

*These notes refer to the Pensions Act (Northern Ireland)
2008 (c.1) which received Royal Assent on 11 February 2008*

Pensions Act (Northern Ireland) 2008

EXPLANATORY NOTES

SCHEDULES

Schedule 1 - State Pension: Consequential and Related Amendments

Part 8 - Increase in pensionable age for men and women

Paragraphs 37 to 40 amend the Contributions and Benefits Act consequential on the increase in pensionable age for men and women. The amendments take effect from 6th April 2024 (see *section 11(3)*).

Paragraph 37 will allow the upper age limit for widow's pension, which is currently 65, to align with rising state pension age. Widow's pension is only payable to women who were widowed before 9th April 2001, and was replaced by bereavement benefit for men and women bereaved after that date.

Paragraphs 38 and 39 relate to, respectively, the minimum age for entitlement to attendance allowance and the upper age limit for claiming disability living allowance (both 65). The amendments will align the present age thresholds with rising state pension age.

Paragraph 40 relates to the qualifying conditions for the Christmas bonus. Where entitlement to the payment is by virtue of entitlement to a war disablement pension, the person is additionally required to have reached the age of 65. The amendment will align the qualifying age with rising state pension age in these cases.

Paragraph 41, which amends the [State Pension Credit Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2002 \(c. 14\)](#), aligns the qualifying age for entitlement to the savings credit element (currently 65) with rising state pension age.