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DRAFT STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

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**2015 No.**

**The Welfare Reform (Northern Ireland) Order 2015**

**PART 2**

**Universal credit**

**CHAPTER 2**

**Claimant responsibilities**

**Reduction of benefit**

**Other sanctions**

**32.**—(1) The amount of an award of universal credit is to be reduced in accordance with this Article in the event of a failure by a claimant which is sanctionable under this Article.

(2) It is a failure sanctionable under this Article if a claimant—

- (a) fails for no good reason to comply with a work-related requirement;
- (b) fails for no good reason to comply with a requirement under Article 28.

(3) But a failure by a claimant is not sanctionable under this Article if it is also a failure sanctionable under Article 31.

(4) Regulations are to provide for—

- (a) the amount of a reduction under this Article, and
- (b) the period for which such a reduction has effect.

(5) Regulations under paragraph (4)(b) may provide that a reduction under this Article in relation to any failure is to have effect for—

- (a) a period continuing until the claimant meets a compliance condition specified by the Department,
- (b) a fixed period not exceeding 26 weeks which is—
  - (i) specified in the regulations, or
  - (ii) determined in any case by the Department, or
- (c) a combination of both.

(6) In paragraph (5)(a) “compliance condition” means—

- (a) a condition that the failure ceases, or
- (b) a condition relating to future compliance with a work-related requirement or a requirement under Article 28.

(7) A compliance condition specified under paragraph (5)(a) may be—

- (a) revoked or varied by the Department;
- (b) notified to the claimant in such manner as the Department may determine.

(8) A period fixed under paragraph (5)(b) may in particular depend on either or both the following—

- (a) the number of failures by the claimant sanctionable under this Article;
- (b) the period between such failures.

(9) Regulations may provide—

- (a) for cases in which no reduction is to be made under this Article;
- (b) for a reduction under this Article made in relation to an award that is terminated to be applied to any new award made within a prescribed period of the termination;
- (c) for the termination or suspension of a reduction under this Article.