophthalmic medical practitioners and ophthalmic opticians provide General Ophthalmic Services.

Regulation 2 amends the 1997 Regulations, and regulation 3 amends the 1986 Regulations, consequent upon the replacement of family credit and disability working allowance by working families' tax credit and disabled person's tax credit respectively.