
EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations.)

These Regulations amend the Jobseeker's Allowance Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1996.

Regulation 2(2) amends regulation 18(1) to increase the minimum number of steps that a jobseeker must take to be actively seeking employment from at least two to at least three in a week, unless taking one or two steps is all that is reasonable to do in that week.

Regulation 2(3) amends regulation 72(6)(b) concerning good cause for refusing or failing to carry out a jobseeker's direction or to apply for or accept employment to which a jobseeker has been referred by an employment officer or which has been offered in a qualifying former employment. Where the failure relates to the travelling time between the jobseeker's home and the place of employment or the place mentioned in the jobseeker's direction, a jobseeker will not generally have good cause if the time is less than one hour and thirty minutes either way. During the first 13 weeks of entitlement to a jobseeker's allowance a jobseeker will not have good cause for such a refusal or failure if the travelling time is less than one hour either way. Previously, in all cases, a jobseeker did not have good cause if the travelling time was less than one hour either way.

These Regulations make in relation to Northern Ireland only provision corresponding to provision contained in Regulations made by the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in relation to Great Britain and accordingly, by virtue of section 149(3) of, and paragraph 10 of Schedule 5 to, the Social Security Administration (Northern Ireland) Act 1992 (c. 8), are not subject to the requirement of section 149(2) of that Act for prior reference to the Social Security Advisory Committee.

These Regulations do not impose any charge on business.