



Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992

1992 CHAPTER 4

PART VIII

THE SOCIAL FUND

138 Payments out of the social fund.

- [^{F1}(1) There may be made out of the social fund, in accordance with this Part of this Act—
- (a) payments of prescribed amounts, whether in respect of prescribed items or otherwise, to meet, in prescribed circumstances, maternity expenses and funeral expenses; [^{F2}and]
 - [^{F3}(b) payments by way of community care grant, crisis loan or budgeting loan [^{F4}to meet—
 - (i) other needs, and
 - (ii) in the case of payments by way of budgeting loan, those needs for which provision is made by paragraph (a),]in accordance with directions given or guidance issued by the Secretary of State.]]
- (2) Payments may also be made out of that fund, in accordance with this Part of this Act, of a prescribed amount or a number of prescribed amounts to prescribed descriptions of persons, in prescribed circumstances to meet expenses for heating which appear to the Secretary of State to have been or to be likely to be incurred in cold weather.
- [^{F5}(3) The power to make a payment out of the social fund such as is mentioned in subsection (1)(b) above may be exercised by making a payment to a third party with a view to the third party providing, or arranging for the provision of, goods or services for the applicant.]
- (4) In this section “prescribed” means specified in or determined in accordance with regulations.

Changes to legislation: Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992, Section 138 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 14 June 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

- [^{F6}(4A) This section has effect in or as regards Scotland as if—
- (a) references in subsections (1)(a) and (2) to the making of payments out of the social fund were to the making of payments by the Scottish Ministers,
 - (b) the reference in subsection (2) to the Secretary of State were to the Scottish Ministers, and
 - (c) the reference in subsection (4) to regulations were to regulations made by the Scottish Ministers.
- (4B) Where regulations are made by the Scottish Ministers under this section—
- (a) sections 175(2) and (7) and 176 do not apply, and
 - (b) the regulations are subject to the negative procedure (see section 28 of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform (Scotland) Act 2010).
- (4C) The power to make an Order in Council under section 30(3) of the Scotland Act 1998 is exercisable for the purposes of this section as it is exercisable for the purposes of that Act.]
- [^{F7}[^{F8}(5) In this Part—
- “budgeting loan” means a loan awarded in circumstances specified in directions issued by the Secretary of State for the purpose of defraying an intermittent expense;
- “community care grant” means a grant awarded in circumstances so specified for the purpose of meeting a need for community care;
- “crisis loan” means a loan awarded in circumstances so specified for the purpose of meeting an immediate short term need;
- and any reference in this subsection to meeting a need or defraying an expense includes a reference to helping to meet the need or to defray the expense.]]

Textual Amendments

- F1** S. 138(1) substituted (5.4.1999) by [Social Security Act 1998 \(c. 14\)](#), **ss. 70(1)**, 87(2); S.I. 1999/1055, [art. 2\(a\)](#) (with [art. 3](#))
- F2** Word in s. 138(1) repealed (1.4.2013) (with savings relating to budgeting loans and relating to community care grants and crisis loans applied for before 1.4.2013) by [Welfare Reform Act 2012 \(c. 5\)](#), s. 150(3), **Sch. 14 Pt. 8**; S.I. 2012/3090, [art. 2\(1\)\(d\)](#) (with [art. 3](#))
- F3** S. 138(1)(b) repealed (1.4.2013) (with savings relating to budgeting loans and relating to community care grants and crisis loans applied for before 1.4.2013) by [Welfare Reform Act 2012 \(c. 5\)](#), **ss. 70(1)**, 150(3); S.I. 2012/3090, [art. 2\(1\)\(a\)](#) (with [art. 3](#))
- F4** Words in s. 138(1)(b) substituted (8.5.2012) by [Welfare Reform Act 2012 \(c. 5\)](#), **ss. 71**, 150(2)(c)
- F5** S. 138(3) repealed (1.4.2013) (with savings relating to budgeting loans and relating to community care grants and crisis loans applied for before 1.4.2013) by [Welfare Reform Act 2012 \(c. 5\)](#), s. 150(3), **Sch. 14 Pt. 8**; S.I. 2012/3090, [art. 2\(1\)\(d\)](#) (with [art. 3](#))
- F6** S. 138(4A)-(4C) inserted (17.5.2017 for specified purposes, 1.4.2024 in so far as not already in force) by [Scotland Act 2016 \(c. 11\)](#), **ss. 23(5)**, 72(4)(b); S.I. 2017/455, [regs. 2\(b\)\(iii\)](#), 3
- F7** S. 138(5) inserted (5.4.1999) by [Social Security Act 1998 \(c. 14\)](#), **ss. 70(2)**, 87(2); S.I. 1999/1055, [art. 2\(a\)](#) (with [art. 3](#))
- F8** S. 138(5) repealed (1.4.2013) (with savings relating to budgeting loans and relating to community care grants and crisis loans applied for before 1.4.2013) by [Welfare Reform Act 2012 \(c. 5\)](#), s. 150(3), **Sch. 14 Pt. 8**; S.I. 2012/3090, [art. 2\(1\)\(d\)](#) (with [art. 3](#))

Changes to legislation:

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[View outstanding changes](#)

Changes and effects yet to be applied to :

- s. 138(3) words substituted by [2009 c. 24 s. 19\(3\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Ss. 16-21 repealed (1.4.2013) by 2012 c. 5, s. 73; S.I. 2012/3090, art. 2(1)(b))

Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

- Act applied (with modifications) by [S.I. 2010/875 reg. 16Sch. 2](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. S.I. 2010/875 revoked (27.8.2010) before coming into force by S.I. 2010/1906, regs. 1(2), 2)
- Act restricted by [S.I. 1995/471 art. 32\(4\)](#)

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- Pt. 8ZA inserted by [2009 c. 24 s. 16\(1\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Ss. 16-21 repealed (1.4.2013) by 2012 c. 5, s. 73; S.I. 2012/3090, art. 2(1)(b))
- Pt. 12ZE inserted by [2023 c. 20 Sch. para. 5](#)
- s. 4(1)(a)(viii) and word inserted by [2023 c. 20 Sch. para. 11\(b\)](#)
- s. 4C(5)(i)(j) repealed by [2007 c. 22 Sch. 4 para. 42\(3\)\(c\)Sch. 7 Pt. 7](#)
- s. 11A(1)(eb) inserted by [2021 c. 26 Sch. 27 para. 12](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. The existing section 11A of Act repealed by paragraph 4(1) of the Schedule to the National Insurance Contributions (Reduction in Rates) Act 2023 (c. 57))
- s. 30B(4)(aa) inserted by [2012 c. 5 Sch. 9 para. 4](#)
- s. 35(1)(e) and word inserted by [2012 c. 5 s. 63\(2\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 35(3)(za) inserted by [2012 c. 5 s. 63\(2\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 45(2A)(a) words substituted by [2011 c. 19 Sch. 3 para. 2\(3\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 45(2A)(b) substituted by [2011 c. 19 Sch. 3 para. 2\(3\)\(c\)](#)
- s. 46(5)(6) inserted by [2008 c. 30 Sch. 4 para. 6\(3\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 4 para. 6(3) repealed (1.10.2014) without ever being in force by 2014 c. 19, Sch. 12 para. 96(c); S.I. 2014/2377, art. 2(1)(a)(ii)(3)(c))
- s. 46(5)(a) words substituted by [2011 c. 19 Sch. 3 para. 3](#)
- s. 47(4A) inserted by [2008 c. 30 s. 102\(6\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. S. 102 repealed (1.10.2014) without ever being in force by 2014 c. 19, Sch. 12 para. 96(a); S.I. 2014/2377, art. 2(1)(a)(ii)(3)(c))
- s. 124(1)(ea) inserted by [2012 c. 5 s. 59\(2\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 124(1)(ga) inserted by [2009 c. 24 s. 5\(1\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 124(1C) inserted by [2012 c. 5 s. 59\(2\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 124(6A)(6B) inserted by [2009 c. 24 s. 5\(1\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 124A inserted by [2012 c. 5 s. 59\(3\)](#)
- s. 130C(2)(za) inserted by [2016 asp 19 Sch. 4 para. 5](#)
- s. 138(2A) inserted by [2009 c. 24 s. 17](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Ss. 16-21 repealed (1.4.2013) by 2012 c. 5, s. 73; S.I. 2012/3090, art. 2(1)(b))
- s. 138(2B) inserted by [2009 c. 24 s. 19\(2\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Ss. 16-21 repealed (1.4.2013) by 2012 c. 5, s. 73; S.I. 2012/3090, art. 2(1)(b))

- s. 140(4)(ca) inserted by 2009 c. 24 s. 19(6) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Ss. 16-21 repealed (1.4.2013) by 2012 c. 5, s. 73; S.I. 2012/3090, art. 2(1)(b))
- s. 140(4A) inserted by 2009 c. 24 s. 19(7) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Ss. 16-21 repealed (1.4.2013) by 2012 c. 5, s. 73; S.I. 2012/3090, art. 2(1)(b))
- s. 164(2)(aa) inserted by 2012 c. 5 s. 63(3)(a)
- s. 164(9)(da) inserted by 2012 c. 5 s. 63(3)(b)
- s. 171ZA(2)(ba) inserted by 2012 c. 5 s. 63(4)(a)
- s. 171ZA(3A) inserted by 2012 c. 5 s. 63(4)(b)
- s. 171ZB(2)(ba) inserted by 2012 c. 5 s. 63(5)(a)
- s. 171ZB(3A) inserted by 2012 c. 5 s. 63(5)(b)
- s. 171ZE(2A) inserted by 2014 c. 6 s. 123(3)(b)
- s. 171ZE(2B) inserted by 2014 c. 6 s. 123(3)(c)
- s. 171ZL(2)(ba) inserted by 2012 c. 5 s. 63(8)(a)
- s. 171ZL(8)(za) inserted by 2012 c. 5 s. 63(8)(c)
- s. 171ZEA(2)(ba) inserted by 2012 c. 5 s. 63(6)(a)
- s. 171ZEA(3)(za) inserted by 2012 c. 5 s. 63(6)(b)
- s. 171ZEB(2)(ba) inserted by 2012 c. 5 s. 63(7)(a)
- s. 171ZEB(3)(za) inserted by 2012 c. 5 s. 63(7)(b)
- s. 173A inserted by 2012 c. 5 s. 63(9)
- s. 176(3A) inserted by 2011 c. 19 Sch. 3 para. 5(2)
- Sch. 4 Pt. 1 para. 2A applied by S.I. 1995/310 reg. 18(1)(a)
- Sch. 4 Pt. 1 para. 6 power to amend conferred by 1992 c. 5 s. 154(2)(a)
- Sch. 4 Pt. 1 para. 2 repealed by 2007 c. 5 Sch. 8
- Sch. 4 Pt. 1 para. 2A repealed by 2007 c. 5 Sch. 8
- Sch. 4 Pt. 5 para. 7 power to amend conferred by 1992 c. 5 s. 154(2)(d)(e)
- Sch. 4 Pt. 5 para. 12 power to amend conferred by 1992 c. 5 s. 154(2)(d)(e)
- Sch. 4 Pt. 3 para. 1 power to amend conferred by 1992 c. 5 s. 150(3)(a)151
- Sch. 4 Pt. 3 para. 2 power to amend conferred by 1992 c. 5 s. 150(3)(a)151
- Sch. 4 Pt. 3 para. 4 power to amend conferred by 1992 c. 5 s. 150(3)(a)151
- Sch. 4 Pt. 3 para. 5 power to amend conferred by 1992 c. 5 s. 150(3)(a)151
- Sch. 4 Pt. 3 para. 6 power to amend conferred by 1992 c. 5 s. 150(3)(a)151
- Sch. 4 Pt. 4 para. 2 applied by S.I. 1995/310 reg. 15(7)
- Sch. 4 Pt. 4 para. 1A repealed by 2007 c. 5 Sch. 8
- Sch. 4 Pt. 4 para. 2 repealed by 2007 c. 5 Sch. 8
- Sch. 4B para. 1(1)(a)para. 1(1)(b)(2) words inserted by 2011 c. 19 Sch. 3 para. 6(2)(b)
- Sch. 4C inserted by 2008 c. 30 s. 102(5)Sch. 3 (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. S. 102, Sch. 3 repealed (1.10.2014) without ever being in force by 2014 c. 19, Sch. 12 para. 96(a)(b); S.I. 2014/2377, art. 2(1)(a)(ii)(3)(c))
- Sch. 4C para. 7(2)(c) inserted by 2011 c. 19 Sch. 3 para. 7(7)(b)
- Sch. 4C para. 7(3) inserted by 2011 c. 19 Sch. 3 para. 7(8)
- Sch. 4C para. 3 omitted by 2011 c. 19 Sch. 3 para. 7(3)
- Sch. 4C para. 7(2)(b) words inserted by 2011 c. 19 Sch. 3 para. 7(7)(a)
- Sch. 4C para. 1 words substituted by 2011 c. 19 Sch. 3 para. 7(2)
- Sch. 4C para. 2 words substituted by 2011 c. 19 Sch. 3 para. 7(2)
- Sch. 4C para. 5(b) words substituted by 2011 c. 19 Sch. 3 para. 7(4)
- Sch. 4C para. 6 words substituted by 2011 c. 19 Sch. 3 para. 7(5)
- Sch. 4C para. 7(1) words substituted by 2011 c. 19 Sch. 3 para. 7(4)
- Sch. 4C para. 7(1) words substituted by 2011 c. 19 Sch. 3 para. 7(6)
- Sch. 11 para. 2(i) inserted by 2012 c. 5 s. 63(10)(a)
- Sch. 11 para. 9 inserted by 2012 c. 5 s. 63(10)(b)