



Social Security Contributions and Benefits (Northern Ireland) Act 1992

1992 CHAPTER 7

PART III

NON-CONTRIBUTORY BENEFITS

Disability living allowance

72 The care component

- (1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, a person shall be entitled to the care component of a disability living allowance for any period throughout which—
- (a) he is so severely disabled physically or mentally that—
 - (i) he requires in connection with his bodily functions attention from another person for a significant portion of the day (whether during a single period or a number of periods); or
 - (ii) he cannot prepare a cooked main meal for himself if he has the ingredients;
 - (b) he is so severely disabled physically or mentally that, by day, he requires from another person—
 - (i) frequent attention throughout the day in connection with his bodily functions; or
 - (ii) continual supervision throughout the day in order to avoid substantial danger to himself or others; or
 - (c) he is so severely disabled physically or mentally that, at night,—
 - (i) he requires from another person prolonged or repeated attention in connection with his bodily functions; or
 - (ii) in order to avoid substantial danger to himself or others he requires another person to be awake for a prolonged period or at frequent intervals for the purpose of watching over him.

Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).

- (2) Subject to the following provisions of this section, a person shall not be entitled to the care component of a disability living allowance unless—
- (a) throughout—
 - (i) the period of 3 months immediately preceding the date on which the award of that component would begin; or
 - (ii) such other period of 3 months as may be prescribed, he has satisfied or is likely to satisfy one or other of the conditions mentioned in subsection (1)(a) to (c) above; and
 - (b) he is likely to continue to satisfy one or other of those conditions throughout—
 - (i) the period of 6 months beginning with that date; or
 - (ii) (if his death is expected within the period of 6 months beginning with that date) the period so beginning and ending with his death.
- (3) Three weekly rates of the care component shall be prescribed.
- (4) The weekly rate of the care component payable to a person for each week in the period for which he is awarded that component shall be—
- (a) the highest rate, if he falls within subsection (2) above by virtue of having satisfied or being likely to satisfy both the conditions mentioned in subsection (1)(b) and (c) above throughout both the period mentioned in paragraph (a) of subsection (2) above and that mentioned in paragraph (b) of that subsection;
 - (b) the middle rate, if he falls within that subsection by virtue of having satisfied or being likely to satisfy one or other of those conditions throughout both those periods; and
 - (c) the lowest rate in any other case.
- (5) For the purposes of this section, a person who is terminally ill, as defined in section 66(2) above, and makes a claim expressly on the ground that he is such a person, shall be taken—
- (a) to have satisfied the conditions mentioned in subsection (1)(b) and (c) above for the period of 3 months immediately preceding the date of the claim, or, if later, the first date on which he is terminally ill (so however that the care component shall not be payable by virtue of this paragraph for any period preceding that date); and
 - (b) to satisfy or to be likely to satisfy those conditions for the remainder of his life beginning with that date.
- (6) For the purposes of this section in its application to a person for any period in which he is under the age of 16—
- (a) sub-paragraph (ii) of subsection (1)(a) above shall be omitted; and
 - (b) neither the condition mentioned in sub-paragraph (i) of that paragraph nor any of the conditions mentioned in subsection (1)(b) and (c) above shall be taken to be satisfied unless—
 - (i) he has requirements of a description mentioned in subsection (1)(a), (b) or (c) above substantially in excess of the normal requirements of persons of his age; or
 - (ii) he has substantial requirements of any such description which younger persons in normal physical and mental health may also have but which persons of his age and in normal physical and mental health would not have.

- (7) Subject to subsections (5) and (6) above, circumstances may be prescribed in which a person is to be taken to satisfy or not to satisfy such of the conditions mentioned in subsection (1)(a) to (c) above as may be prescribed.
- (8) Regulations may provide that a person shall not be paid any amount in respect of a disability living allowance which is attributable to entitlement to the care component for a period when he is a person for whom accommodation is provided—
 - (a) in pursuance of Article 5, 7, 15 or 36 of the Health and Personal Social Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1972; or
 - (b) in circumstances in which the cost is, or may be, borne wholly or partly out of public or local funds, in pursuance of those enactments or of any other enactment relating to persons under disability or to young persons or to education or training.