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STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

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**2003 No. 197**

**HOUSING; RATES**

**The Housing Benefit (State Pension Credit)  
Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003**

*Made - - - - 25th March 2003  
Coming into operation in accordance with  
regulation 1(1)*

The Department for Social Development, in exercise of the powers conferred by the provisions specified in Schedule 1 to this Rule and now vested in it<sup>(1)</sup>, paragraphs 4(5), 12 and 20(1)(b) of Schedule 7 to the Child Support, Pensions and Social Security Act (Northern Ireland) 2000<sup>(2)</sup> and section 13(1) of the State Pensions Credit Act (Northern Ireland) 2002<sup>(3)</sup> and of all other powers enabling it in that behalf, with the consent of the Department of Finance and Personnel<sup>(4)</sup> by this statutory rule, which contains only regulations made by virtue of, or consequential upon section 14 of, and paragraph 3 of Schedule 2 to, the State Pension Credit Act (Northern Ireland) 2002 and which is made before the end of the period of 6 months beginning with the coming into operation of those provisions<sup>(5)</sup> hereby makes the following Regulations:

**PART 1**

**GENERAL**

**Citation, commencement and interpretation**

**1.—(1)** These Regulations may be cited as the Housing Benefit (State Pension Credit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 and shall come into operation –

- (a) for the purposes of this regulation and regulation 21, on 6th April 2003;
- (b) for all other purposes, on 6th October 2003.

(2) In these Regulations –

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(1) See Article 8(b) of S.R. 1999 No. 481

(2) 2000 c. 4 (N.I.)

(3) 2002 c. 14 (N.I.)

(4) See section 171(6A) of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits (Northern Ireland) Act 1992 (c. 7) as inserted by Article 3(3) of the Social Security (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) Order 1993 (S.I.1993/1579 (N.I. 8)); see also Article 6(b) of S.R. 1999 No. 481

(5) See section 150(5)(b) of the Social Security Administration (Northern Ireland) Act 1992 (c. 8)

“the Housing Benefit Regulations” means the Housing Benefit (General) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1987(6);

“the qualifying age for state pension credit” has the meaning assigned to it by section 1(2)(b) and (6) of the State Pension Credit Act;

“the State Pension Credit Act” means the State Pension Credit Act (Northern Ireland) 2002.

(3) The Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954(7) shall apply to these Regulations as it applies to an Act of the Assembly.

(4) In Part 2 reference to any provision inserted in the Housing Benefit Regulations to a regulation of or Schedule to those Regulations is to those provisions as modified or amended by these Regulations.

## PART 2

### HOUSING BENEFIT MODIFICATIONS

#### Housing Benefit Regulations

2.—(1) The Housing Benefit Regulations shall have effect, except where paragraph (2) applies, in relation to any person who has attained the qualifying age for state pension credit subject to the modifications set out in this Part, Part 3 and Schedule 2.

(2) This paragraph applies if the claimant or if the claimant has a partner, his partner, is a person on income support or an income-based jobseeker’s allowance within the meaning of the Housing Benefit Regulations.

#### Interpretation

3.—(1) In regulation 2 (interpretation) in paragraph (1) –

(a) for the definition of “assessment period” there shall be substituted the following definition –

““assessment period” means the period determined –

(a) in relation to the earnings of a self-employed earner, in accordance with regulation 32 for the purpose of calculating the weekly earning of the claimant, or

(b) in relation to any other income, in accordance with regulation 28 for the purpose of calculating the weekly income of the claimant;”.

(b) after the definition of “the Registered Homes Order”(8) there shall be inserted the following definition –

““the State Pension Credit Act” means the State Pension Credit Act (Northern Ireland) 2002;”;

(c) for the definition of “the benefit Acts” there shall be substituted the following definition –

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(6) S.R. 1987 No. 461; relevant amending Rules are S.R. 1988 Nos. 318 and 424, S.R. 1989 Nos. 125, 139 and 260, S.R. 1990 Nos. 136, 137 and 345, S.R. 1991 Nos. 47 and 176, S.R. 1992 Nos. 6, 85, 201, 404 and 549, S.R. 1993 Nos. 145, 149, 195, 233 and 549, S.R. 1994 No. 80, S.R. 1995 No. 367, S.R. 1996 Nos. 11, 115, 334, 375 and 448, S.R. 1997 Nos. 3 and 22, S.R. 1998 No. 81, S.R. 1999 Nos. 381 and 416, S.R. 2000 Nos. 38 and 71, S.R. 2001 Nos. 25, 99, 175, 176 and 215, S.R. 2002 Nos. 99, 132 and 363 and S.R. 2003 Nos. 28 and 80

(7) 1954 c. 33 (N.I.)

(8) Definition of “the Registered Homes Order” was inserted by regulation 3(2) of S.R. 1993 No. 149

““the benefit Acts” means the Contributions and Benefits Act, the Jobseekers (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 and the State Pension Credit Act;”;

(d) after the definition of “benefit week” there shall be inserted the following definitions –

““board and lodging accommodation” means accommodation provided to a person or, if he is a member of a family, to him and any other member of his family, for a charge which is inclusive of the provision of that accommodation and at least some cooked or prepared meals which both are cooked or prepared (by a person other than the person to whom the accommodation is provided or a member of his family) and are consumed in that accommodation or associated premises;”;

(e) after the definition of “the Fund”(9) there shall be inserted the following definition –

““guarantee credit” is to be construed in accordance with sections 1 and 2 of the State Pension Credit Act;”;

(f) after the definition of “person on income support” there shall be inserted –

““person on state pension credit” means a person in receipt of state pension credit;”;

(g) after the definition of “retirement annuity contract”(10) there shall be inserted the following definition –

““savings credit” has the meaning assigned to it by sections 1 and 3 of the State Pension Credit Act;”.

(2) In that regulation, after paragraph (4) there shall be inserted the following paragraph –

“(4A) In these Regulations references to any person in receipt of a guarantee credit, a savings credit or state pension credit includes a reference to a person who would be in receipt thereof but for regulation 13 of the State Pension Credit Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003(11) (small amounts of state pension credit).”.

## **Regulation 5**

4. In regulation 5 (circumstances in which a person is or is not to be treated as occupying a dwelling as his home) in paragraph (6)(c)(ii)(12), for “or the claimant’s applicable amount includes a premium under paragraph 9, 9A, 10, 11, 13 or 14 of Schedule 2”, there shall be substituted “or the claimant is a person who has attained or whose partner has attained the qualifying age for state pension credit”.

## **Persons from abroad**

5. In regulation 7A(5)(13) (persons from abroad) for sub-paragraph (d) there shall be substituted the following sub-paragraph –

“(d) is on a state pension credit;”.

## **Applicable amounts**

6.—(1) For regulations 16, 17 and 18 (applicable amounts, polygamous marriages and patients) there shall be substituted the following regulation –

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(9) Definition of “the Fund” was inserted by regulation 4(2)(a) of [S.R. 1992 No. 201](#)

(10) Definition of “retirement annuity contract” was inserted by regulation 3(2)(c) of [S.R. 1995 No. 367](#)

(11) [S.R. 2003 No. 28](#)

(12) Paragraph (6)(c)(ii) was amended by regulation 2 of [S.R. 1989 No. 260](#)

(13) Regulation 7A was inserted by regulation 2(1) of [S.R. 1994 No. 80](#) and paragraph (5) was substituted by regulation 5(b) of [S.R. 1996 No. 11](#) and amended by regulation 4 of [S.R. 1996 No. 334](#), regulation 2 of [S.R. 1996 No. 375](#) and regulation 6(3) (a) of [S.R. 2000 No. 71](#)

### “Applicable amounts

**16.**—(1) Subject to regulations 69, 70 and Schedule A1(**14**) (calculation of weekly amounts, rent and rate-free periods and treatment of claims for housing benefit by refugees), the applicable amount of a claimant who has attained or whose partner has attained the qualifying age for state pension credit shall be the aggregate of such of the following amounts as apply in his case –

- (a) an amount in respect of his personal allowance determined in accordance with paragraph 1 of Schedule 2A(**15**) (personal allowances);
- (b) an amount in respect of any child or young person who is a member of his family determined in accordance with paragraph 2 of Schedule 2A;
- (c) if he is a member of a family of which at least one member is a child or young person an amount determined in accordance with paragraph 3(1) of Part II of Schedule 2A (family premium);
- (d) if he is a member of a family of which one member is a child under the age of one year an additional amount determined in accordance with paragraph 3(2) of Part II of Schedule 2A;
- (e) the amount of any premiums which may be applicable to him determined in accordance with Parts III and IV of Schedule 2A.

(2) Paragraph (3) applies in the case of –

- (a) a claimant who;
- (b) a claimant who has a partner one or both of whom, or
- (c) a claimant who is a member of a polygamous marriage one or more of whose members,

is or are a patient, and has or have been a patient for a period exceeding 13 weeks but not exceeding 52 weeks, or, in exceptional circumstances, is unlikely to substantially exceed 52 weeks (“long term patient”).

(3) In the case of a claimant to whom this paragraph applies and who –

- (a) has no partner, the applicable amount determined in accordance with paragraph (1) shall be reduced by an amount equal to 38 per cent. of the weekly rate of the basic pension for the time being specified in section 44(4) of the Contributions and Benefits Act(**16**) (the standard reduction);
- (b) has a partner and either the claimant or his partner is a long term patient, the applicable amount determined in accordance with paragraph (1) shall be reduced by an amount equal to 20 per cent. of the weekly rate of the basic pension for the time being specified in section 44(4) of the Contributions and Benefits Act;
- (c) has a partner and both the claimant and his partner are long term patients, the applicable amount determined in accordance with paragraph (1) shall be reduced by an amount equal to twice the sum of the standard reduction;
- (d) is a member of a polygamous marriage and one or more members of the marriage are long term patients, the applicable amount determined in accordance with paragraph (1) shall be reduced by an amount equal to the standard reduction multiplied by the number of members who are long term patients.

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(14) Schedule A1 was inserted by regulation 6 of [S.R. 1996 No. 448](#)

(15) Schedule 2A is inserted by paragraph (2) of this regulation

(16) Section 44(4) was substituted by Article 64 of the Social Security (Northern Ireland) Order 1998 (S.I. [1998/1506 \(N.I. 10\)](#))

(4) Any calculation made for the purposes of paragraphs (2) and (3) shall be rounded to the nearest 5 pence, 2.5 pence being rounded to the next 5 pence above.

(5) In this regulation and Schedule 2A “patient” means a person (other than a person who is serving a sentence of imprisonment or detention in a young offenders centre or a juvenile justice centre) who is regarded as receiving free in-patient treatment within the meaning of the Social Security (Hospital In-Patients) Regulations 1975(17).

(6) In Schedule 2A, “additional spouse” means a spouse of either party to the marriage who is additional to the other party to the marriage.

(7) For the purposes of calculating the period of 13 weeks referred to in paragraph (2), where a person has been maintained free of charge while undergoing medical or other treatment as an in-patient in a hospital or similar institution within the meaning of that paragraph for two or more distinct periods separated by one or more intervals each not exceeding 28 days, he shall be treated as having been so maintained for a period equal in duration to the total of those distinct periods.”

(2) After Schedule 2 there shall be inserted the following Schedule –

“SCHEDULE 2A

Regulation 16

APPLICABLE AMOUNTS FOR PERSONS WHO HAVE ATTAINED OR WHOSE PARTNER HAS ATTAINED THE QUALIFYING AGE FOR STATE PENSION CREDIT

PART I

PERSONAL ALLOWANCES

1. The amount specified in column (2) in respect of each person or couple specified in column (1) shall be the amount specified for the purposes of regulation 16 –

Column (1) <i>Person, couple or polygamous marriage</i>	Column (2) <i>Amount</i>
(1) Single claimant aged –	(1)
(a) under 65;	(a) £102·10;
(b) 65 or over;	(b) £116·90.
(2) Couple –	(2)
(a) both members aged under 65;	(a) £155·80;
(b) one member or both members aged 65 or over.	(b) £175·00.
(3) If the claimant is a member of a polygamous marriage and none of the members of the marriage have attained the age of 65 –	(3)
(a) for the claimant and the other party to the marriage;	(a) £155·80;

*Status: This is the original version (as it was originally made). This item of legislation is currently only available in its original format.*

Column (1) <i>Person, couple or polygamous marriage</i>	Column (2) <i>Amount</i>
(b) for each additional spouse who is a member of the same household as the claimant.	(b) £53·70.
(4) If the claimant is a member of a polygamous marriage and one or more members are aged 65 or over –	(4)
(a) for the claimant and the other party to the marriage;	(a) £175·00;
(b) for each additional spouse who is a member of the same household as the claimant.	(b) £58·10.

2.—(1) The amounts specified in column (2) in respect of each person specified in column (1) shall, for the relevant period specified in column (1), be the amounts specified for the purposes of regulation 16(1)(b) –

Column (1) <i>Child or young person</i>	Column (2) <i>Amount</i>
Person in respect of the period –	
(a) beginning on, and including, that person's date of birth and ending on the day preceding the first Monday in September following that person's sixteenth birthday;	(a) £38·50;
(b) beginning on, and including, the first Monday in September following that person's sixteenth birthday and ending on the day preceding that person's nineteenth birthday.	(b) £38·50.

(2) In column (1) of the Table, “the first Monday in September” means the Monday which first occurs in the month of September in any year.

## PART II

### FAMILY PREMIUM

3.—(1) The amount for the purposes of regulations 16(1)(c) and (d) in respect of a family of which at least one member is a child or young person shall be £15·75.

(2) The amount specified in sub-paragraph (1) shall be increased by £10·45 where at least one child is under the age of one year and for the purposes of this sub-paragraph where that child's first birthday does not fall on a Monday he shall be treated as under the age of one year until the first Monday after his first birthday.

## PART III

### PREMIUMS

4. The premiums specified in Part IV shall, for the purposes of regulation 16(1)(e), be applicable to a claimant who satisfies the condition specified in this Part in respect of that premium.

5.—(1) Subject to sub-paragraph (2), for the purposes of this Part of this Schedule, once a premium is applicable to a claimant under this Part, a person shall be treated as being in receipt of any benefit for –

- (a) in the case of a benefit to which the Social Security (Overlapping Benefits) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1979(18) applies, any period during which, apart from the provisions of those Regulations, he would be in receipt of that benefit, and
- (b) any period spent by a person in undertaking a course of training or instruction provided or arranged by the Department for Employment and Learning under sections 2 and 3 of the Disabled Persons (Employment) Act (Northern Ireland) 1945(19) or section 1 of the Employment and Training Act 1950(20) or for any period during which he is in receipt of a training allowance.

(2) For the purposes of the carer premium under paragraph 9, a person shall be treated as being in receipt of a carer's allowance under section 70(21) of the Contributions and Benefits Act by virtue of sub-paragraph (1)(a) only if, and for so long as, the person in respect of whose care the allowance has been claimed remains in receipt of attendance allowance, or the care component of disability living allowance at the highest or middle rate prescribed in accordance with section 72(3) of the Contributions and Benefits Act.

#### Severe Disability Premium

6.—(1) The condition is that the claimant is a severely disabled person.

(2) For the purposes of sub-paragraph (1), a claimant shall be treated as being a severely disabled person if, and only if –

- (a) in the case of a single claimant or a claimant who is treated as having no partner in consequence of sub-paragraph (3) –
  - (i) he is in receipt of attendance allowance or the care component of disability living allowance at the highest or middle rate prescribed in accordance with section 72(3) of the Contributions and Benefits Act, and
  - (ii) subject to sub-paragraph (6), he has no non-dependants aged 18 or over normally residing with him or with whom he is normally residing, and
  - (iii) no person is entitled to, and in receipt of, a carer's allowance in respect of caring for him;
- (b) in the case of a claimant who has a partner –

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(18) S.R. 1979 No. 242

(19) 1945 c. 6 (N.I.); sections 2 and 3 were amended by section 1 of the Disabled Persons (Employment) Act (Northern Ireland) 1960 (c. 4 (N.I.)) and Schedule 18 to the Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 (S.I. 1986/594 (N.I. 3))

(20) 1950 c. 29 (N.I.); section 1(1) was substituted by Article 3 of the Employment and Training (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 1988 (S.I. 1988/1087 (N.I. 10)). Section 1(2) and (3) was substituted by Article 5 of the Industrial Training (Northern Ireland) Order 1990 (S.I. 1990/1200 (N.I. 8))

(21) Section 70 was amended by Article 2(1) and (2)(a)(iii) and Article 3 of the Deregulation (Carer's Allowance) Order (Northern Ireland) 2002 (S.R. 2002 No. 321)

- (i) the claimant is in receipt of attendance allowance, or the care component of disability living allowance at the highest or middle rate prescribed in accordance with section 72(3) of the Contributions and Benefits Act;
- (ii) his partner is also in receipt of such an allowance or, if the claimant is a member of a polygamous marriage one or more of the other members of the marriage are in receipt of such an allowance, and
- (iii) subject to sub-paragraph (6), the claimant has no non-dependants aged 18 or over normally residing with him or with whom he is normally residing, and either a person is entitled to and in receipt of a carer's allowance in respect of caring for only one member of the couple or, if he is a member of a polygamous marriage, for one or more but not all the members of the marriage, or as the case may be, no person is entitled to and in receipt of such an allowance in respect of caring for either member of a couple or any of the members of the marriage.

(3) Where a claimant has a partner who does not satisfy the condition in sub-paragraph (2)(b)(ii), and that partner is blind or is treated as blind within the meaning of sub-paragraph (4), that partner shall be treated for the purposes of sub-paragraph (2) as if he were not a partner of the claimant.

(4) For the purposes of sub-paragraph (3), a person is blind if he has been certified as blind and in consequence is registered as blind in a register maintained by or on behalf of a Health and Social Services Board .

(5) For the purposes of sub-paragraph (4), a person who has ceased to be registered as blind on regaining his eyesight shall nevertheless be treated as blind and as satisfying the additional condition set out in that sub-paragraph for a period of 28 weeks following the date on which he ceased to be so registered.

(6) For the purposes of sub-paragraph (2)(a)(ii) and (2)(b)(iii), no account shall be taken of—

- (a) a person receiving attendance allowance, or the care component of disability living allowance at the highest or middle rate prescribed in accordance with section 72(3) of the Contributions and Benefits Act, or
- (b) a person who is blind or is treated as blind within the meaning of sub-paragraphs (4) and (5).

(7) For the purposes of sub-paragraph (2)(b), a person shall be treated —

- (a) as being in receipt of attendance allowance, or the care component of disability living allowance at the highest or middle rate prescribed in accordance with section 72(3) of the Contributions and Benefits Act, if he would, but for his being a patient for a period exceeding 28 days, be so in receipt;
- (b) as being entitled to and in receipt of a carer's allowance if he would, but for the person for whom he was caring being a patient in hospital for a period exceeding 28 days, be so entitled and in receipt.

(8) For the purposes of sub-paragraph (2)(a)(iii) and (2)(b) —

- (a) no account shall be taken of an award of a carer's allowance to the extent that payment of such an award is back-dated for a period before the date on which the award is made, and
- (b) references to a person being in receipt of a carer's allowance shall include references to a person who would have been in receipt of that allowance but for the application of a restriction under section 6 of the Social Security Fraud Act (Northern Ireland) 2001(22) (loss of benefit provisions).



### **Enhanced disability premium**

7. The condition is that the care component of disability living allowance is, or would, but for a suspension of benefit in accordance with regulations under section 113(2) of the Contributions and Benefits Act or but for an abatement as a consequence of hospitalisation, be payable at the highest rate prescribed under section 72(3) of the Contributions and Benefits Act in respect of a child or young person who is a member of the claimant's family.

### **Disabled child premium**

8. The condition is that a child or young person for whom the claimant or a partner of his is responsible and who is a member of the claimant's household –

- (a) is in receipt of disability living allowance or is no longer in receipt of such allowance because he is a patient, provided that the child or young person continues to be a member of the family, or
- (b) is blind within the meaning of paragraph 6(4) or is treated as blind in accordance with paragraph 6(5).

### **Carer premium**

9.—(1) The condition is that the claimant or his partner is, or both of them are, entitled to a carer's allowance.

(2) Where a carer premium has been awarded but –

- (a) the person in respect of whose care the carer's allowance has been awarded dies, or
- (b) the person in respect of whom the premium has been awarded ceases to be entitled, or ceases to be treated as entitled, to a carer's allowance,

this paragraph shall be treated as satisfied for a period of 8 weeks from the relevant date specified in sub-paragraph (3).

(3) The relevant date for the purposes of sub-paragraph (2) is –

- (a) the Sunday following the death of the person in respect of whose care the carer's allowance has been awarded (or beginning with the date of death if the date occurred on a Sunday);
- (b) where head (a) does not apply, the date on which that person who was entitled to a carer's allowance ceases to be entitled to it.

(4) For the purposes of this paragraph, a person shall be treated as being entitled to and in receipt of a carer's allowance for any period not covered by an award but in respect of which a payment is made in lieu of an award.

### **Persons in receipt of concessionary payments**

10. For the purpose of determining whether a premium is applicable to a person under paragraphs 6 to 9, any concessionary payment made to compensate that person for the non-payment of any benefit mentioned in those paragraphs shall be treated as if it were a payment of that benefit.

### **Person in receipt of benefit**

11. For the purposes of this Part of this Schedule, a person shall be regarded as being in receipt of any benefit if, and only if, it is paid in respect of him and shall be so regarded only for any period in respect of which that benefit is paid.

## PART IV

### AMOUNTS OF PREMIUM SPECIFIED IN PART III

<i>Premium</i>	<i>Amount</i>
12. —	(1)
(1) Severe Disability Premium –	
(a) where the claimant satisfies the condition in paragraph 6(2)(a);	(a) £42·95;
(b) where the claimant satisfies the condition in paragraph 6(2)(b) –	(b)
(i) in a case where there is someone in receipt of a carer’s allowance or if he or any partner satisfies that condition only by virtue of paragraph 6(7);	(i) £42·95;
(ii) in a case where there is no-one in receipt of such an allowance.	(ii) £85·90.
(2) Enhanced Disability Premium. conditions specified in paragraph 7 are satisfied.	(2) £16·60 in respect of each child or young person in respect of whom the
(3) Disabled Child Premium.	(3) £41·30 in respect of each child or young person in respect of whom the condition specified in paragraph 8 is satisfied.
(4) Carer premium.	(4) £25·10 in respect of each person who satisfies the condition specified in paragraph 9.”.

#### **Amendment of regulation 19**

7. In regulation 19 (calculation of income and capital of members of claimant’s family and of a polygamous marriage) –

- (a) in paragraph (1), for “paragraph (2)” there shall be substituted “paragraphs (2) and (4)”;
- (b) after paragraph (3) there shall be added the following paragraph –

“(4) The income and capital of a child or young person shall not be treated as the income and capital of the claimant if the claimant or his partner or, if he is a member of a polygamous marriage, any member of that marriage, has attained the qualifying age for state pension credit.”.

#### **Income and capital**

8. For regulations 21 to 44, there shall be substituted the following regulations –

“CHAPTER II  
income and capital

#### **Calculation of income and capital**

21. The income and capital of –

- (a) the claimant, and

- (b) any partner of the claimant,

shall be calculated in accordance with the rules set out in this Chapter and any reference in this Part to the claimant shall apply equally to any partner of the claimant.

### **Claimant in receipt of guarantee credit**

**22.** In the case of a claimant who is in receipt, or whose partner is in receipt, of a guarantee credit, the whole of his capital and income shall be disregarded.

### **Calculation of claimant's income and capital in savings credit only cases**

**23.—**(1) In determining the income and capital of a claimant who has, or whose partner has, an award of state pension credit comprising only the savings credit, the relevant authority shall, subject to the following provisions of this regulation, use the calculation or estimate of the claimant's or, as the case may be, the claimant's partner's income and capital made by the Department for the purpose of determining that award.

(2) The Department shall provide the relevant authority with details of the calculation or estimate –

- (a) if the claimant is on housing benefit or has claimed housing benefit, within the 2 working days following the day the calculation or estimate was determined, or as soon as reasonably practicable thereafter, or
- (b) if sub-paragraph (a) does not apply, within 2 working days following the day he receives information from the relevant authority that the claimant or his partner has claimed housing benefit, or as soon as reasonably practicable thereafter.

(3) The details provided by the Department shall include the amount taken into account in that determination in respect of the net income of the person claiming state pension credit.

(4) The relevant authority shall modify the amount of the net income provided by the Department only in so far as necessary to take into account –

- (a) the amount of the savings credit payable;
- (b) in respect of any dependant children of the claimant, any of the following –
  - (i) payments of child benefit;
  - (ii) child tax credit;
  - (iii) child care charges taken into account under regulation 26(1)(c);
  - (iv) payments of child special allowance under the Contributions and Benefits Act;
- (c) the higher amount disregarded under these Regulations in respect of –
  - (i) lone parent's earnings;
  - (ii) widowed mother's allowance;
  - (iii) widowed parent's allowance;
  - (iv) payments of maintenance, whether under a court order or not, which is made or due to be made by –
    - (aa) the claimant's former partner, or the claimant's partner's former partner, or
    - (bb) the parent of a child or young person where that child or young person is a member of the claimant's family except where that parent is the claimant or the claimant's partner, or

- (v) the disregard of the 30 hour element of working tax credit referred to in regulation 20(1)(c) of the Working Tax Credit (Entitlement and Maximum Rate) Regulations 2002<sup>(23)</sup>;
  - (d) the income and capital of any partner of the claimant who is treated as a member of the claimant's household under regulation 15 (circumstances in which a person is to be treated as being or not being a member of the household), to the extent that it is not taken into account in determining the net income of the person claiming state pension credit;
  - (e) regulation 20 (circumstances in which income of a non-dependant is to be treated as claimant's), if the relevant authority determines that this provision applies in the claimant's case;
- (5) Regulations 25 to 44 shall not apply to the amount of the net income to be taken into account by the relevant authority under paragraph (1), but shall apply (so far as relevant) for the purpose of determining any modifications which fall to be made to that amount under paragraph (4).
- (6) The relevant authority shall for the purpose of determining the claimant's entitlement of housing benefit use, except where paragraphs (7) and (8) apply, the calculation of the claimant's capital made by the Department, and shall in particular apply the provisions of regulation 38 (capital limit) if the claimant's capital is calculated as being in excess of £16,000.
- (7) If paragraph (8) applies, the relevant authority shall calculate the claimant's capital in accordance with regulations 38 to 44.
- (8) This paragraph applies if –
- (a) the Department notifies the relevant authority that the claimant's capital has been determined as being £16,000 or less;
  - (b) subsequent to that determination the claimant's capital rises to more than £16,000, and
  - (c) the increase occurs whilst there is in force an assessed income period within the meaning of sections 6 and 9 of the State Pension Credit Act.

### **Persons who have attained the qualifying age for state pension credit**

**24.** In the case of a person who has attained or whose partner has attained the qualifying age for state pension credit and neither regulation 22 nor 23 applies in his case, his income and capital shall be calculated or estimated by the relevant authority in accordance with regulations 25 to 44.

### **Meaning of “income”**

- 25.—**(1) For the purposes of these Regulations, “income” means income of any of the following descriptions –
- (a) earnings;
  - (b) working tax credit and child tax credit<sup>(24)</sup>;
  - (c) retirement pension income within the meaning of section 16(1) of the State Pension Credit Act<sup>(25)</sup>;

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<sup>(23)</sup> S.I. 2002/2005

<sup>(24)</sup> See definitions inserted in regulation 2(1) by paragraph 1 of Schedule 2 to S.R. 2003 No. 1

<sup>(25)</sup> See definition inserted in section 17(1) of 2002 c. 14 (N.I.)

- (d) income from annuity contracts (other than retirement pension income);
- (e) income from capital, other than capital disregarded under Schedule 5ZA;
- (f) social security benefits, other than retirement pension income or any of the following benefits –
  - (i) disability living allowance;
  - (ii) attendance allowance payable under section 64(26) of the Contributions and Benefits Act;
  - (iii) an increase of disablement pension under section 104 or 105 of the Contributions and Benefits Act;
  - (iv) a payment under regulations made in exercise of the power conferred by paragraph 4(2)(b) of Part II of Schedule 8 to the Contributions and Benefits Act;
  - (v) any guardian's allowance payable under section 77 of the Contributions and Benefits Act;
  - (vi) any increase for a dependant, other than the claimant's partner, payable in accordance with Part IV of the Contributions and Benefits Act;
  - (vii) any social fund payment made under Part VIII of the Contributions and Benefits Act;
  - (viii) Christmas bonus payable under Part X of the Contributions and Benefits Act;
  - (ix) housing benefit;
  - (x) bereavement payment(27);
  - (xi) statutory sick pay;
  - (xii) statutory maternity pay;
  - (xiii) statutory paternity pay payable under Part XIIZA of the Contributions and Benefits Act(28);
  - (xiv) statutory adoption pay payable under Part XIIZB of the Contributions and Benefits Act(29);
  - (xv) any benefit similar to those mentioned in the preceding provisions of this paragraph payable under legislation having effect in Great Britain;
- (g) all foreign social security benefits which are similar to the social security benefits prescribed above;
- (h) any payment made under Article 37 of the Naval, Military and Air Forces etc. (Disablement and Death) Service Pensions Order 1983(30);
- (i) a pension paid to victims of National Socialist persecution under any special provision made by the law of the Federal Republic of Germany, or any part of it, or of the Republic of Austria;
- (j) payments under a scheme made under the Pneumoconiosis, etc., (Workers' Compensation) (Northern Ireland) Order 1979(31);

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(26) Section 64 was amended by Article 63(1) of the Welfare Reform and Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 1999 (S.I. 1999/3147 (N.I. 11))

(27) Section 36 was substituted by Article 51 of the Welfare and Reform and Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 1999

(28) Part XIIZA was inserted by Article 5 of the Employment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002 (S.I. 2002/2836 (N.I. 2))

(29) Part XIIZB was inserted by Article 6 of the Employment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002

(30) S.I. 1983/883

(31) S.I. 1979/ 925 (N.I. 9); amended by Article 22 of the Social Security (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (S.I. 1985 No. 1209 (N.I. 16))

- (k) payments made towards the maintenance of the claimant by his spouse or former spouse or towards the maintenance of the claimant's partner by his spouse or former spouse, including payments made –
    - (i) under a court order;
    - (ii) under an agreement for maintenance, or
    - (iii) voluntarily;
  - (l) payments due from any person in respect of board and lodging accommodation provided by the claimant;
  - (m) payments consisting of royalties or other sums received as a consideration for the use of, or the right to use, any copyright, patent or trade mark;
  - (n) any payment made to the claimant in respect of any book registered under the Public Lending Right Scheme 1982(32);
  - (o) any payment, other than a payment ordered by a court or made in settlement of a claim, made by or on behalf of a former employer of a person on account of the early retirement of that person on grounds of ill-health or disability, and
  - (p) any sum payable by way of pension out of money provided under the Civil List Act 1837(33), the Civil List Act 1937(34), the Civil List Act 1952(35), the Civil List Act 1972(36) or the Civil List Act 1975(37).
- (2) For the purposes of these Regulations, a claimant's capital, other than capital disregarded under Schedule 5ZA(38), shall be treated as if it were a weekly income –
- (a) in the case of a claimant residing permanently in accommodation to which paragraph (5) applies, of £1 for each £500 in excess of £10,000 and £1 for any excess which is not a complete £500;
  - (b) in any other case, of £1 for each £500 in excess of £6000 and £1 for any excess which is not a complete £500.
- (3) Where the payment of any social security benefit prescribed under paragraph (1) is subject to any deduction (other than an adjustment specified in paragraph (4)) the amount to be taken into account under paragraph (1) shall be the amount before the deduction is made.
- (4) The adjustments specified in this paragraph are those made in accordance with –
- (a) the Social Security (Overlapping Benefits) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1979(39);
  - (b) the Social Security (Hospital In-Patients) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1975(40);
  - (c) section 30DD or section 30E of the Contributions and Benefits Act(41) (incapacity benefit: reduction for pension payments and councillor's allowance).
- (5) This paragraph applies to accommodation provided –

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(32) The Scheme is set out in the Appendix to S.I. 1982/719

(33) 1837 c. 2

(34) 1937 c. 32

(35) 1952 c. 37

(36) 1972 c. 7

(37) 1975 c. 82

(38) The Third Schedule of Schedule 2 to these Regulations has effect as Schedule 5ZA

(39) S.R. 1979 No. 242

(40) S.R. 1975 No. 109

(41) Section 30DD was inserted by Article 60 of the Welfare Reform and Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 1999 and section 30E was inserted by Article 5(1) of the Social Security (Incapacity for Work) (Northern Ireland) Order 1994 (S.I. 1994 No. 1898 (N.I. 12))

- (a) in an establishment run by the Abbeyfield Society including all bodies corporate or incorporate which are affiliated to that Society;
  - (b) under Article 15 of the Health and Personal Social Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1972(42) where –
    - (i) board is available to the claimant, and
    - (ii) the home in which the accommodation is provided is either owned or managed by a Health and Social Services Board or an HSS trust, and
    - (iii) the claimant occupies the accommodation other than on a temporary basis.
  - (c) registered under Part II of the Registered Homes Order;
  - (d) managed and provided by a body incorporated by Royal Charter or constituted by a statutory provision;
  - (e) in premises under Part III of the Registered Homes Order;
  - (f) in sub-paragraph (b)(i) “board” refers to the availability to the claimant, in the home in which his accommodation is provided, of cooked or prepared food, where the food is made available to him in consequence solely of his paying the charge for the accommodation or any charge which he is required to pay as a condition of occupying the accommodation, or both of those charges, and is made available for his consumption without any further charge to him.
- (6) For the purposes of paragraph (5), a person shall be treated as residing permanently in the accommodation –
- (a) except where sub-paragraph (b) applies, notwithstanding that he is absent from it for a period not exceeding 52 weeks;
  - (b) if it is accommodation to which paragraph (5)(b) applies –
    - (i) notwithstanding that he is absent from it for a period not exceeding 13 weeks, and
    - (ii) if he, with the agreement of the manager of the home, intends to return to it in due course.

#### **Calculation of income on a weekly basis**

**26.**—(1) Subject to regulations 29 of the Housing Benefit Regulations (disregard of changes in tax, contributions etc.), 69 and 70 (calculation of weekly amounts and rent and rate-free periods), for the purposes of section 129(1) of the Contributions and Benefits Act (conditions of entitlement to housing benefit) the income of a claimant who has reached the qualifying age for state pension credit shall be calculated on a weekly basis –

- (a) by calculating or estimating the amount which is likely to be his average weekly income in accordance with this Chapter;
  - (b) by adding to that amount the weekly income calculated under regulation 25(2);
  - (c) by then deducting any relevant child care charges to which regulation 27 (treatment of child care charges) applies from any earnings which form part of the average weekly income or, in a case where the conditions in paragraph (2) are met, from those earnings plus whichever credit specified in sub-paragraph (b) of that paragraph is appropriate, up to a maximum deduction in respect of the claimant’s family of whichever of the sums specified in paragraph (3) applies in his case.
- (2) The conditions of this paragraph are that –

- (a) the claimant's earnings which form part of his average weekly income are less than the lower of either his relevant child care charges or whichever of the deductions specified in paragraph (3) otherwise applies in his case, and
  - (b) that claimant or, if he is a member of a couple either the claimant or his partner, is in receipt of working tax credit or child tax credit.
- (3) The maximum deduction to which paragraph (1)(c) refers shall be –
- (a) where the claimant's family includes only one child in respect of whom relevant child care charges are paid, £94.50 per week;
  - (b) where the claimant's family includes more than one child in respect of whom relevant child care charges are paid, £140 per week.

### **Treatment of child care charges**

**27.**—(1) This regulation applies where a claimant is incurring relevant child care charges and –

- (a) is a lone parent and is engaged in remunerative work;
  - (b) is a member of a couple both of whom are engaged in remunerative work, or
  - (c) is a member of a couple where one member is engaged in remunerative work and the other member is incapacitated.
- (2) Relevant child care charges are those charges for care to which paragraphs (3) and (4) apply, and shall be estimated on a weekly basis in accordance with paragraph (7).
- (3) The charges are paid by the claimant for care which is provided –
- (a) in the case of any child of the claimant's family who is not disabled, in respect of the period beginning on, and including, that child's date of birth and ending on the day preceding the first Monday in September following that child's fifteenth birthday, or
  - (b) in the case of any child of the claimant's family who is disabled, in respect of the period beginning on, and including, that person's date of birth and ending on the day preceding the first Monday in September following that person's sixteenth birthday.
- (4) The charges are paid for care which is provided by one or more of the care providers listed in paragraph (5) and are not paid –
- (a) in respect of the child's compulsory education, or
  - (b) by a claimant to a partner or by a partner to a claimant in respect of any child for whom either or any of them is responsible in accordance with regulation 14 (circumstances in which a person is treated as responsible or not responsible for another).
- (5) The care to which paragraph (4) refers may be provided –
- (a) by persons registered under Article 118 of the Children Order(43) (registration of child-minders and persons providing day care);
  - (b) out of school hours, by a school on school premises or by an education and library board or an HSS trust –
    - (i) for children who are not disabled in respect of the period beginning on, and including, their twelfth birthday and ending on the day preceding the first Monday in September following their fifteenth birthday, or



- (ii) for children who are disabled in respect of the period beginning on, and including, their twelfth birthday and ending on the day preceding the first Monday in September following their sixteenth birthday;
  - (c) by a child care scheme operating on Crown property where registration under Article 118 of the Children Order is not required;
  - (d) in schools or establishments which are exempt from registration under Article 118 of the Children Order by virtue of Article 121(1) to (3) of that Order, or
  - (e) by a child care provider approved by an organisation accredited by the Secretary of State under the scheme established by the Tax Credit (New Category of Child Care Provider) Regulations 1999(44);
- (6) In paragraphs (3) and (5)(b), “the first Monday in September” means the Monday which first occurs in the month of September in any year and in paragraph (5)(b) “education and library board” means an education and library board established under Article 3 of the Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 1986(45).
- (7) Relevant child care charges shall be estimated over such period, not exceeding a year, as is appropriate in order that the average weekly charge may be estimated accurately having regard to information as to the amount of that charge provided by the child minder or person providing the care.
- (8) For the purposes of paragraph (1)(c), the other member of a couple is to be treated as incapacitated where –
- (a) he is aged not less than 80;
  - (b) he is aged less than 80 and –
    - (i) the additional conditions specified in paragraph 12 of Schedule 2 (additional condition for higher pensioner and disability premiums) are treated as applying in his case, and
    - (ii) he satisfies those conditions or would satisfy them but for his being treated as capable of work by virtue of a determination made in accordance with regulations made under section 167E of the Contributions and Benefits Act(46) (incapacity for work: disqualification, etc.);
  - (c) the claimant is, or is treated as, incapable of work and has been so incapable, or has been so treated as incapable, of work in accordance with the provisions of, and regulations made under, Part XIIA of the Contributions and Benefits Act (incapacity for work) for a continuous period of not less than 196 days; and for this purpose any 2 or more separate periods separated by a break of not more than 56 days shall be treated as one continuous period;
  - (d) there is payable in respect of him one or more of the following –
    - (i) long-term incapacity benefit or short-term incapacity benefit at the higher rate specified in paragraph 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 4 to the Contributions and Benefits Act(47);
    - (ii) attendance allowance under section 64 of the Contributions and Benefits Act;

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(44) S.I. 1999/3110

(45) S.I. 1986/594 (N.I. 3)

(46) Part XIIA which includes section 167E was inserted by Articles 7 and 8(1) of the Social Security (Incapacity for Work) (Northern Ireland) Order 1994

(47) Paragraph 2 of Part I of Schedule 4 was substituted by Article 4(2) of the Social Security (Incapacity for Work) (Northern Ireland) Order 1994

- (iii) severe disablement allowance under section 68 of the Contributions and Benefits Act;
  - (iv) disability living allowance under section 71(48) of the Contributions and Benefits Act;
  - (v) increase of disablement pension under section 104 of the Contributions and Benefits Act;
  - (vi) a pension increase under a war pension scheme or an industrial injuries scheme which is analogous to an allowance or increase of disablement pension under head (ii), (iv) or (v);
  - (e) a pension or allowance to which head (ii), (iv), (v) or (vi) of sub-paragraph (d) refers was payable on account of his incapacity but has ceased to be payable in consequence of his becoming a patient within the meaning of regulation 16(5) (patients);
  - (f) sub-paragraph (c) or (d) would apply to him if the legislative provisions referred to in those sub-paragraphs were provisions under any corresponding enactment having effect in Great Britain, or
  - (g) he has an invalid carriage or other vehicle provided to him under Article 30(1) of the Health and Personal Social Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1972 or provided by the Secretary of State under section 5(2)(a) of, and Schedule 2 to, the National Health Service Act 1977(49) or under section 46 of the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978(50).
- (9) For the purposes of paragraph (8), once paragraph (8)(c) applies to the claimant, if he then ceases, for a period of 56 days or less, to be incapable, or to be treated as incapable, of work, that paragraph shall, on his again becoming so incapable, or so treated as incapable, of work at the end of that period, immediately thereafter apply to him for so long as he remains incapable, or is treated as remaining incapable, of work.
- (10) For the purposes of paragraphs (3) and (5)(b), a person is disabled if he is a person –
- (a) in respect of whom disability living allowance is payable, or has ceased to be payable solely because he is a patient;
  - (b) who is identified as a person who is blind in pursuance of arrangements under section 1(1) of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons (Northern Ireland) Act 1978(51), or
  - (c) who ceased to be so identified as blind within the 28 weeks immediately preceding the date of claim.
- (11) For the purposes of paragraph (1) a person on maternity leave, paternity leave or adoption leave shall be treated as if he is engaged in remunerative work for the period specified in paragraph (12) (“the relevant period”) provided that –
- (a) in the week before the period of maternity leave, paternity leave or adoption leave began he was in remunerative work;
  - (b) the claimant incurred relevant child care charges within the meaning of paragraph (2) in that week, and
  - (c) he is entitled to maternity allowance under section 35 of the Contributions and Benefits Act, statutory maternity pay under section 160 of that Act, statutory

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(48) Section 71 was amended by Article 64(1) of the Welfare Reform and Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 1999

(49) 1977 c. 49

(50) 1978 c. 29

(51) 1978 c. 53

paternity pay under section 167ZA or 167XB of that Act<sup>(52)</sup> statutory adoption pay under section 167ZL of that Act<sup>(53)</sup> or qualifying support.

(12) For the purposes of paragraph (11) the relevant period shall begin on and include the day on which the person's maternity leave, paternity leave or adoption leave commences and shall end on –

- (a) the date that leave ends;
- (b) if no tax credit is in payment on the date that entitlement to maternity allowance, statutory maternity pay, statutory paternity pay, statutory adoption pay or qualifying support ends, the date that entitlement ends, or
- (c) if a tax credit is in payment on the date that entitlement to maternity allowance, statutory maternity pay, statutory paternity pay, statutory adoption pay or qualifying support ends, the date that entitlement to that award of tax credit ends,

whichever shall occur first.

(13) In –

- (a) paragraphs (11) and (12) “qualifying support” means income support to which that person is entitled by virtue of paragraph 14B of Schedule 1B to the Income Support (General) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1987<sup>(54)</sup> (paternity leave);
- (b) paragraph (12) “tax credit” means either working families' tax credit or a disabled person's tax credit provided that a child care tax credit under either regulation 46(1)(c) of the Family Credit (General) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1987<sup>(55)</sup> (determination of appropriate maximum working families' tax credit) or, as the case may be, regulation 51(1)(aa) of the Disability Working Allowance (General) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1992<sup>(56)</sup> (determination of appropriate maximum disabled person's tax credit) forms part of the entitlement to either of those credits.

(14) Where paragraph (11) applies to a person on maternity leave, paternity leave or adoption leave any child care charges in respect of the child to whom such leave relates shall not be treated as relevant child care charges for the purposes of this regulation and regulation 26 (calculation of income on a weekly basis).

### Calculation of weekly income

**28.**—(1) Except where paragraphs (2) and (4) apply, for the purposes of calculating the weekly income of the claimant, where the period in respect of which a payment is made –

- (a) does not exceed a week, the whole of that payment shall be included in the claimant's weekly income;
- (b) exceeds a week, the amount to be included in the claimant's weekly income shall be determined –
  - (i) in a case where that period is a month, by multiplying the amount of the payment by 12 and dividing the product by 52;
  - (ii) in a case where that period is 3 months, by multiplying the amount of the payment by 4 and dividing the product by 52;

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<sup>(52)</sup> Section 167ZA and 167ZB were inserted by Article 5 of the Employment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002

<sup>(53)</sup> Section 167ZL was inserted by Article 6 of the Employment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002

<sup>(54)</sup> Paragraph 14B was inserted by regulation 2(5) of S.R. 2002 No. 323

<sup>(55)</sup> S.R. 1987 No. 463; paragraph (1) was substituted by regulation 6(2) of S.I. 2001/366

<sup>(56)</sup> S.R. 1992 No. 78; paragraph (1) was substituted by regulation 6(2) of S.I. 2001/366

- (iii) in a case where that period is a year, by dividing the amount of the payment by 52;
  - (iv) in any other case, by multiplying the amount of the payment by 7 and dividing the product by the number of days in the period in respect of which it is made.
- (2) Where –
- (a) the claimant’s regular pattern of work is such that he does not work the same hours every week, or
  - (b) the amount of the claimant’s income fluctuates and has changed more than once,
- the weekly amount of that claimant’s income shall be determined –
- (i) if, in a case to which sub-paragraph (a) applies, there is a recognised cycle of work, by reference to his average weekly income over the period of the complete cycle (including, where the cycle involves periods in which the claimant does no work, those periods but disregarding any other absences), or
  - (ii) in any other case, on the basis of –
    - (aa) the last 2 payments if those payments are one month or more apart;
    - (bb) the last 4 payments if the last 2 payments are less than one month apart, or
    - (cc) calculating or estimating such other payments as may, in the particular circumstances of the case, enable the claimant’s average weekly income to be determined more accurately.
- (3) For the purposes of paragraph (2)(b) the last payments are the last payments before the date the claim was made or treated as made or, if there is a subsequent supersession under paragraph 4 of Schedule 7 to the Child Support, Pensions and Social Security Act (Northern Ireland) 2000<sup>(57)</sup>, the last payments before the date of the supersession.
- (4) If a claimant is entitled to receive a payment to which paragraph (5) applies, the amount of that payment shall be treated as if made in respect of a period of a year.
- (5) This paragraph applies to –
- (a) royalties or other sums payable as a consideration for the use of, or the right to use, any copyright, patent or trade mark;
  - (b) any payment made to the claimant in respect of any book registered under the Public Lending Right Scheme 1982, and
  - (c) any payment which is made on an occasional basis.
- (6) The period under which any benefit under the benefit Acts is to be taken into account shall be the period in respect of which that benefit is payable.
- (7) Where payments are made in a currency other than Sterling, the value of the payment shall be determined by taking the Sterling equivalent on the date the payment is made.
- (8) The sums specified in Schedule 3A<sup>(58)</sup> shall be disregarded in calculating –
- (a) the claimant’s earnings, and

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<sup>(57)</sup> 2000 c. 4 (N.I.)

<sup>(58)</sup> The First Schedule of Schedule 2 to these Regulations has effect as Schedule 3A

- (b) any amount to which paragraph (5) applies if the claimant or his partner is the first owner of the copyright, patent or trade mark, or the author of the book registered under the Public Lending Right Scheme 1982.
- (9) Income specified in Schedule 4A(59) is to be disregarded in the calculation of a claimant's income.
- (10) Schedule 5ZA shall have effect so that –
  - (a) the capital specified in Part I shall be disregarded for the purpose of determining a claimant's income, and
  - (b) the capital specified in Part II shall be disregarded for the purpose of determining a claimant's income under regulation 25(2).
- (11) In the case of any income taken into account for the purpose of calculating a persons income, there shall be disregarded any amount payable by way of tax.

**Disregard of changes in tax, contributions etc.**

**29.** In calculating the claimant's income, the appropriate authority may disregard any legislative change –

- (a) in the basic or other rates of income tax;
- (b) in the amount of any personal tax relief;
- (c) in the rates of social security contributions payable under the Contributions and Benefits Act or in the lower earnings limit or upper earnings limit for Class 1 contributions under that Act, the lower or upper limits applicable to Class 4 contributions under that Act or the amount specified in section 11(4) of that Act (small earnings exception in relation to Class 2 contributions);
- (d) in the amount of tax payable as a result of an increase in the weekly rate of Category A, B, C or D retirement pension or any addition thereto or any graduated pension payable under the Act, and
- (e) in the maximum rate of child tax credit or working tax credit,

for a period not exceeding 30 benefit weeks beginning with the benefit week immediately following the date from which the change is effective.

**EMPLOYED EARNERS**

**Earnings of employed earners**

**30.**—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), “earnings” means in the case of employment as an employed earner, any remuneration or profit derived from that employment and includes –

- (a) any bonus or commission;
- (b) any payment in lieu of remuneration except any periodic sum paid to a claimant on account of the termination of his employment by reason of redundancy;
- (c) any payment in lieu of notice;
- (d) any holiday pay;
- (e) any payment by way of a retainer;
- (f) any payment made by the claimant's employer in respect of expenses not wholly, exclusively and necessarily incurred in the performance of the duties of the

employment, including any payment made by the claimant's employer in respect of –

- (i) travelling expenses incurred by the claimant between his home and place of employment;
  - (ii) expenses incurred by the claimant under arrangements made for the care of a member of his family owing to the claimant's absence from home;
  - (g) the amount of any payment by way of a non-cash voucher which has been taken into account in the computation of a person's earnings in accordance with Part V of Schedule 3 to the Social Security (Contributions) Regulations 2001<sup>(60)</sup> (payments to be disregarded in the calculation of earnings for the purposes of earnings-related contributions);
  - (h) statutory sick pay and statutory maternity pay payable by the employer under the Contributions and Benefits Act;
  - (i) statutory paternity pay payable under Part XIIZA of the Contributions and Benefits Act<sup>(61)</sup>;
  - (j) statutory adoption pay payable under Part XIIZB of the Contributions and Benefits Act<sup>(62)</sup>;
  - (k) any sums payable under a contract of service –
    - (i) for incapacity for work due to sickness or injury, or
    - (ii) by reason of pregnancy or confinement;
  - (l) any payment made under the legislation of, or under any scheme operating in, the Republic of Ireland which is analogous to income to which sub-paragraphs (h) to (j) apply.
- (2) Earnings shall not include –
- (a) subject to paragraph (3), any payment in kind;
  - (b) any payment in respect of expenses wholly, exclusively and necessarily incurred in the performance of the duties of the employment;
  - (c) any occupational pension;
  - (d) any payment of compensation made pursuant to an award by an employment tribunal in respect of unfair dismissal or unlawful discrimination.
- (3) Paragraph (2)(a) shall not apply in respect of any non-cash voucher referred to in paragraph (1)(g).

### **Calculation of net earnings of employed earners**

**31.**—(1) For the purposes of regulation 26 of the Housing Benefit Regulations (calculation of income on a weekly basis), the earnings of a claimant derived or likely to be derived from employment as an employed earner to be taken into account shall, subject to regulation 28(5) and Schedule 3A, be his net earnings.

(2) For the purposes of paragraph (1) net earnings shall, except in relation to any payment to which regulation 28(5) refers, be calculated by taking into account the gross earnings of the claimant from that employment over the assessment period, less –

- (a) any amount deducted from those earnings by way of –

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<sup>(60)</sup> S.I. 2001/1004; relevant amending Instruments are S.I. 2001/2412 and S.I. 2002/307

<sup>(61)</sup> Part XIIZA was inserted by Article 5 of the Employment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002 (S.I. 2002/2836 (N.I. 2))

<sup>(62)</sup> Part XIIZB was inserted by Article 6 of the Employment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002

- (i) income tax;
  - (ii) primary Class 1 contributions under the Contributions and Benefits Act;
- (b) one half of any sum paid by the claimant by way of a contribution towards an occupational pension scheme;
- (c) one half of the amount calculated in accordance with paragraph (4) in respect of any qualifying contribution payable by the claimant, and
- (d) where those earnings include a payment which is payable under any statute of the Parliament of the United Kingdom extending solely to Great Britain and which corresponds to statutory sick pay, statutory maternity pay, statutory paternity pay or statutory adoption pay any amount deducted from those earnings by way of any contributions which are payable under any statute of the Parliament of the United Kingdom extending solely to Great Britain and which correspond to primary Class 1 contributions under the Contributions and Benefits Act.
- (3) In this regulation, “qualifying contribution” means any sum which is payable periodically as a contribution towards a personal pension scheme.
- (4) The amount in respect of any qualifying contribution shall be calculated by multiplying the daily amount of the qualifying contribution by the number equal to the number of days in the assessment period; and for the purposes of this regulation the daily amount of the qualifying contribution shall be determined –
- (a) where the qualifying contribution is payable monthly, by multiplying the amount of the qualifying contribution by 12 and dividing the product by 365;
  - (b) in any other case, by dividing the amount of the qualifying contribution by the number equal to the number of days in the period to which the qualifying contribution relates.
- (5) Where the earnings of a claimant are determined under regulation 28(2)(b) (calculation of weekly income), his net earnings shall be calculated by taking into account those earnings over the assessment period, less –
- (a) an amount in respect of income tax equivalent to an amount calculated by applying to those earnings the lower rate or, as the case may be, the lower rate and the basic rate of tax in the year of assessment in which the claim was made less only the personal relief to which the claimant is entitled under sections 257(1), 257A(1) and 259 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988(63) (personal reliefs) as is appropriate to his circumstances but, if the assessment period is less than a year, the earnings to which the lower rate of tax is to be applied and the amount of the personal relief deductible under this sub-paragraph shall be calculated on a pro-rata basis;
  - (b) an amount equivalent to the amount of the primary Class 1 contributions that would be payable by him under the Contributions and Benefits Act in respect of those earnings if such contributions were payable, and
  - (c) one half of any sum which would be payable by the claimant by way of a contribution towards an occupational or personal pension scheme, if the earnings so estimated were actual earnings.
- (6) Where the claimant is an employed earner in the Republic of Ireland the amounts to be deducted for income tax and primary Class 1 contributions under this regulation shall be such amounts as, in the opinion of the appropriate authority, would be deducted had the claimant been employed in Northern Ireland.



## SELF-EMPLOYED EARNERS

### Calculation of earnings of self-employed earners

**32.**—(1) Where a claimant’s earnings consist of earnings from employment as a self-employed earner, the weekly amount of his earnings shall be determined by reference to his average weekly earnings from that employment –

- (a) over a period of one year, or
- (b) where the claimant has recently become engaged in that employment or there has been a change which is likely to affect the normal pattern of business, over such other period (“computation period”) as may, in the particular case, enable the weekly amount of his earnings to be determined more accurately.

(2) For the purposes of determining the weekly amount of earnings of a claimant to whom paragraph (1)(b) applies, his earnings over the computation period shall be divided by the number equal to the number of days in that period and multiplying the quotient by 7.

(3) The period over which the weekly amount of a claimant’s earnings is calculated in accordance with this regulation shall be his assessment period.

### Earnings of self-employed earners

**33.**—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), “earnings”, in the case of employment as a self-employed earner, means the gross receipts of the employment and shall include any allowance payable pursuant to provision or arrangements made by the Department for Employment and Learning under sections 2 and 3 of the Disabled Persons (Employment) Act (Northern Ireland) 1945<sup>(64)</sup> or under section 1 of the Employment and Training Act (Northern Ireland) 1950<sup>(65)</sup> or any equivalent allowance payable under Republic of Ireland legislation to the claimant for the purpose of assisting him in carrying on his business unless at the date of claim the allowance has been terminated.

(2) “Earnings” in the case of employment as a self-employed earner does not include –

- (a) where a claimant occupies a dwelling as his home and he provides in that dwelling board and lodging accommodation for which payment is made, those payments;
- (b) any payment made by an authority to a claimant who is caring for a child by virtue of arrangements made under Article 27(2)(a) of the Children Order (provision of accommodation and maintenance by an authority for children whom it is looking after), or
- (c) any payment made by a voluntary organisation under Article 75(1)(a) of the Children Order (provision of accommodation by voluntary organisations);
- (d) any payment made to the claimant or his partner for a person (“the person concerned”) who is not normally a member of the claimant’s household but is temporarily in his care by –
  - (i) an authority;
  - (ii) a voluntary organisation, or

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<sup>(64)</sup> 1945 c. 6 (N.I.); sections 2 and 3 were amended by section 1 of the Disabled Persons (Employment) Act (Northern Ireland) 1960 (c. 4 (N.I.)) and Schedule 18 to the Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 (S.I. 1986/594 (N.I. 3))

<sup>(65)</sup> 1950 c. 29 (N.I.); section 1(1) was substituted by Article 3 of the Employment and Training (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 1988 (S.I. 1988/1087 (N.I. 10)) and Article 5 of the Industrial Training (Northern Ireland) Order 1990 (S.I. 1990/1200 (N.I. 8))



(iii) the person concerned pursuant to Article 36(7) of the Health and Personal Social Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1972<sup>(66)</sup>;

(e) any sports award.

(3) In paragraphs 2(b) to (d)(i) “an authority” has the same meaning as in Article 2 of the Children Order.

### **Calculation of net profit of self-employed earners**

**34.—**(1) For the purposes of regulation 26 of the Housing Benefit Regulations (calculation of income on a weekly basis), the earnings of a claimant to be taken into account shall be –

(a) in the case of a self-employed earner who is engaged in employment on his own account, the net profit derived from that employment;

(b) in the case of a self-employed earner whose employment is carried on in partnership, his share of the net profit derived from that employment, less –

(i) an amount in respect of income tax and of social security contributions payable under the Contributions and Benefits Act calculated in accordance with regulation 35 (deduction of tax and contributions for self-employed earners), and

(ii) one half of the amount calculated in accordance with paragraph (10) in respect of any qualifying premium.

(2) For the purposes of paragraph (1)(a), the net profit of the employment shall, except where paragraph (8) applies, be calculated by taking into account the earnings of the employment over the assessment period less –

(a) subject to paragraphs (4) to (7), any expenses wholly and exclusively incurred in that period for the purposes of that employment;

(b) an amount in respect of –

(i) income tax, and

(ii) social security contributions payable under the Contributions and Benefits Act,

calculated in accordance with regulation 35, and

(c) one half of the amount calculated in accordance with paragraph (10) in respect of any qualifying premium.

(3) For the purposes of paragraph (1)(b), the net profit of the employment shall be calculated by taking into account the earnings of the employment over the assessment period less, subject to paragraphs (4) to (7), any expenses wholly and exclusively incurred in that period for the purposes of the employment.

(4) Subject to paragraph (5), no deduction shall be made under paragraph (2)(a) or (3), in respect of –

(a) any capital expenditure;

(b) the depreciation of any capital asset;

(c) any sum employed or intended to be employed in the setting up or expansion of the employment;

(d) any loss incurred before the beginning of the assessment period;

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<sup>(66)</sup> Article 36(7) was substituted by Article 25 of the Health and Personal Social Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1991 (S.I. 1991/194 (N.I. 1))

- (e) the repayment of capital on any loan taken out for the purposes of the employment, and
  - (f) any expenses incurred in providing business entertainment.
- (5) A deduction shall be made under paragraph (2)(a) or (3) in respect of the repayment of capital on any loan used for –
- (a) the replacement in the course of business of equipment or machinery;
  - (b) the repair of an existing business asset except to the extent that any sum is payable under an insurance policy for its repair, and
  - (c) the purchase of land under the Northern Ireland Land Act 1925(67).
- (6) The relevant authority shall refuse to make a deduction in respect of any expenses under paragraph (2)(a) or (3) where it is not satisfied given the nature and the amount of the expense that it has been reasonably incurred.
- (7) For the avoidance of doubt –
- (a) a deduction shall not be made under paragraph (2)(a) or (3) in respect of any sum unless it has been expended for the purposes of the business;
  - (b) a deduction shall be made thereunder in respect of –
    - (i) the excess of any value added tax paid over value added tax received in the assessment period;
    - (ii) any income expended in the repair of an existing business asset except to the extent that any sum is payable under an insurance policy for its repair;
    - (iii) any payment of interest on a loan taken out for the purposes of the employment.
- (8) Where a claimant is engaged in employment as a child minder the net profit of the employment shall be one third of the earnings of that employment, less –
- (a) an amount in respect of –
    - (i) income tax, and
    - (ii) social security contributions payable under the Contributions and Benefits Act,calculated in accordance with regulation 35, and
  - (b) one half of the amount calculated in accordance with paragraph (10) in respect of any qualifying premium.
- (9) For the avoidance of doubt where a claimant is engaged in employment as a self-employed earner and he is also engaged in one or more other employments as a self-employed or employed earner any loss incurred in any one of his employments shall not be offset against his earnings in any other of his employments.
- (10) The amount in respect of any qualifying premium shall be calculated by multiplying the daily amount of the qualifying premium by the number equal to the number of days in the assessment period; and for the purposes of this regulation the daily amount of the qualifying premium shall be determined –
- (a) where the qualifying premium is payable monthly, by multiplying the amount of the qualifying premium by 12 and dividing the product by 365;
  - (b) in any other case, by dividing the amount of the qualifying premium by the number equal to the number of days in the period to which the qualifying premium relates.

(11) In this regulation, “qualifying premium” means any premium which is payable periodically in respect of a retirement annuity contract or a personal pension scheme and is so payable on or after the date of claim.

### **Deduction of tax and contributions of self-employed earners**

**35.**—(1) The amount to be deducted in respect of income tax under regulation 34(1)(b)(i), (2)(b)(i) or (8)(a)(i) (calculation of net profit of self-employed earners) shall be calculated on the basis of the amount of chargeable income and as if that income were assessable to income tax at the lower rate or, as the case may be, the lower rate and the basic rate of tax in the year of assessment in which the claim was made less only the personal relief to which the claimant is entitled under sections 257(1), and 259 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988 as is appropriate to his circumstances; but, if the assessment period is less than a year, the earnings to which the lower rate of tax is to be applied and the amount of the personal reliefs deductible under this paragraph shall be calculated on a pro-rata basis.

(2) The amount to be deducted in respect of social security contributions under regulation 34(1)(b)(i), (2)(b)(ii) or (8)(a)(ii) shall be the total of –

- (a) the amount of Class 2 contributions payable under section 11(1) or, as the case may be, 11(3) of the Contributions and Benefits Act at the rate applicable at the date of claim except where the claimant’s chargeable income is less than the amount specified in section 11(4) of that Act (small earnings exception) for the tax year in which the date of claim falls; but if the assessment period is less than a year, the amount specified for that tax year shall be reduced pro-rata, and
- (b) the amount of Class 4 contributions (if any) which would be payable under section 15 of the Contributions and Benefits Act (Class 4 contributions recoverable under the Income Tax Acts) at the percentage rate applicable at the date of claim on so much of the chargeable income as exceeds the lower limit but does not exceed the upper limit of profits and gains applicable for the tax year in which the date of claim falls; but if the assessment period is less than a year those limits shall be reduced pro-rata.

(3) In this regulation “chargeable income” means –

- (a) except where sub-paragraph (b) applies, the earnings derived from the employment less any expenses deducted under paragraph (2)(a) or, as the case may be, (3) of regulation 34;
- (b) in the case of employment as a child minder, one third of the earnings of that employment.

### **OTHER INCOME**

#### **Notional income**

**36.**—(1) A claimant who has attained or whose partner has attained the qualifying age for state pension credit shall be treated as possessing –

- (a) the amount of any retirement pension income –
  - (i) for which no claim has been made, and
  - (ii) to which he might expect to be entitled if a claim for it were made;
- (b) income from an occupational pension scheme which the claimant elected to defer.

(2) Where a person, aged not less than 60, is a person entitled to money purchase benefits under an occupational pension scheme or a personal pension scheme, or is a party to, or a person deriving entitlement to a pension under, a retirement annuity contract, and –

- (a) he fails to purchase an annuity with the funds available in that scheme where –
  - (i) he defers, in whole or in part, the payment of any income which would have been payable to him by his pension fund holder;
  - (ii) he fails to take any necessary action to secure that the whole of any income which would be payable to him by his pension fund holder upon his applying for it, is so paid, or
  - (iii) income withdrawal is not available to him under that scheme, or
- (b) in the case of a retirement annuity contract, he fails to purchase an annuity with the funds available under that contract,

the amount of any income foregone shall be treated as possessed by him, but only from the date on which it could be expected to be acquired were an application for it to be made.

(3) The amount of any income foregone in a case to which either paragraph (2)(a)(i) or (ii) applies shall be the maximum amount of income which may be withdrawn from the fund and shall be determined by the relevant authority which shall take account of information provided by the pension fund holder in accordance with regulation 73(5)(68) (evidence and information).

(4) The amount of any income foregone in a case to which either paragraph (2)(a)(iii) or (2)(b) applies shall be the income that the claimant could have received without purchasing an annuity had the funds held under the relevant scheme or retirement annuity contract been held under a personal pension scheme or occupational pension scheme where income withdrawal was available and shall be determined in the manner specified in paragraph (3).

(5) In paragraph (2), “money purchase benefits” has the meaning it has in the Pensions Scheme (Northern Ireland) Act 1993(69).

(6) A person shall be treated as possessing income of which he has deprived himself for the purpose of securing entitlement to housing benefit or increasing the amount of that benefit.

(7) Where a claimant is in receipt of any benefit (other than housing benefit) under the benefit Acts and the rate of that benefit is altered with effect from a date on or after 1st April in any year but not more than 14 days thereafter, the relevant authority shall treat the claimant as possessing such benefit at the altered rate –

- (a) in a case in which the claimant’s weekly amount of eligible rent or, as the case may be, rates falls to be calculated in accordance with regulation 69(2)(b) or, as the case may be, (3)(b) (calculation of weekly amounts), from 1st April in that year;
- (b) in any other case, from the first Monday in April in that year,

to the date on which the altered rate is to take effect.

### **Income paid to third parties**

**37.—**(1) Any payment of income, other than a payment specified in paragraph (2), to a third party in respect of the claimant shall be treated as possessed by the claimant.

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(68) Regulation 73(5) was amended by regulation 3(2) of and Schedule 1 to [S.R. 2001 No. 215](#)

(69) [1993 c. 49](#); see section 176(1) of that Act

(2) Paragraph (1) shall not apply in respect of a payment of income made under an occupational pension scheme or in respect of a pension or other periodical payment made under a personal pension scheme where –

- (a) a bankruptcy order has been made in respect of the person in respect of whom the payment has been made or, in Scotland, the estate of that person is subject to sequestration or a judicial factor has been appointed on that person's estate under section 41 of the Solicitors (Scotland) Act 1980<sup>(70)</sup>;
- (b) the payment is made to the trustee in bankruptcy or any other person acting on behalf of the creditors, and
- (c) the person referred to in sub-paragraph (a) and his partner does not possess, or is not treated as possessing, any other income apart from that payment.

## CAPITAL

### Capital limit

**38.** For the purposes of section 130(1) of the Contributions and Benefits Act as it applies to housing benefit (no entitlement to benefit if capital exceeds a prescribed amount), the prescribed amount is £16,000.

### Calculation of capital

**39.**—(1) For the purposes of Part VII of the Contributions and Benefits Act as it applies to housing benefit, the capital of a claimant to be taken into account shall, subject to paragraph (2), be the whole of his capital calculated in accordance with this Part.

(2) There shall be disregarded from the calculation of the claimant's capital under paragraph (1) any capital, where applicable, specified in Schedule 5ZA<sup>(71)</sup>.

(3) A claimant's capital shall be treated as including any payment made to him by way of arrears of –

- (a) child tax credit;
- (b) working tax credit;
- (c) state pension credit,

if the payment was made in respect of a period for the whole or part of which housing benefit was paid before those arrears were paid.

### Calculation of capital in the United Kingdom

**40.** Capital which a claimant possesses in the United Kingdom shall be calculated –

- (a) except in a case to which sub-paragraph (b) applies, at its current market or surrender value less –
  - (i) where there would be expenses attributable to sale, 10 per cent., and
  - (ii) the amount of any incumbrance secured on it;
- (b) in the case of an Ulster or National Savings Certificate –
  - (i) if purchased from an issue the sale of which ceased before 1st July last preceding the date on which the claim is made or treated as made, or the

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<sup>(70)</sup> 1980 c. 46

<sup>(71)</sup> The Third Schedule of Schedule 2 to these Regulations has effect as Schedule 5ZA

- date of any subsequent review, at the price which it would have realised on that 1st July, had it been purchased on the last day of that issue;
- (ii) in any other case, at its purchase price.

### **Calculation of capital outside the United Kingdom**

**41.** Capital which a claimant possesses in a country outside the United Kingdom shall be calculated –

- (a) in a case where there is no prohibition in that country against the transfer to the United Kingdom of an amount equal to its current market or surrender value in that country, at that value;
- (b) in a case where there is such a prohibition, at the price which it would realise if sold in the United Kingdom to a willing buyer,

less, where there would be expenses attributable to sale, 10 per cent. and the amount of any incumbrance secured on it.

### **Notional capital**

**42.—(1)** A claimant shall be treated as possessing capital of which he has deprived himself for the purpose of securing entitlement to housing benefit or increasing the amount of that benefit except to the extent that the capital which he is treated as possessing is reduced in accordance with regulation 43 (diminishing notional capital rule).

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (1), a person who disposes of a capital resource shall be regarded as –

- (a) depriving himself of it if the disposal was by way of gift to a third party;
- (b) not depriving himself of it if the disposal was for the purpose of –
  - (i) reducing or paying a debt owed by the claimant, or
  - (ii) purchasing goods or services if the expenditure was reasonable in the circumstances of the claimant's case.

(3) Where a claimant stands in relation to a company in a position analogous to that of a sole owner or partner in the business of that company, he shall be treated as if he were such sole owner or partner and in such a case –

- (a) the value of his holding in that company shall, notwithstanding regulation 39 (calculation of capital), be disregarded, and
- (b) he shall, subject to paragraph (4), be treated as possessing an amount of capital equal to the value or, as the case may be, his share of the value of the capital of that company and the foregoing provisions of this Chapter shall apply for the purposes of calculating that amount as if it were actual capital which he does possess.

(4) For so long as a claimant undertakes activities in the course of the business of the company, the amount which he is treated as possessing under paragraph (3) shall be disregarded.

(5) Where under this regulation a person is treated as possessing capital, the amount of that capital shall be calculated in accordance with the provisions of this Part as if it were actual capital which he does possess.

### **Diminishing notional capital rule**

**43.—(1)** Where a claimant is treated as possessing capital under regulation 42(1) (notional capital), the amount which he is treated as possessing –

- (a) in the case of a week that is subsequent to –
  - (i) the relevant week in respect of which the conditions set out in paragraph (2) are satisfied, or
  - (ii) a week which follows that relevant week and which satisfies those conditions,

shall be reduced by an amount determined under paragraph (3);

- (b) in the case of a week in respect of which paragraph (1)(a) does not apply but where –

- (i) that week is a week subsequent to the relevant week, and
- (ii) that relevant week is a week in which the condition in paragraph (4) is satisfied,

shall be reduced by the amount determined under paragraph (4).

(2) This paragraph applies to a benefit week where the claimant satisfies the conditions that –

- (a) he is in receipt of housing benefit, and
- (b) but for regulation 42(1), he would have received an additional amount of housing benefit in that week.

(3) In a case to which paragraph (2) applies, the amount of the reduction for the purposes of paragraph (1)(a) shall be equal to the aggregate of –

- (a) the additional amount to which paragraph (2)(b) refers;
- (b) where the claimant has also claimed state pension credit, the amount of any state pension credit or any additional amount of state pension credit to which he would have been entitled in respect of the benefit week to which paragraph (2) refers but for the application of regulation 21(1) of the State Pension Credit Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003<sup>(72)</sup> (notional capital);
- (c) where the claimant has also claimed a jobseeker's allowance, the amount of an income-based jobseeker's allowance to which he would have been entitled in respect of the benefit week to which paragraph (2) refers but for the application of regulation 113 of the Jobseeker's Allowance Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1996<sup>(73)</sup> (notional capital).

(4) Subject to paragraph (5), for the purposes of paragraph (1)(b) the condition is that the claimant would have been entitled to housing benefit in the relevant week but for regulation 42(1), and in such a case the amount of the reduction shall be equal to the aggregate of –

- (a) the amount of housing benefit to which the claimant would have been entitled in the relevant week but for regulation 42(1) and, for the purposes of this subparagraph, if the relevant week is a week to which regulation 69(5)(a) refers (calculation of weekly amounts), that amount shall be determined by dividing the amount of housing benefit to which he would have been so entitled by the number

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<sup>(72)</sup> S.R. 2003 No. 28

<sup>(73)</sup> S.R. 1996 No. 198; relevant amending regulations are S.R. 1997 No. 412, S.R. 1998 No. 326, S.R. 1999 No. 391, S.R. 2000 No. 350, S.R. 2001 No. 151 and S.R. 2002 No. 128

- of days in that week for which he was liable to make payments in respect of the dwelling he occupies as his home and multiplying the quotient so obtained by 7;
- (b) if the claimant would, but for regulation 21 of the State Pension Credit Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003, have been entitled to state pension credit in respect of the benefit week, within the meaning of regulation 1(2) of those Regulations (interpretation), which includes the last day of the relevant week, the amount to which he would have been entitled and, for the purposes of this sub-paragraph, if the amount is in respect of a part-week, that amount shall be determined by dividing the amount of the state pension credit to which he would have been so entitled by the number equal to the number of days in the part-week and multiplying the quotient so obtained by 7;
- (c) if the claimant would, but for regulation 113 of the Jobseeker's Allowance Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1996, have been entitled to an income-based jobseeker's allowance in respect of the benefit week, within the meaning of regulation 1(2) of those Regulations (interpretation), which includes the last day of the relevant week, the amount to which he would have been entitled and, for the purposes of this sub-paragraph, if the amount is in respect of a part-week, that amount shall be determined by dividing the amount of the income-based jobseeker's allowance to which he would have been so entitled by the number equal to the number of days in the part-week and multiplying the quotient so obtained by 7.
- (5) The amount determined under paragraph (4) shall be re-determined under that paragraph if the claimant makes a further claim for housing benefit and the conditions in paragraph (6) are satisfied, and in such a case –
- (a) paragraph (4) shall apply as if for “relevant week” there was substituted “relevant subsequent week”, and
- (b) subject to paragraph (7), the amount as re-determined shall have effect from the first week following the relevant subsequent week in question.
- (6) The conditions are that –
- (a) a further claim is made 26 or more weeks after –
- (i) the date on which the claimant made a claim for housing benefit in respect of which he was first treated as possessing the capital in question under regulation 42(1);
- (ii) in a case where there has been at least one re-determination in accordance with paragraph (5), the date on which he last made a claim for housing benefit which resulted in the weekly amount being re-determined, or
- (iii) the date on which he last ceased to be entitled to housing benefit, whichever last occurred, and
- (b) the claimant would have been entitled to housing benefit but for regulation 42(1).
- (7) The amount as re-determined pursuant to paragraph (5) shall not have effect if it is less than the amount which applied in that case immediately before the re-determination and in such a case the higher amount shall continue to have effect.
- (8) For the purposes of this regulation –
- “part-week” in paragraph (4)(b) and (c) means –
- (a) a period of less than a week which is the whole period for which state pension credit, or, as the case may be, an income-based jobseeker's allowance, is payable, and



(b) any other period of less than a week for which either of those benefits is payable; “relevant week” means the benefit week in which the capital in question of which the claimant has deprived himself within the meaning of regulation 42(1) –

(a) was first taken into account for the purpose of determining his entitlement to housing benefit, or

(b) was taken into account on a subsequent occasion for the purpose of determining or re-determining his entitlement to housing benefit on that subsequent occasion and that determination or re-determination resulted in his beginning to receive, or ceasing to receive, housing benefit;

and where more than one benefit week is identified by reference to paragraphs (a) and (b), the later or latest such benefit week;

“relevant subsequent week” means the benefit week which includes the day on which the further claim or, if more than one further claim has been made, the last such claim was made.

### **Capital jointly held**

**44.**—(1) Where a claimant and one or more persons are beneficially entitled in possession to any capital asset other than a capital asset disregarded under regulation 42(3), they shall be treated as if each of them were entitled in possession to the whole beneficial interest therein in an equal share and the foregoing provisions of this Chapter shall apply for the purposes of calculating the amount of capital which the claimant is treated as possessing as if it were actual capital which the claimant does possess.

(2) Any premises or land not wholly owned by the claimant shall be disregarded for such period as is reasonable in the circumstances to enable the collection of such information as is necessary to determine the treatment of capital in accordance with paragraph (1).”.

### **Provisions which do not apply**

**9.** The following provisions of the Housing Benefit Regulations shall not apply to a claimant who has attained, or whose partner has attained, the qualifying age for state pension credit –

(a) regulations 46 to 60 (students);

(b) regulations 66 and 67 (benefit period).

### **Continuing payments where state pension credit claimed**

**10.**—(1) After regulation 62A(74) (extended payments), there shall be inserted the following regulation –

#### **“Continuing payments where state pension credit claimed**

**62B.**—(1) This regulation applies where –

(a) the claimant is entitled to housing benefit;

(b) paragraph (2) is satisfied, and

(c) either –

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(74) Regulation 62A was inserted by regulation 3 of S.R. 1996 No. 115 and amended by regulation 4(2)(a), (b) and (c) of S.R. 1999 No. 381, regulation 3(2) to (7) of S.R. 2001 No. 99 and Schedule 1 to S.R. 2001 No. 215

- (i) the claimant has attained the qualifying age for state pension credit or, if his entitlement to income-based jobseeker's allowance continued beyond that age, has attained the age of 65, or
  - (ii) the claimant's partner has actually claimed state pension credit.
- (2) This regulation is only satisfied if the Department has certified to the relevant authority that the claimant's partner has actually claimed state pension credit or that –
- (a) the claimant's award of –
    - (i) income support has terminated because the claimant has attained the qualifying age for state pension credit, or
    - (ii) income-based jobseeker's allowance has terminated because the claimant has attained the qualifying age for state pension credit or the age of 65, and
  - (b) the claimant has claimed or is treated as having claimed or is required to make a claim for state pension credit.
- (3) In a case to which this regulation applies, housing benefit shall continue to be paid for the period of 4 weeks beginning on the day following the day the claimant's entitlement to income support or, as the case may be, income-based jobseeker's allowance, ceased, if and for so long as the claimant otherwise satisfies the conditions for entitlement to housing benefit.
- (4) Throughout the period of 4 weeks specified in paragraph (3) –
- (a) the whole of the income and capital of the claimant shall be disregarded;
  - (b) subject to paragraph (5), the appropriate maximum housing benefit of the claimant shall be that which was applicable in his case immediately before that period commenced.
- (5) The appropriate maximum housing benefit shall be calculated in accordance with regulation 61(75) (maximum housing benefit) if, since the date it was last calculated –
- (a) the claimant's rent has increased, or
  - (b) a change in the deduction under regulation 63(76) (non-dependant deductions) falls to be made.”.

### **Amendment of regulation 63**

#### **11. In regulation 63 (non-dependant deductions) –**

- (a) in paragraph (1), for sub-paragraph (b)(77), there shall be substituted –
  - “(b) in respect of a non-dependant who is engaged in remunerative work and in receipt of state pension credit –
    - (i) in calculating the amount of a rent rebate or allowance, £7·40 per week,
    - (ii) in calculating the amount of a rate rebate, £2·30 per week;
  - (c) in respect of a non-dependant aged 18 or over to whom neither sub-paragraph (a) nor sub-paragraph (b) applies –
    - (i) in calculating the amount of a rent rebate or allowance, £7·40 per week,
    - (ii) in calculating the amount of a rate rebate, £2·30 per week;”;

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(75) Regulation 61 was amended by regulation 7 of S.R. 1990 No. 345, regulation 6 of 1992 No. 549 and regulation 10(1)(b) of S.R. 2001 No. 215

(76) Regulation 63 was amended by S.R. 1989 No. 125, S.R. 1990 Nos. 136 and 345, S.R. 1992 Nos. 85, 404 and 549, S.R. 1993 Nos. 145, 195, 233 and 549, S.R. 1996 No. 334, S.R. 1997 No. 3, S.R. 1998 No. 81, S. R. 2000 No. 38 and S.R.2002 No. 99

(77) The amounts in sub-paragraph (b) were substituted by Article 19(4) of S.R. 2002 No. 99

(b) in paragraph (7) after sub-paragraph (d)(78), there shall be inserted the following sub-paragraph –

“(dd) he is a full-time student and the claimant or his partner has attained the age of 65, or”.

## PART 3

### APPLICATION OF SCHEDULE 2

#### Application of Schedule 2

12.—(1) Schedule 2 to these Regulations shall have effect in relation to housing benefit.

(2) The provisions of Schedule 2 apply only in the case of a person who has attained or whose partner has attained the qualifying age for state pension credit, except in the case of a person to whom paragraph (3) applies.

(3) This paragraph applies where the claimant or, if the claimant has a partner, his partner, is a person on income support or on an income-based jobseeker’s allowance within the meaning of the Housing Benefit Regulations.

## PART IV

### CONSEQUENTIAL AND TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

#### Date on which change of circumstances is to take effect

13.—(1) Regulation 68 of the Housing Benefit Regulations (date on which change of circumstances is to take effect) shall be amended in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3).

(2) In paragraph (1)(79) for “and subject to paragraphs (1A)(80) to (8)” there shall be substituted “and subject to paragraphs (3) to (12)”.

(3) After paragraph (8) there shall be added the following paragraphs –

(9) Paragraph (10) applies if –

- (a) the claimant or his partner has attained the age of 65, and
- (b) since the date in respect of which the claimant’s entitlement to housing benefit first began or, if later, the anniversary date –
  - (i) a non-dependant took up residence in the claimant’s dwelling, or
  - (ii) the income of a non-dependant increased so that the amount of the deduction which falls to be made under regulation 63 (non-dependant deductions) increased.

(10) Where this paragraph applies, the change of circumstances shall take effect from the next anniversary date following the change specified in paragraph (9)(b).

(11) In paragraphs (9) and (10) but subject to paragraph (12), “anniversary date” means –

- (a) in the case of a person whose entitlement to housing benefit began before 6th October 2003, the anniversary of the date of the last decision made by the relevant authority before 6th October 2003 awarding the claimant housing benefit;

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(78) Sub-paragraph (d) was added by regulation 8 of S.R. 1990 No. 345

(79) Paragraph (1) was amended by regulation 8(a)(i) of S.R. 2001 No. 25 and regulation 6(a) of S.R. 1999 No. 416

(80) Paragraph (1A) was inserted by regulation 2(b) of S.R. 2003 No. 189

- (b) in the case of a person who claimed housing benefit on or after 6th October 2003 but before 6th October 2004 and whose award took effect from 6th October 2003, the anniversary of the date the decision on that claim was made by the relevant authority, or
- (c) in any other case, the anniversary of the date in respect of which the claimant's entitlement to housing benefit first began.

(12) If in any particular case the date determined under sub-paragraphs (a) to (c) is not the first day of a benefit week, the anniversary date in that case shall be the first day of the next benefit week to commence after the date determined under those paragraphs.

(4) After regulation 68A(81) (date of change of circumstances following decision as to whether a person took part in a work-focused interview) there shall be inserted the following regulation –

**“Change of circumstances where state pension credit payable**

**68B.**—(1) Paragraphs (2) to (8) apply where –

- (a) the claimant is also on state pension credit;
- (b) the amount of state pension credit awarded to him is changed in consequence of a change in the claimant's circumstances or the correction of an official error, and
- (c) the change in the amount of state pension credit payable to the claimant results in a change in the rate of housing benefit payable to the claimant.

(2) Where the change of circumstance is that an increase in the amount of state pension credit payable to the claimant results in an increase in the rate at which housing benefit is payable to him, the change shall take effect from the first day of the benefit week in which state pension credit becomes payable at the increased rate.

(3) Where the change of circumstance is that the claimant's state pension credit is reduced and in consequence the rate of housing benefit payable to the claimant reduces –

- (a) in a case where the claimant's state pension credit is reduced because the claimant failed to notify the Department timeously of the change of circumstances, the change shall take effect from the first day of the benefit week from which state pension credit was reduced, or
- (b) in any other case, the change shall take effect from the first day of the benefit week next following the date on which the relevant authority receives notification from the Department of the change.

(4) Where the change of circumstance is that –

- (a) state pension credit is reduced, and
- (b) in consequence of the change, the rate of housing benefit payable to the claimant is increased,

the change shall take effect from the first day of the benefit week in which state pension credit becomes payable at the reduced rate.

(5) Where the change of circumstance is that an award of state pension credit has been made to the claimant or his partner and this has resulted in a decrease in the rate of housing benefit payable to the claimant, the change shall take effect from the first day of the benefit week next following the date on which the relevant authority receives notification from the Department of the award.

(6) Where the change of circumstances is that a guarantee credit has been awarded to the claimant or his partner and this has resulted in a decrease in the rate of housing benefit payable

to the claimant, the change shall take effect from the first day of the benefit week next following the date in respect of which the guarantee credit is first payable.

(7) Where a change of circumstances would, but for this paragraph, take effect under the preceding provisions of this regulation within the 4 week period specified in regulation 62B(82) (continuing payments where state pension credit claimed), that change shall take effect on the first day of the first benefit week to commence after the expiry of the 4 week period.

(8) In paragraph (1) “official error” has the meaning it has in the Decisions and Appeals Regulations by virtue of regulation 1(2) of those Regulations.”.

#### **Time claims are made or treated as made**

14. In regulation 72 of the Housing Benefit Regulations (time and manner in which claims are to be made) –

(a) in paragraph (5)(83) –

(i) in sub-paragraph (a), after the words “income support” wherever they occur, there shall be inserted “, state pension credit which comprises a guarantee credit”;

(ii) after sub-paragraph (aa)(84) there shall be inserted the following sub-paragraph –

“(aaa) in a case where the claimant or his partner claimed state pension credit and either there was no entitlement to state pension credit or there was entitlement only to a savings credit, the date on which the claim is received at the appropriate office or the designated office whichever is the earlier.”;

(iii) in sub-paragraph (bb)(85) after “income support” there shall be inserted “, in receipt of a guaranteed credit”;

(b) after paragraph (10) there shall be inserted the following paragraph –

“(10A) In the case of a person who has attained, or whose partner has attained, the age of 59 years and 35 weeks, paragraph (10) shall apply as if for the reference to the thirteenth benefit week, there was substituted a reference to the seventeenth benefit week.”.

#### **Notification of change of circumstances**

15. In regulation 75 of the Housing Benefit Regulations (duty to notify change of circumstances)

(a) in paragraph (1)(86) for “(2) and (4)” there shall be substituted “(2), (4) to (6)”;

(b) after paragraph (4)(87) there shall be added the following paragraphs –

“(5) A person on housing benefit who is also on state pension credit must report –

(a) changes to his tenancy, but not changes in the amount of rent payable to the Executive;

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(82) Regulations 62B was inserted by regulation 10 of these Regulations

(83) Paragraph (5) was amended by regulation 4(4)(a) of S.R. 1990 No. 137, regulation 9(a) of S.R. 1991 No. 47, regulation 3(a) of S.R. 1991 No. 176 and regulation 13(b) of S.R. 1996 No. 334

(84) Sub-paragraph (aa) was added by regulation 3 of S.R. 2003 No. 80

(85) Sub-paragraph (bb) was inserted by regulation 9(a) of S.R. 1991 No. 47 and amended by regulation 13(b)(ii)(c) of S.R. 1996 No. 334

(86) Paragraph (1) was amended by regulation 8(3)(a) of S.R. 2001 No. 175 and regulation 4(h) of S.R. 2001 No. 215

(87) Paragraph (4) was added by regulation 8(3)(b) of S.R. 2001 No. 175

- (b) changes affecting the residence or income of any non-dependant normally residing with the claimant or with whom the claimant normally resides;
  - (c) any absence from the dwelling which exceeds or is likely to exceed 13 weeks.
- (6) In addition to the changes required to be reported under paragraph (5), a person whose state pension credit comprises only a savings credit must also report –
- (a) changes affecting a child living with him which may result in a change in the amount of housing benefit payable in his case, but not changes in the age of the child;
  - (b) changes affecting child tax credit, child special allowance or child benefit;
  - (c) any change in the amount of the claimant’s capital to be taken into account which does or may take the amount of his capital to more than £16,000;
  - (d) any change in the income or capital of –
    - (i) a non-dependant whose income and capital are treated as belonging to the claimant in accordance with regulation 20 (circumstances in which income and capital of a non-dependant is to be treated as claimant's), or
    - (ii) a person to whom regulation 23(4)(d) refers,
 and whether such a person or, as the case may be, non-dependant stops living or begins or resumes living with the claimant.
- (7) A person who is on housing benefit and on state pension credit need only report to the designated office the changes specified in paragraphs (5) and (6).”.

## Decisions

**16.**—(1) In Part II of Schedule 6 to the Housing Benefit Regulations (matters to be included in the decision notice: awards where income support or an income-based jobseeker’s allowance is payable) –

- (a) in the heading after “income support” there shall be inserted “, state pension credit”;
  - (b) paragraph 9(88) shall be renumbered 9(1);
  - (c) in the re-numbered paragraph 9(1) after “income support” there shall be inserted “, state pension credit”.
- (2) After paragraph 9(1) there shall be inserted the following sub-paragraph –
- “(2) In a case where a person on state pension credit has entitlement only to the savings credit, the following additional matters shall also be set out –
- (a) the applicable amount and the basis of the calculation;
  - (b) the amount of the savings credit and any child tax credit, child benefit or child special allowance taken into account;
  - (c) the amount of the person’s income and capital as notified to the relevant authority by the Department and taken into account for the purposes of the housing benefit assessment;
  - (d) any modification of the claimant’s income or capital made in accordance with regulation 23(89) (calculation of claimant’s income and capital in savings credit only cases);

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(88) Paragraph 9 was amended by regulation 13 of [S.R. 1989 No. 125](#), regulation 23(2)(a) of [S.R. 1996 No. 334](#) and regulation 6(b) of [S.R. 2001 No. 215](#)

(89) Regulation 23 is modified by regulation 8 of these Regulations

- (e) the amount of the claimant's capital if regulation 23(7)(90) applies in his case.”.

### **Amendments relating to recovery of overpaid housing benefit**

17. In regulation 105(1)(91) of the Housing Benefit Regulations (recovery of overpayment from prescribed benefits) at the end there shall be added the following sub-paragraph –

- “(f) state pension credit.”.

### **Minor amendments**

18.—(1) In the Housing Benefit Regulations listed in paragraph (2), after “income support”, there shall be inserted “, state pension credit”.

(2) Those regulations are –

- (a) regulation 4(5)(92) (remunerative work);
- (b) regulation 93(1)(a)(93) (circumstances in which payment is to be made to a landlord or the Department of Finance and Personnel).

### **Amendment of the Housing Benefit (Decisions and Appeals) Regulations**

19.—(1) The Housing Benefit (Decisions and Appeals) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2001(94) shall be amended in accordance with paragraph (2).

(2) In regulation 8 (date from which a decision superseding an earlier decision takes effect) –

- (a) in paragraph (2), for “in accordance with regulations 68 and 68A of the Housing Benefit Regulations (date on which change of circumstances is to take effect and date of change of circumstances following decision as to whether a person took part in a work-focused interview)” there shall be substituted “in accordance with regulations 68, 68A or 68B of the Housing Benefit Regulations (date on which change of circumstances is to take effect, date of change of circumstances following decision as to whether a person took part in a work-focused interview and change of circumstances where state pension credit payable)”;
- (b) in paragraph (3)(a), after “68A” there shall be inserted “or 68B”.

### **Transitional provision**

20. A claim for housing benefit made after the day this regulation comes into operation but before 6th October 2004 by a person who has attained or whose partner has attained the qualifying age for state pension credit shall be treated as made –

- (a) on 6th October 2003, or
- (b) on the day that person or, as the case may be, his partner attained the qualifying age for state pension credit,

whichever is the later, if the relevant authority is satisfied that, on that day, the claimant satisfied the conditions of entitlement to housing benefit.

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(90) Regulation 23(7) is modified by regulation 8 of these Regulations

(91) Paragraph (1) was amended by regulation 16 of S.R. 1988 No. 424, regulation 11(3)(a) and (b) of S.R. 1992 No. 6 and regulation 18 of S.R. 1996 No. 334

(92) Paragraph (5) was amended by regulation 3 of S.R. 1996 No. 334

(93) Paragraph (1)(a) was amended by regulation 16 of S.R. 1996 No. 334, regulation 7(g) of S.R. 1996 No. 448 and regulation 11(a) of S.R. 1997 No. 22

(94) S.R. 2001 No. 213; to which there are no relevant amending Regulations



### Claims made before 6th October 2003

21.—(1) This regulation applies if –

- (a) a claim is made or treated as made for housing benefit on or after 6th April 2003;
- (b) the claim is made by a person who has attained, or whose partner has attained, the qualifying age for state pension credit or who will attain or whose partner will attain that age on or before 6th October 2003; and
- (c) the person making the claim does not satisfy the conditions for entitlement to housing benefit.

(2) If in the opinion of the relevant authority determining the claim, the conditions for claiming housing benefit will be satisfied on 6th October 2003 unless there is a change in the claimant's circumstances, the authority may –

- (a) treat the claim as if made for a period beginning on 6th October 2003, and
- (b) award benefit accordingly, but subject to the condition that the claimant does in fact satisfy those conditions when benefit becomes payable under the award.

(3) A decision under paragraph (2)(b) to award housing benefit may be revised under paragraph 3 of Schedule 7 to the Child Support, Pensions and Social Security Act (Northern Ireland) 2000<sup>(95)</sup> if the requirements for entitlement to housing benefit is found not to have been satisfied on 6th October 2003.

### Existing claimants

22.—(1) In the case of an existing claimant who, on 6th October 2003, has been a patient for more than 6 weeks but not more than 13 weeks regulation 16(2) of the Housing Benefit Regulations, as inserted by regulation 6(1) of these Regulations, shall have effect as if for the reference to “13 weeks” there were substituted a reference to “6 weeks”.

(2) In this regulation –

- (a) “an existing claimant” is a person who –
  - (i) immediately before 6th October 2003, is entitled to housing benefit, and
  - (ii) attains or has attained the qualifying age for state pension credit on or before 6th October 2003;
- (b) “patient” means a person (other than a person who is serving a sentence of imprisonment or detention in a young offenders centre or training school) who is regarded as receiving free in-patient treatment within the meaning of the Social Security (Hospital In-Patients) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1975<sup>(96)</sup>;
- (c) for the purposes of calculating the period of 6 weeks referred to in paragraph (1), where a person has been maintained free of charge while undergoing medical or other treatment as an in-patient in a hospital or similar institution within the meaning of that paragraph for two or more distinct periods separated by one or more intervals each not exceeding 28 days, he shall be treated as having been so maintained for a period equal in duration to the total of those distinct periods.

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<sup>(95)</sup> 2000 c. 4 (N.I.)

<sup>(96)</sup> S.R. 1975 No. 109



Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department for Social Development on 25th March 2003.

L.S.

*D. A. Baker*  
Senior Officer of the  
Department for Social Development

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 25th March 2003.

L.S.

*D. Thomson*  
Senior Officer of the  
Department of Finance and Personnel

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## SCHEDULE 1

### PROVISIONS CONFERRING POWERS EXERCISED IN MAKING THESE REGULATIONS

Column (1) <i>Short title</i>	Column (2) <i>Provision</i>	Column (3) <i>Relevant amendments</i>
Social Security Contributions and Benefits (Northern Ireland) Act 1992 (c. 7)	Section 122(1)(d)	
	Section 129(4)	
	Section 130(1)	
	Section 131(1) and (6)	
	Section 132	
	Section 132A(3) and (4)(a)	State Pension Credit Act (Northern Ireland) 2002 (c. 14), Schedule 2, paragraph 3.
Social Security Administration (Northern Ireland) Act 1992 (c. 8)	Section 133(2)(c), (h) and (i)	
	Section 171(3) to (5)	Social Security (Incapacity for Work) (Northern Ireland) Order 1994 (S.I. 1994/1898 (N.I. 12)), Schedule 1, paragraph 36.
	Section 5(1)(a) to (e), (hh), (k), (l) and (q)	Social Security (Northern Ireland) Order 1998 (S.I. 1998/1506 (N.I. 10)), Article 70 and Schedule 6, paragraph 60(1)(a); Child Support, Pensions and Social Security Act (Northern Ireland) 2000 (c. 4), Schedule 7, paragraph 21.
Social Security (Northern Ireland) Order 1998 (S.I. 1998/1506 (N.I. 10))	Section 73(4)	
	Section 165(4) and (5)	
	Article 34(1) Article 74(3)	Applied to Schedule 7 to the Child Support, Pensions and Social Security Act (Northern Ireland ) 2000 (c. 4) by paragraph 20(3) of that Schedule.

## SCHEDULE 2

### DISREGARDS

1. The following Schedules shall have effect as follows –
  - (a) the First Schedule shall have effect as Schedule 3A to the Housing Benefit Regulations;
  - (b) the Second Schedule shall have effect as Schedule 4A to the Housing Benefit Regulations, and
  - (c) the Third Schedule shall have effect as Schedule 5ZA to the Housing Benefit Regulations to be inserted immediately following Schedule 5.

### THE FIRST SCHEDULE

#### “SUMS DISREGARDED FROM CLAIMANT'S EARNINGS

1. Where two or more of paragraphs 2 to 5 apply in any particular case the overall maximum sum which falls to be disregarded in that case under those paragraphs is restricted to –
  - (a) £25 in the case of a lone parent;
  - (b) £20 in any other case.
2. In a case where a claimant is a lone parent, £25 of earnings.
- 3.—(1) In a case of earnings from any employment or employments to which sub-paragraph (2) applies, £20.
  - (2) This paragraph applies to employment –
    - (a) a part-time fireman in a fire brigade maintained in pursuance of the Fire Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1984<sup>(97)</sup>;
    - (b) as an auxiliary coastguard in respect of coast rescue activities;
    - (c) in the manning or launching of a life boat if the employment is part-time;
    - (d) as a member of any territorial or reserve force prescribed in Part I of Schedule 6 to the Social Security (Contributions) Regulations 2001<sup>(98)</sup>;
    - (e) a person in the army whose service is restricted to part-time service in Northern Ireland pursuant to section 1 of the Army Act 1992<sup>(99)</sup>, regulations made under section 2 of the Armed Forces Act 1966<sup>(100)</sup>, or the terms of his commission;
    - (f) a part-time member of the Police Service of Northern Ireland Reserve appointed under section 37 of the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000<sup>(101)</sup>.
  - (3) If the claimant's partner is engaged in any employment, so much of his earnings as would not in aggregate with the amount of the claimant's earnings disregarded under this paragraph exceed £20.

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<sup>(97)</sup> S.I. 1984/1821 (N.I. 11)

<sup>(98)</sup> S.I. 2001/1004

<sup>(99)</sup> 1992 c. 39

<sup>(100)</sup> 1966 c. 45; section 2 was amended by section 2 of the Army Act 1992

<sup>(101)</sup> 2000 c. 32

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4.—(1) If the claimant or his partner is a carer, or both are carers, £20 of any earnings received from his or their employment.

(2) Where the carer premium is awarded in respect of the claimant and of any partner of his, their earnings shall for the purposes of this paragraph be aggregated, but the amount to be disregarded in accordance with sub-paragraph (1) shall not exceed £20 of the aggregated amount.

(3) In this paragraph the claimant or his partner is a carer if paragraph 9 of Part III of Schedule 2A (carer premium) is satisfied in respect of him.

5.—(1) £20 is disregarded if the claimant or, if he has a partner, his partner –

(a) is in receipt of –

(i) long-term incapacity benefit under section 30A of the Contributions and Benefits Act(102);

(ii) severe disablement allowance under section 68 of the Contributions and Benefits Act(103);

(iii) attendance allowance;

(iv) disability living allowance under section 71 to 76 of the Contributions and Benefits Act(104);

(v) any mobility supplement under Article 26A of the Naval, Military and Air Forces etc. (Disablement and Death) Service Pensions Order 1983(105) (including such a supplement by virtue of any other scheme or order) or under Article 25A of the Personal Injuries (Civilians) Scheme 1983(106);

(b) has been certified as blind and in consequence is registered as blind in a register maintained by or on behalf of a Health and Social Services Board, or

(c) is, or is treated as, incapable of work in accordance with the provisions of, and regulations made under, Part XIIA of the Contributions and Benefits Act (incapacity for work), and has been incapable, or has been treated as incapable, of work for a continuous period of not less than –

(i) in the case of a claimant who is terminally ill within the meaning of section 30B(4) of the Contributions and Benefits Act(107) (incapacity benefit: rate), 196 days;

(ii) in any other case, 364 days.

(2) Subject to sub-paragraph (3), £20 is disregarded if the claimant or, if he has a partner, his partner has, within a period of 8 weeks ending on the day in respect of which the claimant or his partner attains the qualifying age for state pension credit, had an award of housing benefit and –

(a) £20 was disregarded in respect of earnings taken into account in that award;

(b) the person whose earnings qualified for the disregard continues in employment after the termination of that award.

(102) Section 30A was inserted by Article 3(1) of the Social Security (Incapacity for Work) (Northern Ireland) Order 1994 (S.I. 1994/1898 (N.I. 12))

(103) Section 68 was repealed by Article 76 and Part IV of Schedule 10 to the Welfare Reform and Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 1999 (S.I. 1999/3147 (N.I. 11)) which was commenced with savings by Articles 2 and 4 of S.R. 2000 No. 332 (C. 14)

(104) Sections 71 to 73 were amended by Article 64 of the Welfare Reform and Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 1999

(105) S.I. 1983/883; Article 26A was inserted by S.I. 1983/1116 and amended by S.I. 1983/1521 and S.I. 1986/592

(106) S.I. 1983/686; Article 25A was inserted by S.I. 1983/1164 and amended by S.I. 1983/1540 and S.I. 1986/628

(107) Section 30B was inserted by Article 4(1) of the Social Security (Incapacity for Work) (Northern Ireland) Order 1994

(3) The disregard of £20 specified in sub-paragraph (2) applies so long as there is no break, other than a break which does not exceed 8 weeks, in a person's entitlement to housing benefit or in employment following the first day in respect of which that benefit is awarded.

(4) £20 is the maximum amount which may be disregarded under this paragraph, notwithstanding that, where the claimant has a partner, both the claimant and his partner satisfy the requirements of this paragraph.

6. Any amount or the balance of any amount which would fall to be disregarded under paragraph 19 or 20 of Schedule 4A**(108)** (amounts to be disregarded in the calculation of income other than earnings) had the claimant's income which does not consist of earnings been sufficient to entitle him to the full disregard thereunder.

7. Except where the claimant or his partner qualifies for a £20 disregard under the preceding provisions of this Schedule –

- (a) £5 shall be disregarded if a claimant who has no partner has earnings;
- (b) £10 shall be disregarded if a claimant who has a partner has earnings.

8. Any earnings other than earnings referred to in regulation 28(8)(b) (calculation of weekly income) derived from employed earners employment which ended before the day in respect of which the claimant first satisfies the conditions for entitlement to housing benefit.

9.—(1) In a case where the claimant is a person who satisfies at least one of the conditions set out in sub-paragraph (2), and his net earnings equal or exceed the total of the amounts set out in sub-paragraph (3), the amount of his earnings that falls to be disregarded under this Schedule shall be increased by a sum equal to the 30 hour element of working tax credit referred to in regulation 20(1)(c) of the Working Tax Credit Regulations.

(2) The conditions of this sub-paragraph are that –

(a) the claimant, or if he has a partner, either the claimant or his partner, is a person to whom regulation 20(1)(c) of the Working Tax Credit Regulations applies, or

(b) the claimant –

(i) is, or if he has a partner, his partner is, or both the claimant and his partner are, aged at least 25 and is engaged in remunerative work for on average not less than 30 hours per week, or

(ii) if he is a member of a couple –

(aa) at least one member of that couple is engaged in remunerative work for on average not less than 16 hours per week;

(bb) the aggregate number of hours for which the couple are engaged in remunerative work is at least 30 hours per week, and

(cc) his applicable amount includes a family premium under paragraph 3 of Schedule 2A**(109)**, or

(iii) is a lone parent who is engaged in remunerative work for on average not less than 30 hours per week, or

(iv) is, or if he has a partner, one of them is or both are, engaged in remunerative work for on average not less than 30 hours per week, and

(aa) paragraph 5(1) is satisfied in respect of one or, as the case may be, both of them, and

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**(108)** Schedule 4A is inserted by regulation 20 and paragraph 1(b) of Schedule 2 to these Regulations

**(109)** Schedule 2A is inserted by regulation 6 of these Regulations

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- (bb) the person in respect of whom it is satisfied is engaged in remunerative work for on average not less than 16 hours per week.
- (3) The following are the amounts referred to in sub-paragraph (1) –
- (a) any amount disregarded under this Schedule;
  - (b) the amount of child care charges calculated as deductible under regulation 26(1)(c), and
  - (c) the amount of the element referred to in regulation 20(1)(c) of the Working Tax Credit Regulations.
- (4) The provisions of regulation 4 (remunerative work) shall apply in determining whether or not a person works for on average not less than 30 hours per week, but as if the reference to 16 hours in paragraph (1) of that regulation were a reference to 30 hours.
- (5) In this paragraph, “the Working Tax Credit Regulations” means the Working Tax Credit (Entitlement and Maximum Rate) Regulations 2002(**110**).
10. Where a payment of earnings is made in a currency other than sterling, any banking charge or commission payable in converting that payment into sterling.”.

## THE SECOND SCHEDULE

### “AMOUNTS TO BE DISREGARDED IN THE CALCULATION OF INCOME OTHER THAN EARNINGS

1. In addition to any sum which falls to be disregarded in accordance with paragraphs 2 to 6, any of the following, namely –
- (a) a war disablement pension;
  - (b) a war widow’s or war widower’s pension;
  - (c) a pension payable to a person as a widow or widower under the Naval, Military and Air Forces etc. (Disablement and Death) Service Pensions Order 1983(**111**) insofar as that Order is made under the Naval and Marine Pay and Pensions Act 1865(**112**) or the Pensions and Yeomanry Pay Act 1884(**113**), or is made only under section 12(1) of the Social Security (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1977(**114**) and any power of Her Majesty otherwise than under any statutory provision to make provision about pensions for or in respect of persons who have been disabled or have died in consequence of service as members of the armed forces of the Crown;
  - (d) a payment made to compensate for the non-payment of such a pension as is mentioned in any of the preceding sub-paragraphs;
  - (e) a pension paid by the government of a country outside Great Britain which is analogous to any of the pensions mentioned in sub-paragraphs (a) to (c).

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(110) S.I. 2002/2005

(111) S.I. 1983/883; relevant amending instruments are S.I. 1993/598, 1994/1906. The Order needs to be read subject to the provisions of section 168 of the Pensions Act 1995 (c. 26), the effect of which is to disregard subsequent marriages which have been dissolved or been the subject of a decree of judicial separation, in determining a person’s entitlement to a widow’s pension

(112) 28 & 29 Vict. c. 73; copies of the Order are available from: Ministry of Defence, NPC2, Room 317, Archway Block South, Old Admiralty Building, Spring Gardens, London SW1A 2BE

(113) 47 & 48 Vict. c. 55

(114) 1977 c. 5

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2. £10 of a pension paid to victims of National Socialist persecution under any special provision made by the law of the Federal Republic of Germany, or any part of it, or of the Republic of Austria.

3. The whole of any amount included in a pension to which paragraphs 1 and 2 relate in respect of –

- (a) the claimant’s need for constant attendance;
- (b) the claimant’s exceptionally severe disablement.

4. Any mobility supplement under Article 26A of the Naval, Military and Air Forces etc. (Disablement and Death) Service Pensions Order 1983(**115**) (including such a supplement by virtue of any other scheme or order) or under Article 25A of the Personal Injuries (Civilians) Scheme 1983 (**116**) or any payment intended to compensate for the non-payment of such a supplement.

5. Any supplementary pension under Article 29(1A) of the Naval, Military and Air Forces etc. (Disablement and Death) Service Pensions Order 1983(**117**) (pensions to widows or widowers).

6. In the case of a pension awarded at the supplementary rate under Article 27(3) of the Personal Injuries (Civilians) Scheme 1983(**118**) (pensions to widows or widowers), the sum specified in paragraph 1(c) of Schedule 4 to that Scheme.

7.—(1) Any payment which is –

- (a) made under any of the Dispensing Instruments to a widow or widower of a person –
  - (i) whose death was attributable to service in a capacity analogous to service as a member of the armed forces of the Crown, and
  - (ii) whose service in such capacity terminated before 31st March 1973, and
- (b) equal to the amount specified in Article 29(1A) of the Naval, Military and Air Forces etc. (Disablement and Death) Service Pensions Order 1983 (pensions to widows or widowers).

(2) In this paragraph, “the Dispensing Instruments”(**119**) means the Order in Council of 19th December 1881, the Royal Warrant of 27th October 1884 and the Order by His Majesty of 14th January 1922 (exceptional grants of pay, non-effective pay and allowances).

8. £15 of any widowed parent’s allowance to which the claimant is entitled under section 39A of the Contributions and Benefits Act(**120**).

9. £15 of any widowed mother’s allowance to which the claimant is entitled under section 37 of the Contributions and Benefits Act.

10. Where the claimant occupies a dwelling as his home and he provides in that dwelling board and lodging accommodation, an amount, in respect of each person for whom such accommodation is provided for the whole or any part of a week, equal to –

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(115) Article 26A was added by S.I. 1983/1116 and amended by S.I. 1983/1521 and S.I. 1986/592

(116) S.I. 1983/686; amended by S.I. 1983/1164 and 1540, S.I. 1986/628 and S.I. 1989/415

(117) Relevant amending Instruments are S.I. 1993/598 and 1906

(118) Relevant amending Instruments are S.I. 1994/715 and 2021

(119) Copies of the Dispensing Instruments are available from the Department for Social Development, Social Security Policy and Legislation Division, Stormont Estate, Belfast BT4 3SJ

(120) Section 39A was inserted by Article 52(2) of the Welfare Reform and Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 1999 (S.I. 1999/3147 (N.I. 11))

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- (a) where the aggregate of any payments made in respect of any one week in respect of such accommodation provided to such person does not exceed £20, 100 per cent. of such payments, or
- (b) where the aggregate of any such payments exceeds £20, £20 and 50 per cent. of the excess over £20.

11. If the claimant –

- (a) owns the freehold or leasehold interest in any property or is a tenant of any property;
- (b) occupies a part of that property, and
- (c) has an agreement with another person allowing that person to occupy another part of that property on payment of rent, and –
  - (i) the amount paid by that person is less than £20 per week, the whole of that amount, or
  - (ii) the amount paid is £20 or more per week, £20.

12. Where a claimant receives income under an annuity purchased with a loan, which satisfies the following conditions –

- (a) that the loan was made as part of a scheme under which not less than 90 per cent. of the proceeds of the loan were applied to the purchase by the person to whom it was made of an annuity ending with his life or with the life of the survivor of 2 or more persons (in this paragraph referred to as “the annuitants”) who include the person to whom the loan was made;
- (b) that at the time the loan was made the person to whom it was made or each of the annuitants had attained the age of 65;
- (c) that the loan was secured on a dwelling in Northern Ireland and the person to whom the loan was made or one of the annuitants owns an estate or interest in that dwelling;
- (d) that the person to whom the loan was made or one of the annuitants occupies the dwelling on which it was secured as his home at the time the interest is paid, and
- (e) that the interest payable on the loan is paid by the person to whom the loan was made or by one of the annuitants,

the amount, calculated on a weekly basis, equal to –

- (i) where, or insofar as, section 369 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988(**121**) (mortgage interest payable under deduction of tax) applies to the payments of interest on the loan, the interest which is payable after deduction of a sum equal to income tax on such payments at the applicable percentage of income tax within the meaning of section 369(1A) of that Act;
- (ii) in any other case the interest which is payable on the loan without deduction of such a sum.

13.—(1) Any payment, other than a payment to which sub-paragraph (2) applies, made to the claimant by Trustees in exercise of a discretion exercisable by them.

(2) This sub-paragraph applies to payments made to the claimant by Trustees in exercise of a discretion exercisable by them for the purpose of –

- (a) obtaining food, ordinary clothing or footwear or household fuel,
- (b) the payment of rent or rates for which that claimant or his partner is liable;

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(121)1988 c. 1; section 369(1A) was inserted by section 81(3) of the Finance Act 1994 (c. 9)



- (c) meeting housing costs of a kind specified in Schedule 2 to the State Pension Credit Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003(122).
- (3) In a case to which sub-paragraph (2) applies, £20 or –
- (a) if the payment is less than £20, the whole payment;
  - (b) if, in the claimant’s case, £10 is disregarded in accordance with paragraph 2, £10 or the whole payment if it is less than £10, or
  - (c) if, in the claimant’s case, £15 is disregarded under paragraph 7 or paragraph 8 and –
    - (i) he has no disregard under paragraph 1(a) to (e) or paragraph 2, £5 or the whole payment if it is less than £5;
    - (ii) he has a disregard under paragraph 1(a) to (e) or paragraph 2, nil.
- (4) For the purposes of this paragraph –
- “ordinary clothing and footwear” means clothing or footwear for normal daily use, but does not include school uniforms, or clothing and footwear used solely for sporting activities; and
- “rent or rates” means eligible rent or rates less any deductions in respect of non-dependants which fall to be made under regulation 63 (non-dependant deductions).
14. Any increase in pension under Part IV of the Naval, Military and Air Forces etc. (Disablement and Death) Service Pensions Order 1983 paid in respect of a dependant other than the pensioners spouse.
15. Any payment ordered by a court to be made to the claimant or the claimant’s partner in consequence of any accident, injury or disease suffered by the person or a child of the person to or in respect of whom the payments are made.
16. Periodic payments made to the claimant or the claimant’s partner under an agreement entered into in settlement of a claim made by the claimant or, as the case may be the claimant’s partner for an injury suffered by him.
17. Any income which is payable outside the United Kingdom for such period during which there is a prohibition against the transfer to the United Kingdom of that income.
18. Any banking charges or commission payable in converting to Sterling payments of income made in a currency other than Sterling.
19. Where the claimant makes a parental contribution in respect of a student attending a course at an establishment in the United Kingdom or undergoing education in the United Kingdom, which contribution has been assessed for the purposes of calculating under regulations made in exercise of the powers conferred by Articles 50 and 51 of the Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 1986(123), that student’s award under those Articles or the student’s student loan, an amount equal to the weekly amount of that parental contribution, but only in respect of the period for which that contribution is assessed as being payable.
- 20.—(1) Where the claimant is the parent of a student aged under 25 in advanced education who either –
- (a) is not in receipt of any award, grant or student loan in respect of that education, or

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(122) S.R. 2003 No. 28

(123) S.I. 1986/594 (N.I. 3); Article 50(1) and (2) were repealed by Article 9 and the Schedule to the Education (Student Support) (Northern Ireland) Order 1998 (S.I. 1988/1760 (N.I. 14)) and Article 51 was substituted by Article 53 and Part II of Schedule 5 to the Education (Northern Ireland) Order 1996 (S.I. 1996/274 (N.I. 1)) and both Articles 50 and 51 were amended by Article 5 and Schedule 3 to Departments (Transfer and Assignment of Functions) Order (Northern Ireland) 1999 (S.R. 1999 No. 481)

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(b) is in receipt of an award under Article 50(3) of the Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 (awards made at the discretion of Boards), and the claimant makes payments by way of a contribution towards the student's maintenance, other than a parental contribution falling within paragraph 19, an amount specified in sub-paragraph (2) in respect of each week during the student's term.

(2) For the purposes of sub-paragraph (1), the amount shall be equal to –

(a) the weekly amount of the payments, or

(b) the amount by way of a personal allowance for a single claimant under 25 less the weekly amount of any award referred to in sub-paragraph (1)(b),

whichever is less.

21.—(1) Where a claimant's applicable amount includes an amount by way of a family premium, £15 of any payment of maintenance, whether under a court order or not, which is made or due to be made by the claimant's spouse or former spouse, or the claimant's partner's spouse or former spouse, or

(2) For the purposes of sub-paragraph (1), where more than one maintenance payment falls to be taken into account in any week, all such payments shall be aggregated and treated as if they were a single payment.

22. Except in a case which falls under paragraph 9 of Schedule 3A(124) (sums disregarded from claimant's earnings), where the claimant is entitled to the 30 hour element of working tax credit referred to in regulation 20(1)(c) of the Working Tax Credit (Entitlement and Maximum Rate) Regulations 2002, any amount of working tax credit up to the amount specified for that element in Schedule 2 to those Regulations.”.

## THE THIRD SCHEDULE

### “PART I

#### CAPITAL TO BE DISREGARDED

1. Any premises or land acquired for occupation by the claimant which he intends to occupy as his home within 26 weeks of the date of acquisition or such longer period as is reasonable in the circumstances to enable the claimant to obtain possession and commence occupation of the premises or land.

2. Any premises which the claimant intends to occupy as his home, and in respect of which he is taking steps to obtain possession and has sought legal advice, or has commenced legal proceedings, with a view to obtaining possession, for a period of 26 weeks from the date on which he first sought such advice or first commenced such proceedings whichever is the earlier, or such longer period as is reasonable in the circumstances to enable him to obtain possession and commence occupation of those premises.

3. Any premises which the claimant intends to occupy as his home to which essential repairs or alterations are required in order to render them fit for such occupation, for a period of 26 weeks from the date on which the claimant first takes steps to effect those repairs or alterations, or such longer period as is necessary to enable those repairs or alterations to be carried out.

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(124) Schedule 3A is inserted by regulation 20 and Schedule 2 to these Regulations

4. Any premises occupied in whole or in part –
  - (a) by a partner or close relative of a single claimant as his home where that person is either aged 60 or over or incapacitated;
  - (b) by the former partner of the claimant as his home; but this provision shall not apply where the former partner is a person from whom the claimant is estranged or divorced.

5. Any future interest in property of any kind, other than land or premises in respect of which the claimant has granted a subsisting lease or tenancy, including sub-leases or sub-tenancies.

6.—(1) Where a claimant has ceased to occupy what was formerly the dwelling occupied as the home following his estrangement or divorce from his former partner, that dwelling for a period of 26 weeks from the date on which he ceased to occupy that dwelling or, where the dwelling is occupied as the home by the former partner who is a lone parent, for so long as it is so occupied.

(2) In this paragraph “dwelling” includes any garage, garden and outbuildings, which were formerly occupied by the claimant as his home, together with any agricultural land adjoining that dwelling and any land not adjoining that dwelling which it is impracticable or unreasonable to sell separately.

7. Any premises or land where the claimant is taking reasonable steps to dispose of the whole of his interest in those premises or that land, for a period of 26 weeks from the date on which he first took such steps, or such longer period as is reasonable in the circumstances to enable him to dispose of those premises or that land.

8. All personal possessions.

9. The assets of any business owned in whole or in part by the claimant and for the purposes of which he is engaged as a self-employed earner or, if he has ceased to be so engaged, for such period as may be reasonable in the circumstances to allow for disposal of those assets.

10. The assets of any business owned in whole or in part by the claimant if –

- (a) he is not engaged as a self-employed earner in that business by reason of some disease or bodily or mental disablement, but
- (b) he intends to become engaged (or, as the case may be, re-engaged) as a self-employed earner in that business as soon as he recovers or is able to become engaged, or re-engaged, in that business,

for a period of 26 weeks from the date on which the claim for housing benefit is made or, if it is unreasonable to expect him to become engaged or re-engaged in that business within that period, for such longer period as is reasonable in the circumstances to enable him to become so engaged or re-engaged.

11. The surrender value of any policy of life insurance.

12. The value of any funeral plan contract; and for this purpose, “funeral plan contract” means a contract under which –

- (a) the claimant makes one or more payments to another person (“the provider”);
- (b) the provider undertakes to provide, or secure the provision of, a funeral in the United Kingdom or in the Republic of Ireland for the claimant on his death, and
- (c) the sole purpose of the plan is to provide or secure the provision of a funeral for the claimant on his death.

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13. Where an ex-gratia payment has been made by the Secretary of State on or after 1st February 2001 in consequence of the imprisonment or interment of –

- (a) the claimant;
- (b) the claimant’s partner;
- (c) the claimant’s deceased spouse, or
- (d) the claimant’s partner’s deceased spouse,

by the Japanese during the Second World War, an amount equal to that payment.

14.—(1) Subject to sub-paragraph (2), the amount of any trust payment made to a claimant or a claimant’s partner where one of the partners –

- (a) is a diagnosed person;
- (b) was a diagnosed person’s partner at the time of the diagnosed person’s death;
- (c) is a parent of a diagnosed person, a person acting in place of the diagnosed person’s parents or a person who was so acting at the date of the diagnosed person’s death.

(2) Where –

- (a) sub-paragraph (1)(a) or (b) applies, it shall apply for the period beginning on and including the date on which the trust is made and ending on the date on which the partner dies;
- (b) sub-paragraph (1)(c) applies, it shall apply for the period beginning on and including the date on which the trust payment is made and ending two years after that date.

(3) Subject to sub-paragraph (4), the amount of any payment by a person to whom a trust payment has been made or of any payment out of the estate of a person to whom a trust payment has been made, which is made to a claimant or a claimant’s partner where one of the partners –

- (a) is the diagnosed person;
- (b) was a diagnosed person’s partner at the date of the diagnosed person’s death, or
- (c) is a parent of a diagnosed person, a person acting in place of the diagnosed person’s parents or a person who was so acting at the date of the diagnosed person’s death.

(4) Where –

- (a) sub-paragraph (3)(a) or (b) applies, it shall apply for the period beginning on and including the date on which the payment is made and ending on the date on which the partner dies;
- (b) sub-paragraph (3)(c) applies, it shall apply for the period beginning on and including the date on which the payment is made and ending two years after that date.

(5) In this paragraph, a reference to a person –

- (a) being the diagnosed person’s partner;
- (b) acting in place of the diagnosed person’s parents,

at the date of the diagnosed person’s death shall include a person who would have been such a person or a person who would have been so acting, but for the diagnosed person being in residential accommodation, a residential care home or a nursing home.

(6) In this paragraph –

“diagnosed person” means a person who has been diagnosed as suffering from, or who, after his death, has been diagnosed as having suffered from, variant Creutzfeld-Jakob disease;

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“relevant trust” means a trust established out of funds provided by the Secretary of State in respect of persons who suffered, or who are suffering, from variant Creutzfeld-Jakob disease for the benefit of persons eligible for payments in accordance with its provisions;

“residential accommodation”(125), “residential care home”and “nursing home”(126) shall have the same meanings as for the purposes of the Income Support (General) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1987(127);

“trust payment” means a payment under a relevant trust.

15. The amount of any payment, other than a war disablement pension or a war widow’s or widower’s pension, to compensate for the fact that the claimant, the claimant’s partner, the claimant’s deceased spouse or the claimant’s partner’s deceased spouse –

- (a) was a slave labourer or a forced labourer;
- (b) had suffered property loss or had suffered personal injury, or
- (c) was a parent of a child who had died,

during the Second World War.

16.—(1) Any payment made under –

- (a) the Macfarlane Trust, the Macfarlane (Special Payments) Trust, the Macfarlane (Special Payments) (No. 2) Trust, the Fund, the Eileen Trust (collectively referred to in this paragraph as “the Trusts”, or
- (b) the Independent Living Funds.

(2) Any payment by or on behalf of a person who is suffering or who suffered from haemophilia or who is or was a qualifying person, which derives from a payment made under any of the Trusts and which is made to or for the benefit of that person’s partner or former partner from whom he is not, or where that person has died was not, estranged or divorced.

(3) Any payment by or on behalf of the partner or former partner of a person who is suffering or who suffered from haemophilia or who is or was a qualifying person provided that the partner or former partner and that person are not, or if either of them has died were not, estranged or divorced, which derives from a payment made under any of the Trusts and which is made to or for the benefit of the person who is suffering from haemophilia or who is a qualifying person.

(4) Any payment by a person who is suffering from haemophilia or who is a qualifying person, which derives from a payment under any of the Trusts, where –

- (a) that person has no partner or former partner from whom he is not estranged or divorced, nor any child who is or had been a member of that person’s household, and
- (b) the payment is made either –
  - (i) to that person’s parent or step-parent, or
  - (ii) where that person at the date of the payment is a child or a student who has not completed his full-time education and has no parent or step-parent, to any person standing in the place of his parent,

but only for a period from and including the date of the payment until the end of 2 years from that person’s death.

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(125) Definition was substituted by regulation 2(c) of S.R. 1988 No. 318 and amended by paragraph 1 of Schedule 1 to S.R. 1989 No. 139 and regulation 2 and paragraph 1(a)(ii) of the Schedule to S.R. 2002 No. 132

(126) Definitions of “residential care home” and “nursing home” were substituted by regulation 2 and paragraph 1(a)(i) of the Schedule to S.R. 2002 No. 132

(127) S.R. 1987 No. 459

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(5) Any payment out of the estate of a person who suffered from haemophilia or who was a qualifying person, which derives from a payment under any of the Trusts, where –

- (a) that person at the date of his death (the relevant date) had no partner or former partner from whom he was not estranged or divorced, nor any child who was or had been a member of his household, and
- (b) the payment is made either –
  - (i) to that person’s parent or step-parent, or
  - (ii) where that person at the relevant date was a child or a student who had not completed his full-time education and had no parent or step-parent, to any person standing in place his parent,

but only for a period of 2 years from and including the relevant date.

(6) In the case of a person to whom or for whose benefit a payment referred to in this paragraph is made, any capital resource which derives from any payment of income or capital made under or deriving from any of the Trusts.

(7) In this paragraph –

“course of study” means any course of study, whether or not it is a sandwich course and whether or not a grant is made for attending or undertaking it;

“qualifying course” means a qualifying course as defined for the purposes of Parts II and IV of the Jobseeker’s Allowance Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1996 (**128**);

“sandwich course” has the meaning prescribed in regulation 5(2) of the Education (Student Support) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2001(**129**), regulation 5(2) of the Education (Student Support) Regulations 2002(**130**) or regulation 5(2) of the Education (Student Loans) (Scotland) Regulations 2000(**131**), as the case may be;

“student” means a person, other than a person in receipt of a training allowance, who is attending or undertaking –

- (a) a course of study at an educational establishment, or
- (b) a qualifying course;

and a person who has started on such a course shall be treated as attending, or as the case may be, undertaking it until the last day of the course or such earlier date as he abandons it or is dismissed from it;

“training allowance” means an allowance (whether by way of periodical grants or otherwise) payable –

- (a) out of public funds by a government department or by or on behalf of the Department for Employment and Learning;
- (b) to a person for his maintenance or in respect of a member of his family, and
- (c) for the period, or part of the period, during which he is following a course of training or instruction provided by, or in pursuance of arrangements made with, a government department or approved by such department in relation to him or so provided or approved by or on behalf of the Department for Employment and Learning,

but it does not include an allowance paid by any government department to, or in respect of, a person by reason of the fact that he is following a course of full-time education,

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(128) S.R. 1996 No. 198

(129) S.R. 2001 No. 277

(130) S.I. 2002/195

(131) S.I. 2000/200

other than under arrangements provided under sections 2 and 3 of the Disabled Persons (Employment) Act (Northern Ireland) 1945(**132**) or made under section 1(1) of the Employment and Training Act (Northern Ireland) 1950(**133**), or is training as a teacher.

17.—(1) An amount equal to the amount of any payment made in consequence of any personal injury to the claimant or, if the claimant has a partner, to the partner.

(2) Where the whole or part of the payment is administered –

- (a) by the High Court under the provisions of Order 80 or 109 of the Rules of the Supreme Court (Northern Ireland) 1980(**134**) or by a County Court under Order 3 or 44 of the County Court Rules (Northern Ireland) 1981(**135**) or Article 21 of the County Courts (Northern Ireland) Order 1980(**136**), or
- (b) in accordance with the terms of a trust established for the benefit of the claimant or his partner,

the whole of the amount so administered.

18. Any amount specified in paragraphs 19, 20 and 21 for a period of one year beginning with and including the date of receipt.

19. Amounts paid under a policy of insurance in connection with the loss of or damage to the property occupied by the claimant as his home and to his personal possessions.

20. So much of any amounts paid to the claimant or deposited in the claimant's name for the sole purpose of –

- (a) purchasing premises which the claimant intends to occupy as his home, or
- (b) effecting essential repairs or alterations to the premises occupied or intended to be occupied by the claimant as his home.

21.—(1) Subject to sub-paragraph (3), any amount paid –

- (a) by way of arrears of benefit;
- (b) by way of compensation for the late payment of benefit;
- (c) in lieu of the payment of benefit;
- (d) by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive relating to housing support services under Article 4 of the Housing Support Services (Northern Ireland) Order 2002(**137**).

(2) In sub-paragraph (1), “benefit” means –

- (a) attendance allowance under section 64 of the Contributions and Benefits Act(**138**);
- (b) disability living allowance;
- (c) income support;
- (d) income-based jobseeker's allowance;
- (e) state pension credit;
- (f) housing benefit;

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(132) 1945 c. 6 (N.I.); sections 2 and 3 were amended by section 1 of the Disabled Persons (Employment) Act (Northern Ireland) 1960 (c. 4 (N.I.)) and Schedule 18 to the Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 (S.I. 1986/594 (N.I. 3))

(133) 1950 c. 29 (N.I.); section 1 was amended by Article 3 of the Employment and Training (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) Order 1988 (S.I. 1988/1087 (N.I. 10)) and Article 5 of the Industrial Training (Northern Ireland) Order 1990 (S.I. 1990/1200 (N.I. 8))

(134) S.R. 1980 No. 346; Order 109 was added by S.R. 1986 No. 184

(135) S.R. 1981 No. 225; Orders 3 and 44 were amended by S.R. 1986 No. 215 and S.R. 1988 No. 100

(136) S.I. 1980/397 (N.I. 3)

(137) S.I. 2002/3154 (N.I. 8)

(138) Section 64 was amended by Article 63(1) of the Welfare Reform and Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 1999 (S.I. 1999/3147 (N.I. 11))

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- (g) working tax credit;
- (h) child tax credit;
- (i) a carer's allowance<sup>(139)</sup>;
- (j) an increase of an allowance which is payable in respect of constant attendance under paragraph 4 of Part II of Schedule 8 to the Contributions and Benefits Act;
- (k) any amount included on account of the claimant's exceptionally severe disablement in a war disablement pension or a war widow's or widower's pension.

(3) In a case where the total of any arrears and, if appropriate, any concessionary payment referred to in sub-paragraph (1) relating to any one of the specified payments, benefits or allowances amounts to £5,000 or more (referred to in this paragraph and in sub-paragraph (4) as the "relevant sum") and is –

- (a) paid in order to rectify, or to compensate for, an official error as defined in regulation 1(2) of the Decisions and Appeals Regulation, and
- (b) received by the claimant in full on or after 14th October 2001,

sub-paragraph (1) shall have effect in relation to such arrears or concessionary payment either for a period of 52 weeks from the date of receipt, or, if the relevant sum is received in its entirety during the award of housing benefit, for the remainder of that award if that is a longer period.

- (4) For the purposes of sub-paragraph (3), "the award of housing benefit" means –
- (a) the award during which the relevant sum ( or the first instalment thereof where it is paid in more than one instalment) is received, and
  - (b) where that award is followed by one or more further awards which, or each of which, begins immediately after the previous award ends, such further awards until the end of the last such award, provided that for any such awards the claimant –
    - (i) is the person who received the relevant sum, or
    - (ii) is the partner of the person who received the relevant sum, or was that person's partner at the date of his death.

22. Where a capital asset is held in a currency other than sterling, any banking charge or commission payable in converting that capital into sterling.

23. The value of the right to receive income from an occupational pension scheme or a personal pension scheme.

24. The value of a right to receive income under a retirement annuity contract.

25. Where an ex-gratia payment has been made by the Secretary of State to members of the families of the disappeared, but only for a period of 52 weeks from the date of receipt of that payment."

## "PART II

### CAPITAL DISREGARDED ONLY FOR THE PURPOSES OF DETERMINING DEEMED INCOME

26. The value of the right to receive any income under a life interest.

27. The value of the right to receive any rent except where the claimant has a reversionary interest in the property in respect of which rent is due.

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<sup>(139)</sup>An allowance under section 70 of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits (Northern Ireland) Act 1992 is known as a Carer's Allowance (S.R. 2002 No. 321)



28. The value of the right to receive any income under an annuity or the surrender value (if any) of such an annuity.

29. The dwelling including any garage, garden and outbuildings normally occupied by the claimant as his home, together with any agricultural land adjoining that dwelling and any land not adjoining that dwelling which it is impracticable or unreasonable to sell separately, but only one dwelling shall be disregarded under this paragraph.

30. Where property is held under a trust, other than –

- (a) a charitable trust within the meaning of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 1964(140), or
- (b) a trust set up with any payment to which paragraph 16 of this Schedule applies,

and under the terms of the trust, payments fall to be made, or the trustees have a discretion to make payments, to or for the benefit of the claimant or the claimant's partner, or both, that property.”.

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## EXPLANATORY NOTE

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

These Regulations are made either by virtue of, or in consequence of, provisions introduced by the State Pension Credit (Northern Ireland) Act 2002 (c. 14) (“the Act”).

These Regulations amend the Housing Benefit (General) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1987 (“the Housing Benefit Regulations”). They contain new provisions for those who have attained the qualifying age for state pension credit. In the case of a woman that age is pensionable age and in the case of a man it is the age which is pensionable age in the case of a woman born on the same day as the man (section 1(6) of the Act).

Part 1 of the Regulations provides for their citation, commencement and interpretation.

Part 2 contains modifications to the Housing Benefit Regulations. Regulation 3 of that Part adds new expressions to the interpretation provisions in the Housing Benefit Regulations.

Regulation 6 contains new provisions for determining the applicable amount for a person who has attained the qualifying age for state pension credit. Applicable amounts for those aged 65 or over are higher than for those aged under 65.

Regulation 7 contains provision that income and capital of a child or young person will not be treated as income and capital of the claimant or his partner or, if a polygamous marriage, any member of the marriage where he has attained the qualifying age for state pension credit.

Regulation 8 substitutes the existing provisions on income and capital with new regulations 21 to 44 of the Housing Benefit Regulations. They provide in particular that –

- those entitled to a guarantee credit in state pension credit are to be treated as having neither income nor capital;
- the calculation of the income of a claimant whose entitlement to state pension credit consists only of the savings credit will be based upon the assessment made by the Department for Social

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Development for the purposes of determining the award of state pension credit. This figure is to be subject to a number of adjustments which the relevant authority must make in accordance with the provisions of regulation 23;

- those who have attained the qualifying age for state pension credit but have no entitlement to that benefit will have their income and capital calculated in accordance with the rules set out in regulation 25 to 44.

Regulation 25 provides a definition of “income” for the purposes of those claimants who have attained the qualifying age for state pension credit.

Regulations 26 to 29 contains provisions relating to the calculation of a person’s income; regulations 30 and 31 provide for the calculation of earnings from employed earner’s employment and regulations 32 to 35 provide for the calculation of the earnings of self-employed earners.

Regulations 38 to 44 provide for the calculation of a person’s capital and include provisions as to notional capital (regulation 42) and diminishing notional capital (regulation 43). Regulation 44 provides for capital jointly held.

Regulation 9 provides that provisions of Part VII of the Housing Benefit Regulations relating to students (regulations 46 to 60) will not apply to those who have attained the qualifying age for state pension credit.

Regulation 10 provides for continuing payments of housing benefit where the claimant has attained the qualifying age for state pension credit, or if he claimed jobseeker’s allowance after attaining that age, has attained the age of 65. It also applies where the claimant’s partner has actually claimed state pension credit.

Part 3 introduces three new Schedules. These Schedules make provision for disregarding prescribed sums in calculating the income and capital of the claimant.

Part 4 contains miscellaneous consequential and transitional provisions. Regulation 13 specifies the date a change of circumstances is to take effect where the change relates to a non-dependant. Regulation 14 amends regulations relating to claims in their application to persons who have attained the qualifying age for state pension credit.

Regulation 15 specifies changes of circumstances which a claimant must report. It also introduces new provisions specifying the date a change of circumstances takes effect where state pension credit is payable. Regulation 16 specifies the information which an authority which has determined a claim for housing benefit must give to a claimant who has attained the qualifying age for state pension credit.

Regulation 17 provides for state pension credit to be added to the list of benefits from which housing benefit may be recovered. Regulation 18 contains minor amendments.

Regulation 19 amends the Housing Benefit (Decisions and Appeals) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2001 which is consequential upon regulation 15 (date a change of circumstances takes effect).

Regulations 20 and 21 contain transitional provisions relating to claims for housing benefit by persons who have attained or whose partner has attained the qualifying age for state pension credit.

Regulation 22 makes provision for existing beneficiaries who, on 6th October 2003, are patients.

These Regulations are made by virtue of or in consequence of provisions in the State Pension Credit (Northern Ireland) Act 2002. The Regulations are made before the end of the period of 6 months beginning with the coming into operation of these provisions and are, accordingly, exempt, by virtue of section 150(5)(b) of the Social Security Administration (Northern Ireland) Act 1992 (c. 8), from reference to the Social Security Advisory Committee.

These Regulations do not impose any charge on business.