
EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

These Regulations amend a number of different regulations relating to social security.

Regulations 2(2) to (4) and (6), 4(2) to (4) and (6), 5(2) to (5), 6 and 7 amend respectively the Income Support (General) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1987 (“the Income Support Regulations”), the Jobseeker’s Allowance Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1996 (“the Jobseeker’s Allowance Regulations”), the State Pension Credit Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 (“the State Pension Credit Regulations”), the Housing Benefit Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 and the Housing Benefit (Persons who have attained the qualifying age for state pension credit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006. These amendments replace the existing definition of, and references to, a service user group with the revised definition of, and references to, a claimant participating as a service user. This has the effect of clarifying the existing provisions and ensuring consistency with the equivalent provisions in the Employment and Support Allowance Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2008 (“the Employment and Support Allowance Regulations”).

Regulations 2(5), 4(5), 5(6) and 8 amend the Income Support Regulations, the Jobseeker’s Allowance Regulations, the State Pension Credit Regulations and the Employment and Support Allowance Regulations respectively. These amendments change the wording of the regulation from “0.5%” to “0.5 percentage points” to make clear the operation of the provision.

Regulation 3 amends the Social Security (Claims and Payments) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1987 to allow for winter fuel payment claims to be made by telephone.

Regulation 9 makes consequential revocations.

In so far as these Regulations are required, for the purposes of regulations 6 and 7, to be referred to the Social Security Advisory Committee under section 149(2) of the Social Security Administration (Northern Ireland) Act 1992, after agreement by the Social Security Advisory Committee, they have not been so referred by virtue of section 150(1)(b) of that Act. Otherwise they 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, that Act, are not subject to the requirement of section 149(2) for prior reference to the Social Security Advisory Committee.