

**2015 No. 186**

**SOCIAL SECURITY**

**The Social Security Pensions (Low Earnings Threshold) Order  
2015**

<i>Made</i>	- - - -	<i>9th February 2015</i>
<i>Laid before Parliament</i>		<i>16th February 2015</i>
<i>Coming into force</i>	- -	<i>6th April 2015</i>

In accordance with section 148A(1) (reevaluation of low earnings threshold) of the Social Security Administration Act 1992(a), the Secretary of State has reviewed the general level of earnings obtaining in Great Britain.

It appears to the Secretary of State that the general level of earnings has increased during the review period.

The Secretary of State makes the following Order in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 148A(3) to (5) and 189(1), (4) and (5) of the Social Security Administration Act 1992(b).

**Citation and commencement**

1. This Order may be cited as the Social Security Pensions (Low Earnings Threshold) Order 2015 and comes into force on 6th April 2015.

**Low earnings threshold**

2. For the purposes of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992(c), it is directed that the low earnings threshold(d) for the tax years following the tax year 2014-2015 shall be £15,300.

Signed by the authority of the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions.

*Steve Webb*  
Minister of State,  
Department for Work and Pensions

9th February 2015

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(a) 1992 c.5. Section 148A was inserted by section 33(1) of the Child Support, Pensions and Social Security Act 2000 (c. 19).  
(b) The amount of the threshold to be increased by this Order is the amount specified in section 148A(5). Relevant amendments to section 189 of the Social Security Administration Act 1992 (c. 5) are made by paragraph 109 of Schedule 7 to the Social Security Act 1998 (c. 14), paragraph 57(1) and (2) of Schedule 3 to the Social Security Contributions (Transfer of Functions, etc.) Act 1999 (c. 2) and by Schedule 6 to the Tax Credits Act 2002 (c. 21).  
(c) 1992 c.4.  
(d) See section 44A of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992 (c. 4) as inserted by section 30(3) of the Child Support, Pensions and Social Security Act 2000.

## EXPLANATORY NOTE

*(This note is not part of the Order)*

The low earnings threshold is the amount by reference to which the surplus earnings bands are determined for the purpose of calculating the additional pension (the state second pension) in a state retirement pension.

This Order is made following a review by the Secretary of State under section 148A (reevaluation of low earnings threshold) of the Social Security Administration Act 1992 (c. 5) of the general level of earnings in Great Britain with a view to determining whether, and if so by how much, the amount of the low earnings threshold for the purposes of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992 (c. 4) should be increased for future tax years.

As a result of that review, it appears to the Secretary of State that the general level of earnings during the period from 1st October 2013 to 30th September 2014 has increased by 1.5%.

This Order directs that the low earnings threshold for the tax years following 2014 – 2015 shall be £15,300. The threshold for the tax year 2014 – 2015 was directed to be £15,100 by virtue of the Social Security Pensions (Low Earnings Threshold) Order 2014 (S.I. 2014/368).

A full impact assessment has not been produced for this instrument as it has no new impact on business or civil society organisations.

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