
STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

2016 No. 216

The Universal Credit Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016

PART 4

ELEMENTS OF AN AWARD

Particular needs or circumstances – capability for work

Award to include LCW and LCWRA elements

- 28.**—(1) An award of universal credit is to include an amount—
- (a) in respect of the fact that a claimant has limited capability for work (“the LCW element”), or
 - (b) in respect of the fact that a claimant has limited capability for work and work-related activity (“the LCWRA element”).
- (2) The amounts of those elements are given in the table in regulation 38.
- (3) Whether a claimant has limited capability for work or for work and work-related activity is determined in accordance with Part 5.
- (4) In the case of joint claimants, where each of them has limited capability for work or for work and work-related activity, the award is only to include one element and that is the LCWRA element if one of them has limited capability for work and work-related activity, but otherwise it is the LCW element.

Period for which the LCW or LCWRA element is not to be included

- 29.**—(1) An award of universal credit is not to include the LCW or LCWRA element until the beginning of the assessment period that follows the assessment period in which the relevant period ends.
- (2) The relevant period is the period of 3 months beginning with—
- (a) if regulation 42(2) applies (claimant with monthly earnings equal to or above the relevant threshold) the date on which the award of universal credit commences or, if later, the date on which the claimant applies for the LCW or LCWRA element to be included in the award, or
 - (b) in any other case, the first day on which the claimant provides evidence of their having limited capability for work in accordance with the Medical Evidence Regulations.
- (3) Where, in the circumstances referred to in paragraph (4), there has been a previous award of universal credit—
- (a) if the previous award included the LCW or LCWRA element, paragraph (1) does not apply, and

- (b) if the relevant period in relation to that award has begun but not ended, the relevant period ends on the date it would have ended in relation to the previous award.
- (4) The circumstances are where—
 - (a) immediately before the award commences, the previous award has ceased because the claimant ceased to be a member of a couple or became a member of a couple, or
 - (b) within the six months before the award commences, the previous award has ceased because the financial condition in Article 10(1)(b) (or if it was a joint claim, Article 10(2)(b)) of the Order was not met.
- (5) Paragraph (1) also does not apply if—
 - (a) the claimant is terminally ill, or
 - (b) the claimant—
 - (i) is entitled to an employment and support allowance that includes the support component or the work-related activity component, or
 - (ii) was so entitled on the day before the award of universal credit commenced and has ceased to be so entitled by virtue of section 1A of the Welfare Reform Act (Northern Ireland) 2007⁽¹⁾ (duration of contributory allowance).
- (6) Paragraph (1) does not apply where an award includes the LCW element and it is subsequently determined that the claimant has limited capability for work and work-related activity.
- (7) Where, by virtue of this regulation, the condition in Article 10(1)(b) or 10(2)(b) of the Order is not met, the amount of the claimant's income (or, in the case of joint claimants, their combined income) is to be treated during the relevant period as such that the amount payable is the prescribed minimum (see regulation 17).

⁽¹⁾ Section 1A was inserted by Article 57 of the Order.