

*These notes refer to the Welfare Reform Act (Northern Ireland) 2007 (c.2)*

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## **EXPLANATORY NOTES**

### **WELFARE REFORM ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2007**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **BACKGROUND AND POLICY OBJECTIVES**

#### **CONSULTATION**

#### **OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

#### **OVERVIEW**

#### **COMMENTARY ON SECTIONS**

#### **PART 1: EMPLOYMENT AND SUPPORT ALLOWANCE**

##### **Entitlement**

Section 1: Employment and support allowance

Section 2: Amount of contributory allowance

Section 3: Deductions from contributory allowance:  
supplementary

Section 4: Amount of income-related allowance

Section 5: Advance award of income-related allowance

Section 6: Amount payable where claimant entitled to both forms  
of allowance

Section 7: Exclusion of payments below prescribed minimum

##### **Assessments relating to entitlement**

Section 8: Limited capability for work

Section 9: Limited capability for work-related activity

Section 10: Report

### **Conditionality**

Section 11: Work-focused health-related assessments

Section 12: Work-focused interviews

Section 13: Work-related activity

Section 14: Action plans in connection with work-focused interviews

Section 15: Directions about work-related activity

Section 16: Contracting out

### **Miscellaneous**

Section 17: Income and capital: general

Section 18: Disqualification

Section 19: Pilot schemes

Section 20: Relationship with statutory payments

Section 21: Deemed entitlement for other purposes

Section 23: Recovery of sums in respect of maintenance

### **General**

Section 26: Assembly control

Section 27: General financial arrangements

## **PART 2: HOUSING BENEFIT**

Section 30: Local housing allowance

Section 31: Loss of housing benefit following eviction for anti-social behaviour,

Section 32: Housing benefit for persons taking up employment

Section 33: Section 32: supplemental

Section 34: Interpretation

Section 35: Payment of housing benefit

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### **PART 3: SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION: GENERAL**

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Section 39: Information relating to certain benefits

Section 40: Unlawful disclosure of certain information

#### **Overpayment recovery**

Section 41: Recovery of overpaid benefit

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Sections 42 and 43: Housing Executive powers to investigate and prosecute benefit fraud

Section 44: Housing Executive functions relating to benefit: information

Section 45: Loss of benefit for commission of benefit offences

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#### **Benefits for bereaved persons**

Section 46: Widowed mother's allowance

Section 47: Widowed parent's allowance

#### **Disability living allowance: age conditions**

Section 48: Care component of disability living allowance: persons under the age of 16

Section 49: Mobility component of disability living allowance: persons under the age of 16

#### **Social fund**

Section 50: Matters to which regard must be had in awarding budgeting loans

Section 51: Allocations from the social fund

### **Compensation for pneumoconiosis**

Section 52: Relevant employer

Section 53: Dependant

### **Other**

Section 54: Power to stop payment of allowances to care home residents

Section 55: Medical examinations

### **SCHEDULES**

Schedule 1 - Employment and support allowance: additional conditions

Schedule 2 - Employment and support allowance: supplementary provision

Schedule 3 - Consequential amendments relating to Part 1

Schedule 4 - Transition relating to Part 1

Schedule 5 - Minor and consequential amendments relating to Part 2

Schedule 6 - Schedule to be inserted in the Pneumoconiosis Order

Schedule 7 - Minor and consequential amendments relating to Part 4

### **DEFINITIONS**