



2008 CHAPTER 13

PART 1

PENSION SCHEME MEMBERSHIP FOR JOBHOLDERS

CHAPTER 1

EMPLOYERS' DUTIES

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** Pt. 1 applied (with modifications) (1.7.2012) by [The Automatic Enrolment \(Offshore Employment\) Order 2012 \(S.I. 2012/1388\)](#), arts. 1(1), 2 (with art. 5)

Jobholders

Jobholders

- 1.**—(1) For the purposes of this Part a jobholder is a worker—
- (a) who is working or ordinarily works in Northern Ireland under the worker's contract,
 - (b) who is aged at least 16 and under 75, and
 - (c) to whom qualifying earnings are payable by the employer in the relevant pay reference period (see sections 13 and 15).
- (2) Where a jobholder has more than one employer, or a succession of employers, this Chapter applies separately in relation to each employment.
- (3) Accordingly—
- (a) references to the employer are references to the employer concerned;

Changes to legislation: *Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, CHAPTER 1 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 16 April 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*

- (b) references to membership of a pension scheme are references to membership in relation to the employment concerned.

Commencement Information

- II** S. 1 in operation at 30.6.2012 by [S.R. 2012/266](#), art. 2, [Sch. Pt. 2](#)

Employers' duties

Continuity of scheme membership

2.—(1) If a jobholder is an active member of a qualifying scheme, the employer must not take any action, or make any omission, by which (without the jobholder ceasing to be employed by the employer)—

- (a) the jobholder ceases to be an active member of the scheme, or
- (b) the scheme ceases to be a qualifying scheme.

(2) Subsection (1) is not contravened if the jobholder remains an active member of another qualifying scheme.

[^{F1}(3) Subsection (1) is not contravened if by virtue of section 5 the jobholder becomes an active member of an automatic enrolment scheme with effect from—

- (a) the day after the cessation referred to in paragraph (a) or (b) of subsection (1), or
- (b) a day within the prescribed period (if a period is prescribed).]

(4) Subsection (1) is not contravened if the action or omission is at the jobholder's request.

(5) In this Part as it applies in the case of any jobholder, references to a qualifying scheme are references to a pension scheme which is a qualifying scheme in relation to that jobholder (see section 16).

Textual Amendments

- F1** S. 2(3) substituted (2.6.2012 for specified purposes, 30.6.2012 in so far as not already in operation) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2012 \(c. 3\)](#), [ss. 5\(1\), 34\(1\)\(3\)](#); [S.R. 2012/265](#), [art. 2\(1\)\(a\)](#)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C2** S. 2(1): power to exclude conferred by [SI 2005/255 \(N.I. 1\)](#), art. 268A (as inserted (2.6.2012 for specified purposes) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2012 \(c. 3\)](#), [ss. 19, 34\(1\)\(3\)](#))

Commencement Information

- I2** S. 2 partly in force; s. 2 in force for certain purposes at Royal Assent see s. 118(2)

Changes to legislation: *Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, CHAPTER 1 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 16 April 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*

I3 S. 2 in operation at 30.6.2012 in so far as not already in operation by [S.R. 2012/266, art. 2, Sch. Pt. 1](#)

Automatic enrolment

[^{F2}3.—(1) This section applies to a jobholder—

- (a) who is aged at least 22,
- (b) who has not reached pensionable age, and
- (c) to whom earnings of more than [^{F3}£10,000] are payable by the employer in the relevant pay reference period (see section 15).]

(2) The employer must make prescribed arrangements by which the jobholder becomes an active member of an automatic enrolment scheme with effect from the automatic enrolment date.

(3) Subsection (2) does not apply if the jobholder was an active member of a qualifying scheme on the automatic enrolment date.

(4) Subsection (2) does not apply if, within the prescribed period before the automatic enrolment date, the jobholder ceased to be an active member of a qualifying scheme because of any action or omission by the jobholder.

(5) For the purposes of arrangements under subsection (2) regulations may require information to be provided to any person by the employer or—

- (a) where the arrangements relate to an occupational pension scheme, the trustees or managers of the scheme;
- (b) where the arrangements relate to a personal pension scheme, the provider of the scheme.

(6) For the purposes of arrangements made under subsection (2) in relation to a personal pension scheme, regulations may deem an agreement to exist (subject to section 8) between the jobholder and the provider of the scheme for the jobholder to be an active member of the scheme on terms and conditions determined in accordance with the regulations.

[^{F4}(6A) In this section “earnings” has the meaning given in section 13(3).

(6B) In the case of a pay reference period of less or more than 12 months, subsection (1) applies as if the amount in paragraph (c) were proportionately less or more.]

(7) The automatic enrolment date, in relation to any person, is the first day on which this section applies to the person as a jobholder of the employer.[^{F5}This is subject to section 4.]

(8) In this Part as it applies in the case of any jobholder, references to an automatic enrolment scheme are references to a pension scheme which is an automatic enrolment scheme in relation to that jobholder (see section 17).

Changes to legislation: *Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, CHAPTER 1 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 16 April 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*

Textual Amendments

- F2** S. 3(1) substituted (30.6.2012) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2012 \(c. 3\), ss. 6\(1\), 34\(3\); S.R. 2012/265, art. 2\(2\)\(a\)](#)
- F3** Sum in s. 3(1)(c) substituted (6.4.2014) by [The Automatic Enrolment \(Earnings Trigger and Qualifying Earnings Band\) Order \(Northern Ireland\) 2014 \(S.R. 2014/81\), arts. 1\(1\), 2\(1\)](#)
- F4** S. 3(6A)(6B) inserted (30.6.2012) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2012 \(c. 3\), ss. 6\(2\), 34\(3\); S.R. 2012/265, art. 2\(2\)\(a\)](#)
- F5** Words in s. 3(7) added (2.6.2012 for specified purposes, 30.6.2012 in so far as not already in operation) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2012 \(c. 3\), ss. 7\(1\), 34\(1\)\(3\); S.R. 2012/265, art. 2\(1\)\(b\)](#)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C3** [S. 3\(2\)](#): power to exclude conferred by [S.I. 2005/255 \(N.I. 1\), art. 268A](#) (as inserted (2.6.2012 for specified purposes) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2012 \(c. 3\), ss. 19, 34\(1\)\(3\)](#))
- C4** S. 3(6B) modified (6.4.2018) by [The Automatic Enrolment \(Earnings Trigger and Qualifying Earnings Band\) Order \(Northern Ireland\) 2018 \(S.R. 2018/52\), arts. 1\(1\), 3](#)
- C5** S. 3(6B) modified (6.4.2019) by [The Automatic Enrolment \(Earnings Trigger and Qualifying Earnings Band\) Order \(Northern Ireland\) 2019 \(S.R. 2019/30\), arts. 1\(1\), 3](#)
- C6** [S. 3\(6B\)](#) modified (6.4.2020) by [The Automatic Enrolment \(Earnings Trigger and Qualifying Earnings Band\) Order \(Northern Ireland\) 2020 \(S.R. 2020/51\), arts. 1\(1\), 3](#)
- C7** [S. 3\(6B\)](#) modified (6.4.2021) by [The Automatic Enrolment \(Earnings Trigger and Qualifying Earnings Band\) Order \(Northern Ireland\) 2021 \(S.R. 2021/66\), arts. 1\(1\), 3](#)

Commencement Information

- I4** S. 3 partly in force; s. 3 in force for certain purposes at Royal Assent see [s. 118\(2\)](#)
- I5** S. 3 in operation at 30.6.2012 in so far as not already in operation by [S.R. 2012/266, art. 2, Sch. Pt. 1](#)

Postponement or disapplication of automatic enrolment

[^{F6}4.—(1) Where—

- (a) an employer (E) gives to a person employed by E on E's staging date ("the worker") notice that E intends to defer automatic enrolment for the worker until a date specified in the notice ("the deferral date"), and
- (b) any prescribed requirements in relation to the notice are met,

the worker's automatic enrolment date is the deferral date if on that date section 3 applies to the worker as a jobholder of E; if not, subsection (4) applies.

(2) Where—

- (a) a person ("the worker") begins to be employed by an employer (E) after E's staging date,

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(b) E gives the worker notice that E intends to defer automatic enrolment until a date specified in the notice (“the deferral date”), and

(c) any prescribed requirements in relation to the notice are met,

the worker's automatic enrolment date is the deferral date if on that date section 3 applies to the worker as a jobholder of E; if not, subsection (4) applies.

(3) Where—

(a) a person (“the worker”) employed by an employer (E) becomes, after E's staging date, a jobholder to whom section 3 applies,

(b) E gives the worker notice that E intends to defer automatic enrolment until a date specified in the notice (“the deferral date”), and

(c) any prescribed requirements in relation to the notice are met,

the worker's automatic enrolment date is the deferral date if on that date section 3 applies to the worker as a jobholder of E; if not, subsection (4) applies.

(4) Where this subsection applies, section 3(2) does not apply in relation to any employment of the worker by E in the period beginning with the starting day and ending with the deferral date.

(5) A notice under this section may be given on or before the starting day or within a prescribed period after that day.

(6) The deferral date may be any date in the period of 3 months after the starting day.

(7) An employer who gives a worker a notice under subsection (1) or (2) may not give the worker a notice under subsection (3) in relation to any occasion on or before the deferral date specified in the notice on which the worker becomes a jobholder to whom section 3 applies.

(8) In this section—

“staging date”, in relation to an employer of a particular description, means the date prescribed under section 12 in relation to employers of that description;

“starting day” means—

(a) E's staging date, in the case of a notice under subsection (1);

(b) the day on which the worker begins to be employed by E, in the case of a notice under subsection (2);

(c) the day on which the worker becomes a jobholder to whom section 3 applies, in the case of a notice under subsection (3).]

Textual Amendments

- F6** S. 4 substituted (2.6.2012 for specified purposes, 30.6.2012 in so far as not already in operation) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2012 \(c. 3\)](#), **ss. 7(2), 34(1)(3)**; [S.R. 2012/265](#), [art. 2\(1\)\(b\)](#)

Changes to legislation: *Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, CHAPTER 1 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 16 April 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*

Commencement Information

I6 S. 4 partly in force; s. 4 in force for certain purposes at Royal Assent see s. 118(2)

Automatic re-enrolment

5.—^{F7}(1) This section applies to a jobholder—

- (a) who is aged at least 22,
- (b) who has not reached pensionable age, and
- (c) to whom earnings of more than ^{F8}£10,000 are payable by the employer in the relevant pay reference period (see section 15).]

^{F9}(1A) This section also applies to a jobholder who—

- (a) is aged at least 22,
- (b) has not reached pensionable age, and
- (c) is not an active member of a qualifying scheme because there has been a period beginning at any time after the jobholder's automatic enrolment date during which the requirements of section 1(1)(a) or (c) were not met (so that the person was not a jobholder for that period).

(1B) This section also applies to a jobholder who has ceased to be an active member of a qualifying scheme because of something other than an action or omission by the jobholder.]

(2) The employer must make prescribed arrangements by which the jobholder becomes an active member of an automatic enrolment scheme with effect from the automatic re-enrolment date.

(3) Subsection (2) does not apply if the jobholder was an active member of a qualifying scheme on the automatic re-enrolment date.

^{F10}(3A) Subsection (2) does not apply if the jobholder's automatic enrolment date is deferred under section 4 from a date before the automatic re-enrolment date to a date after the automatic re-enrolment date.]

^{F11}(4)

^{F12}(5)

(6) For the purposes of arrangements under subsection (2) regulations may require information to be provided to any person by the employer or—

- (a) where the arrangements relate to an occupational pension scheme, the trustees or managers of the scheme;
- (b) where the arrangements relate to a personal pension scheme, the provider of the scheme.

(7) For the purposes of arrangements made under subsection (2) in relation to a personal pension scheme, regulations may deem an agreement to exist (subject to section 8) between the jobholder and the provider of the scheme for

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the jobholder to be an active member of the scheme on terms and conditions determined in accordance with the regulations.

[^{F13}(7A) In this section “earnings” has the meaning given in section 13(3).

(7B) In the case of a pay reference period of less or more than 12 months, subsection (1) applies as if the amount in paragraph (c) were proportionately less or more.]

(8) Automatic re-enrolment dates are dates^{F14}... that are to be determined in accordance with regulations.

Textual Amendments

- F7** S. 5(1) substituted (30.6.2012) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2012 \(c. 3\), ss. 6\(3\), 34\(3\)](#); S.R. 2012/265, art. 2(2)(a)
- F8** Sum in s. 5(1)(c) substituted (6.4.2014) by [The Automatic Enrolment \(Earnings Trigger and Qualifying Earnings Band\) Order \(Northern Ireland\) 2014 \(S.R. 2014/81\), arts. 1\(1\), 2\(1\)](#)
- F9** S. 5(1A)-(1B) inserted (2.6.2012 for specified purposes, 30.6.2012 in so far as not already in operation) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2012 \(c. 3\), ss. 5\(2\), 34\(1\)\(3\)](#); S.R. 2012/265, art. 2(1)(a)
- F10** S. 5(3A) inserted (16.7.2015) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2015 \(c. 5\), ss. 36\(2\), 53\(1\)](#); S.R. 2015/307, art. 2(1)(b)
- F11** S. 5(4) repealed (16.7.2015) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2015 \(c. 5\), ss. 37\(3\)\(b\), 53\(1\)](#); S.R. 2015/307, art. 2(1)(c)
- F12** S. 5(5) omitted (2.6.2012 for specified purposes, 30.6.2012 in so far as not already in operation) by virtue of [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2012 \(c. 3\), ss. 7\(3\), 34\(1\)\(3\)](#); S.R. 2012/265, art. 2(1)(a)
- F13** S. 5(7A)(7B) inserted (30.6.2012) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2012 \(c. 3\), ss. 6\(4\), 34\(3\)](#); S.R. 2012/265, art. 2(2)(a)
- F14** Words in s. 5(8) omitted (2.6.2012 for specified purposes, 30.6.2012 in so far as not already in operation) by virtue of [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2012 \(c. 3\), ss. 5\(4\), 34\(1\)\(3\)](#); S.R. 2012/265, art. 2(1)(a)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C8** S. 5(2): power to exclude conferred by SI 2005/255 (N.I. 1), art. 268A (as inserted (2.6.2012 for specified purposes) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2012 \(c. 3\), ss. 19, 34\(1\)\(3\)](#))
- C9** S. 5(2) excluded by S.R. 2010/122, reg. 14 (as substituted (1.7.2012) by [The Automatic Enrolment \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) Regulations \(Northern Ireland\) 2012 \(S.R. 2012/232\), regs., 2\(8\)](#))
- C10** S. 5(7B) modified (6.4.2018) by [The Automatic Enrolment \(Earnings Trigger and Qualifying Earnings Band\) Order \(Northern Ireland\) 2018 \(S.R. 2018/52\), arts. 1\(1\), 3](#)
- C11** S. 5(7B) modified (6.4.2019) by [The Automatic Enrolment \(Earnings Trigger and Qualifying Earnings Band\) Order \(Northern Ireland\) 2019 \(S.R. 2019/30\), arts. 1\(1\), 3](#)
- C12** S. 5(7B) modified (6.4.2020) by [The Automatic Enrolment \(Earnings Trigger and Qualifying Earnings Band\) Order \(Northern Ireland\) 2020 \(S.R. 2020/51\), arts. 1\(1\), 3](#)

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C13 S. 5(7B) modified (6.4.2021) by [The Automatic Enrolment \(Earnings Trigger and Qualifying Earnings Band\) Order \(Northern Ireland\) 2021 \(S.R. 2021/66\)](#), arts. 1(1), **3**

Commencement Information

I7 S. 5 partly in force; s. 5 in force for certain purposes at Royal Assent see [s. 118\(2\)](#)
I8 S. 5 in operation at 30.6.2012 in so far as not already in operation by [S.R. 2012/266](#), art. 2, [Sch. Pt. 1](#)

Timing of automatic re-enrolment

6.—(1) Regulations under section 5(8) must either—

- (a) secure that for any jobholder there is no automatic re-enrolment date less than three years after the jobholder's automatic enrolment date, and that there is not more than one automatic re-enrolment date in any period of three years, or
- (b) secure that for any employer there is not more than one automatic re-enrolment date in any period of [^{F15}2 years and 9 months] .

(2) Subsection (1) does not restrict the provision that regulations may make about the timing of a jobholder's automatic re-enrolment date (“the relevant date”) in the following cases.

^{F16}(3)

(4) The [^{F17}first case] is where—

- (a) ^{F18}... the jobholder ceases to be an active member of a qualifying scheme
^{F19}...,
- (b) that event is not the effect of any action or omission by the jobholder ^{F20}..., and
- (c) the relevant date is the jobholder's first automatic re-enrolment date after that [^{F21}event] .

(5) The [^{F22}second case] is where—

- (a) there is a period beginning at any time after the jobholder's automatic enrolment date during which the requirements of section 1(1)(a) or (c) are not met (so that the person is not a jobholder for that period), and
- (b) the relevant date is the jobholder's first automatic re-enrolment date after that period.

^{F23}(6)

Textual Amendments

F15 Words in [s. 6\(1\)\(b\)](#) substituted (2.6.2012 for specified purposes, 1.4.2015 in so far as not already in operation) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2012 \(c. 3\)](#), **ss. 8, 34(1)(3)**; [S.R. 2015/206](#), art. 2

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- F16** S. 6(3) omitted (2.6.2012 for specified purposes, 30.6.2012 in so far as not already in operation) by virtue of [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2012 \(c. 3\)](#), **ss. 7(4)(a)**, 34(1)(3); [S.R. 2012/265](#), art. 2(1)(b)
- F17** Words in s. 6(4) substituted (2.6.2012 for specified purposes, 30.6.2012 in so far as not already in operation) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2012 \(c. 3\)](#), **ss. 7(4)(b)**, 34(1)(3); [S.R. 2012/265](#), art. 2(1)(b)
- F18** Words in s. 6(4)(a) omitted (2.6.2012 for specified purposes, 30.6.2012 in so far as not already in operation) by virtue of [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2012 \(c. 3\)](#), **ss. 5(5)(a)**, 34(1)(3); [S.R. 2012/265](#), art. 2(1)(a)
- F19** Words in s. 6(4)(a) omitted (2.6.2012 for specified purposes, 30.6.2012 in so far as not already in operation) by virtue of [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2012 \(c. 3\)](#), **ss. 5(5)(b)**, 34(1)(3); [S.R. 2012/265](#), art. 2(1)(a)
- F20** Words in s. 6(4)(b) omitted (2.6.2012 for specified purposes, 30.6.2012 in so far as not already in operation) by virtue of [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2012 \(c. 3\)](#), **ss. 5(5)(c)**, 34(1)(3); [S.R. 2012/265](#), art. 2(1)(a)
- F21** Word in s. 6(4)(c) substituted (2.6.2012 for specified purposes, 30.6.2012 in so far as not already in operation) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2012 \(c. 3\)](#), **ss. 5(5)(d)**, 34(1)(3); [S.R. 2012/265](#), art. 2(1)(a)
- F22** Words in s. 6(5) substituted (2.6.2012 for specified purposes, 30.6.2012 in so far as not already in operation) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2012 \(c. 3\)](#), **ss. 7(4)(c)**, 34(1)(3); [S.R. 2012/265](#), art. 2(1)(b)
- F23** S. 6(6) omitted (2.6.2012 for specified purposes, 30.6.2012 in so far as not already in operation) by virtue of [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2012 \(c. 3\)](#), **ss. 7(4)(a)**, 34(1)(3); [S.R. 2012/265](#), art. 2(1)(b)

Commencement Information

- I9** S. 6 partly in force; s. 6 in force for certain purposes at Royal Assent see s. 118(2)
- I10** S. 6 in operation at 30.6.2012 in so far as not already in operation by [S.R. 2012/266](#), art. 2, [Sch. Pt. 1](#)

Jobholder's right to opt in

7.—(1) This section applies to a jobholder who is not an active member of a qualifying scheme.

(2) But it does not apply at a time when—

- (a) arrangements are required to be made under section 3 or 5 in respect of the jobholder, ^{F24}...

^{F24}(b)

(3) The jobholder may by notice require the employer to arrange for the jobholder to become an active member of an automatic enrolment scheme.

(4) The Department may by regulations make provision—

- (a) about the form and content of the notice;

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- (b) about the arrangements that the employer is required to make;
 - (c) for determining the date with effect from which the jobholder is to become an active member under the arrangements.
- (5) For the purposes of arrangements under subsection (3) regulations may require information to be provided to any person by the employer or—
- (a) where the arrangements relate to an occupational pension scheme, the trustees or managers of the scheme;
 - (b) where the arrangements relate to a personal pension scheme, the provider of the scheme.
- (6) For the purposes of arrangements made under subsection (3) in relation to a personal pension scheme, regulations may deem an agreement to exist (subject to section 8) between the jobholder and the provider of the scheme for the jobholder to be an active member of the scheme on terms and conditions determined in accordance with the regulations.
- (7) Subsections (8) and (9) apply where a jobholder becomes an active member of an automatic enrolment scheme in pursuance of a notice under this section and, within the period of 12 months beginning with the day on which that notice was given—
- (a) ceases to be an active member of that scheme, and
 - (b) gives the employer a further notice under this section.
- (8) The further notice does not have effect to require the employer to arrange for the jobholder to become an active member of an automatic enrolment scheme.
- (9) But any arrangements the employer makes for the jobholder to become, within that period, an active member of such a scheme must be made in accordance with regulations under this section.

Textual Amendments

- F24** S. 7(2)(b) and preceding word omitted (2.6.2012 for specified purposes, 30.6.2012 in so far as not already in operation) by virtue of [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2012 \(c. 3\), ss. 7\(5\), 34\(1\)\(3\); S.R. 2012/265, art. 2\(1\)\(b\)](#)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C14** S. 7(3): power to exclude conferred by SI 2005/255 (N.I. 1), art. 268A (as inserted (2.6.2012 for specified purposes) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2012 \(c. 3\), ss. 19, 34\(1\)\(3\)](#))

Commencement Information

- I11** S. 7 partly in force; s. 7 in force for certain purposes at Royal Assent see s. 118(2)
- I12** S. 7 in operation at 30.6.2012 in so far as not already in operation by [S.R. 2012/266, art. 2, Sch. Pt. 1](#)

Changes to legislation: *Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, CHAPTER 1 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 16 April 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*

Jobholder's right to opt out

8.—(1) This section applies on any occasion when arrangements under section 3(2), 5(2) or 7(3) apply to a jobholder (arrangements for the jobholder to become an active member of an automatic enrolment scheme).

(2) If the jobholder gives notice under this section—

- (a) the jobholder is to be treated for all purposes as not having become an active member of the scheme on that occasion;
- (b) any contributions paid by the jobholder or by the employer on behalf or in respect of the jobholder, on the basis that the jobholder has become an active member of the scheme on that occasion must be refunded in accordance with prescribed requirements.

(3) Regulations under subsection (2)(b) may, in particular, make provision about—

- (a) the time within which contributions must be refunded;
- (b) how the amount to be refunded is calculated;
- (c) the procedure for refunding contributions.

(4) The Department may by regulations make further provision in relation to notices under this section.

(5) The regulations may in particular make provision—

- (a) as to the form and content of a notice;
- (b) as to the period within which a notice must be given;
- (c) as to the person to whom a notice must be given;
- (d) requiring any person to make prescribed arrangements for enabling notices to be given;
- (e) requiring any person to take prescribed action in consequence of a notice (in addition to any action prescribed under subsection (2)(b)).

(6) The regulations must provide for the notice—

- (a) to include information about the effect in relation to jobholders of giving notice under this section, and
- (b) to be signed or otherwise authorised by the jobholder.

Commencement Information

I13 S. 8 partly in force; s. 8 in force for certain purposes at Royal Assent see s. 118(2)

I14 S. 8 in operation at 30.6.2012 in so far as not already in operation by [S.R. 2012/266, art. 2](#), [Sch. Pt. 1](#)

Changes to legislation: *Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, CHAPTER 1 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 16 April 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*

Duty in relation to workers without qualifying earnings

Workers without qualifying earnings

9.—(1) This section applies to a worker—

- (a) to whom paragraphs (a) and (b) of section 1(1) apply (working in Northern Ireland and aged between 16 and 75),
- (b) to whom paragraph (c) of section 1(1) does not apply (qualifying earnings), and
- (c) who is not an active member of a pension scheme that satisfies the requirements of this section.

(2) The worker may by notice require the employer to arrange for the worker to become an active member of a pension scheme that satisfies the requirements of this section.

(3) The Department may by regulations make provision—

- (a) about the form and content of the notice;
- (b) about the arrangements that the employer is required to make;
- (c) for determining the date with effect from which the worker is (subject to compliance with any requirements of the scheme) to become an active member under the arrangements.

(4) Subsections (5) and (6) apply where a worker becomes an active member of a pension scheme in pursuance of a notice under this section and, within the period of 12 months beginning with the day on which that notice was given—

- (a) ceases to be an active member of that scheme because of any action or omission by the worker, and
- (b) gives the employer a further notice under this section.

(5) The further notice does not have effect to require the employer to arrange for the worker to become an active member of a pension scheme.

(6) But any arrangements the employer makes for the worker to become, within that period, an active member of a pension scheme that satisfies the requirements of this section must be made in accordance with regulations under this section.

(7) A pension scheme satisfies the requirements of this section if—

- (a) it is registered under Chapter 2 of Part 4 of the Finance Act 2004 (c. 12), and
- (b) in the case of a personal pension scheme, there are, in relation to the worker concerned, direct payment arrangements (within the meaning of section 107A of the Pension Schemes (Northern Ireland) Act 1993 (c. 49) (in this Act referred to as “the Pension Schemes Act”)) between the worker and the employer.

Changes to legislation: *Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, CHAPTER 1 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 16 April 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*

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C15** S. 9(2): power to exclude conferred by SI 2005/255 (N.I. 1), art. 268A (as inserted (2.6.2012 for specified purposes) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2012 \(c. 3\)](#), **ss. 19**, 34(1)(3))

Commencement Information

- I15** S. 9 partly in force; s. 9 in force for certain purposes at Royal Assent see s. 118(2)
- I16** S. 9 in operation at 30.6.2012 in so far as not already in operation by [S.R. 2012/266](#), [art. 2](#), [Sch. Pt. 1](#)

Supplementary provision about the duties

Information to be given to workers

- 10.—**(1) The Department [^{F25}may] make provision by regulations—
- (a) for ^{F26}... jobholders to be given information about the effect of sections 2 to 8 in relation to them;
 - (b) for ^{F27}... workers to whom section 9 applies to be given information about the effect of that section in relation to them;
 - (c) for a prescribed person to be required to provide the information.
- (2) Regulations under this section [^{F28}may in particular make provision about] —
- (a) what information must be given;
 - (b) in what circumstances it must be given;
 - (c) how and when it must be given.

Textual Amendments

- F25** Word in [s. 10\(1\)](#) substituted (16.7.2015) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2015 \(c. 5\)](#), **ss. 37(1)(a)(i)**, 53(1); [S.R. 2015/307](#), [art. 2\(1\)\(c\)](#)
- F26** Word in [s. 10\(1\)\(a\)](#) omitted (16.7.2015) by virtue of [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2015 \(c. 5\)](#), **ss. 37(1)(a)(ii)**, 53(1); [S.R. 2015/307](#), [art. 2\(1\)\(c\)](#)
- F27** Word in [s. 10\(1\)\(b\)](#) omitted (16.7.2015) by virtue of [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2015 \(c. 5\)](#), **ss. 37(1)(a)(ii)**, 53(1); [S.R. 2015/307](#), [art. 2\(1\)\(c\)](#)
- F28** Words in [s. 10\(2\)](#) substituted (16.7.2015) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2015 \(c. 5\)](#), **ss. 37(1)(b)**, 53(1); [S.R. 2015/307](#), [art. 2\(1\)\(c\)](#)

Commencement Information

- I17** S. 10 partly in force; s. 10 in force for certain purposes at Royal Assent see s. 118(2)
- I18** S. 10 in operation at 30.6.2012 in so far as not already in operation by [S.R. 2012/266](#), [art. 2](#), [Sch. Pt. 1](#)

Changes to legislation: *Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, CHAPTER 1 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 16 April 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*

Information to be given to the Pensions Regulator

11.—(1) The Department may make regulations requiring employers to provide the Pensions Regulator (“the Regulator”) with information about action they have taken or intend to take for the purposes of any provision of, or of regulations under, sections 2 to 10.

(2) The regulations may in particular—

- (a) require an employer to provide information about pension schemes to which any action relates;
- (b) require an employer to identify which of any prescribed descriptions a scheme falls within;
- (c) require an employer to provide information that appears to the Department to be required for the performance by the Regulator of its functions under Chapter 2;
- (d) make provision about how and in what form any information is to be provided.

Commencement Information

I19 S. 11 partly in force; s. 11 in force for certain purposes at Royal Assent see s. 118(2)

Introduction of employers' duties

12 The Department may by regulations provide that sections 2 to 9 do not apply in the case of an employer of any description until such date after the coming into operation of those sections as is prescribed in relation to employers of that description.

Commencement Information

I20 S. 12 partly in force; s. 12 in force for certain purposes at Royal Assent see s. 118(2)

[^{F29}Qualifying earnings and earnings trigger]

Textual Amendments

F29 S. 13 crossheading substituted (7.6.2012) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2012 \(c. 3\)](#), ss. [9\(2\)](#), [34\(3\)](#); S.R. 2012/233, art. 2(2)(d)

Changes to legislation: Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, CHAPTER 1 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 16 April 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

Qualifying earnings

13.—(1) A person's qualifying earnings in a pay reference period of 12 months are the part (if any) of the gross earnings payable to that person in that period that is—

- (a) more than [^{F30}£6,240], and
- (b) not more than [^{F31}£50,270].

(2) In the case of a pay reference period of less or more than 12 months, subsection (1) applies as if the amounts in paragraphs (a) and (b) were proportionately less or more.

(3) In this section, “earnings”, in relation to a person, means sums of any of the following descriptions that are payable to the person in connection with the person's employment—

- (a) salary, wages, commission, bonuses and overtime;
- (b) statutory sick pay under Part 11 of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits (Northern Ireland) Act 1992 (c. 7) (in this Act referred to as “the Contributions and Benefits Act”);
- (c) statutory maternity pay under Part 12 of that Act;
- (d) [^{F32}statutory paternity pay] under Part 12ZA of that Act;
- (e) statutory adoption pay under Part 12ZB of that Act;
- [^{F33}(ea) statutory shared parental pay under Part 12ZC of that Act;]
- [^{F34}(eb) statutory parental bereavement pay under Part 12ZD of that Act;]
- (f) sums prescribed for the purposes of this section.

Textual Amendments

- F30** Sum in s. 13(1)(a) substituted (6.4.2020) by [The Automatic Enrolment \(Earnings Trigger and Qualifying Earnings Band\) Order \(Northern Ireland\) 2020 \(S.R. 2020/51\)](#), arts. 1(1), **2**
- F31** Sum in s. 13(1)(b) substituted (6.4.2021) by [The Automatic Enrolment \(Earnings Trigger and Qualifying Earnings Band\) Order \(Northern Ireland\) 2021 \(S.R. 2021/66\)](#), arts. 1(1), **2**
- F32** Words in s. 13(3)(d) substituted (5.4.2015) by [Work and Families Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2015 \(c. 1\)](#), s. 23(1), **Sch. 1 para. 8(a)**; S.R. 2015/86, art. 4(2)(g) (with art. 7(2))
- F33** S. 13(3)(ea) inserted (15.3.2015) by [Work and Families Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2015 \(c. 1\)](#), s. 23(1), **Sch. 1 para. 8(b)**; S.R. 2015/86, art. 3(2)(h)
- F34** S. 13(3)(eb) inserted (23.3.2022) by [Parental Bereavement \(Leave and Pay\) Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2022 \(c. 5\)](#), s. 5(5), **Sch. para. 35**; S.R. 2022/136, art. 3

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C16** S. 13(2) modified (6.4.2018) by [The Automatic Enrolment \(Earnings Trigger and Qualifying Earnings Band\) Order \(Northern Ireland\) 2018 \(S.R. 2018/52\)](#), arts. 1(1), **3**

Changes to legislation: *Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, CHAPTER 1 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 16 April 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*

- C17** S. 13(2) modified (6.4.2020) by [The Automatic Enrolment \(Earnings Trigger and Qualifying Earnings Band\) Order \(Northern Ireland\) 2020 \(S.R. 2020/51\)](#), arts. 1(1), **3**
- C18** S. 13(2) modified (6.4.2021) by [The Automatic Enrolment \(Earnings Trigger and Qualifying Earnings Band\) Order \(Northern Ireland\) 2021 \(S.R. 2021/66\)](#), arts. 1(1), **3**

Commencement Information

- I21** S. 13 partly in force; s. 13 in force for certain purposes at Royal Assent see s. 118(2)
- I22** S. 13 in operation at 30.6.2012 in so far as not already in operation by [S.R. 2012/266](#), art. 2, [Sch. Pt. 1](#)

Review of [^{F35}earnings trigger and] qualifying earnings band

14 Whenever the Secretary of State makes an order under section 14 of the Pensions Act 2008 (c. 30) (review of [^{F36}earnings trigger and] qualifying earnings band), the Department may make a corresponding order for Northern Ireland.

Textual Amendments

- F35** Words in s. 14 heading inserted (7.6.2012) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2012 \(c. 3\)](#), ss. **9(1)**, 34(3); [S.R. 2012/233](#), art. 2(2)(d)
- F36** Words in s. 14 inserted (7.6.2012) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2012 \(c. 3\)](#), ss. **9(1)**, 34(3); [S.R. 2012/233](#), art. 2(2)(d)

Commencement Information

- I23** S. 14 partly in force; s. 14 in force for certain purposes at Royal Assent see s. 118(2)
- I24** S. 14 in operation at 8.6.2012 in so far as not already in operation by [S.R. 2012/236](#), art. **2(a)**

Pay reference period

15.—(1) In relation to any person a pay reference period is the period prescribed.

(2) The Department may by regulations—

- (a) make provision for determining a person's earnings in any pay reference period;
- (b) make provision for determining the first date of each pay reference period in relation to a person.

(3) A reference in any provision to the relevant pay reference period is a reference to the period determined in accordance with regulations under this section, as they apply for the purposes of that provision in the case concerned.

Changes to legislation: *Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, CHAPTER 1 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 16 April 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*

Commencement Information

- I25** S. 15 partly in force; s. 15 in force for certain purposes at Royal Assent see s. 118(2)
- I26** S. 15 in operation at 30.6.2012 in so far as not already in operation by [S.R. 2012/266](#), [art. 2](#), [Sch. Pt. 1](#)

[^{F37}Power to specify rounded figures

15A.—(1) Whenever the Secretary of State makes an order under section 15A of the Pensions Act 2008 specifying rounded figures for the purposes of section 3(6B), 5(7B) or 13(2) of that Act, the Department may make an order specifying corresponding rounded figures for the purposes of section 3(6B), 5(7B) or 13(2) of this Act.

(2) A rounded figure so specified applies in place of the amount that would otherwise apply.]

Textual Amendments

- F37** S. 15A inserted (2.6.2012 for specified purposes, 7.6.2012 in so far as not already in operation) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2012 \(c. 3\)](#), [ss. 10](#), [34\(1\)\(3\)](#); [S.R. 2012/233](#), [art. 2\(1\)\(a\)](#)

Qualifying schemes and automatic enrolment schemes

Qualifying schemes

16.—(1) A pension scheme is a qualifying scheme in relation to a jobholder (J) if—

- (a) it is an occupational pension scheme or a personal pension scheme,
- (b) it is registered under Chapter 2 of Part 4 of the Finance Act 2004 (c. 12), and
- (c) while J is an active member, the scheme satisfies the quality requirement in relation to J.

(2) The Department may by regulations provide that subsection (1)(b) does not apply in relation to a scheme to which section 25 or 27 applies, if prescribed requirements are satisfied.

(3) The Department may by regulations provide that a scheme is not a qualifying scheme in relation to J if—

- ^{F38}(a)
- ^{F39}(aa)
- ^{F40}(ab)

Changes to legislation: *Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, CHAPTER 1 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 16 April 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*

- (b) while J is an active member, the contributions that must be paid to the scheme by, or on behalf or in respect of, J exceed a prescribed amount, or
- (c) the scheme provides for average salary benefits to be provided to or in respect of J and contains prescribed features.

[^{F41}(3A) See also paragraphs 1(4) and 2(4) of Schedule 18 to the Pensions Act (Northern Ireland) 2015, which confer power to make regulations providing for a scheme not to be a qualifying scheme in relation to a jobholder in certain circumstances.]

^{F42}(4)

^{F42}(5)

Textual Amendments

- F38** S. 16(3)(a) omitted (16.7.2015) by virtue of [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2015 \(c. 5\)](#), s. 53(1), [Sch. 18 para. 11\(2\)](#); S.R. 2015/307, art. 2(1)(n)
- F39** S. 16(3)(aa) omitted (16.7.2015) by virtue of [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2015 \(c. 5\)](#), s. 53(1), [Sch. 18 para. 11\(2\)](#); S.R. 2015/307, art. 2(1)(n)
- F40** S. 16(3)(ab) omitted (16.7.2015) by virtue of [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2015 \(c. 5\)](#), s. 53(1), [Sch. 18 para. 11\(2\)](#); S.R. 2015/307, art. 2(1)(n)
- F41** S. 16(3A) inserted (16.7.2015) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2015 \(c. 5\)](#), s. 53(1), [Sch. 18 para. 11\(3\)](#); S.R. 2015/307, art. 2(1)(n)
- F42** S. 16(4)(5) omitted (16.7.2015) by virtue of [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2015 \(c. 5\)](#), s. 53(1), [Sch. 18 para. 11\(4\)](#); S.R. 2015/307, art. 2(1)(n)

Commencement Information

- I27** S. 16 partly in force; s. 16 in force for certain purposes at Royal Assent see s. 118(2)
- I28** S. 16 in operation at 30.6.2012 in so far as not already in operation by [S.R. 2012/266](#), art. 2, [Sch. Pt. 1](#)

Automatic enrolment schemes

17.—(1) A pension scheme is an automatic enrolment scheme in relation to a jobholder (J) if—

- (a) it is a qualifying scheme in relation to J,
- (b) it satisfies the conditions in subsection (2), and
- (c) it satisfies any further conditions prescribed.

(2) The conditions mentioned in subsection (1)(b) are that—

- (a) no provision of the scheme prevents the employer from making arrangements prescribed under section 3(2), 5(2) or 7(4) for J to become an active member of the scheme;

Changes to legislation: *Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, CHAPTER 1 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 16 April 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*

- (b) no provision of the scheme requires J to express a choice in relation to any matter, or to provide any information, in order to remain an active member.

Commencement Information

- I29** S. 17 partly in force; s. 17 in force for certain purposes at Royal Assent see s. 118(2)
I30 S. 17 in operation at 30.6.2012 in so far as not already in operation by [S.R. 2012/266, art. 2, Sch. Pt. 1](#)

Occupational pension schemes

18 For the purposes of this Part, each of these is an occupational pension scheme—

- (a) an occupational pension scheme within the meaning of section 1(1) of the Pension Schemes Act that has its main administration in the United Kingdom;
^{F43}(b)
 (c) a pension scheme that is prescribed or is of a prescribed description and that has its main administration elsewhere than in [^{F44}the United Kingdom].

Textual Amendments

- F43** [S. 18\(b\)](#) omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of [The Occupational and Personal Pension Schemes \(Amendment etc.\) \(Northern Ireland\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2019 \(S.I. 2019/193\)](#), regs. 1, [6\(2\)\(a\)](#); 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)
F44 Words in [s. 18\(c\)](#) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Occupational and Personal Pension Schemes \(Amendment etc.\) \(Northern Ireland\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2019 \(S.I. 2019/193\)](#), regs. 1, [6\(2\)\(b\)](#); 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)

Commencement Information

- I31** S. 18 partly in force; s. 18 in force for certain purposes at Royal Assent see [s. 118\(2\)](#)
I32 S. 18 in operation at 30.6.2012 in so far as not already in operation by [S.R. 2012/266, art. 2, Sch. Pt. 1](#)

Personal pension schemes

19 For the purposes of this Part, a personal pension scheme is a pension scheme that is not an occupational pension scheme.

Commencement Information

- I33** S. 19 in operation at 30.6.2012 by [S.R. 2012/266, art. 2, Sch. Pt. 2](#)

Changes to legislation: *Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, CHAPTER 1 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 16 April 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*

Quality requirements

Quality requirement: UK money purchase schemes

20.—(1) A money purchase scheme that has its main administration in the United Kingdom satisfies the quality requirement in relation to a jobholder if under the scheme—

- (a) the jobholder's employer must pay contributions in respect of the jobholder;
- (b) the employer's contribution, however calculated, must be equal to or more than 3% of the amount of the jobholder's qualifying earnings in the relevant pay reference period;
- (c) the total amount of contributions paid by the jobholder and the employer, however calculated, must be equal to or more than 8% of the amount of the jobholder's qualifying earnings in the relevant pay reference period.

^{F45}(2)

(3) A scheme does not fail to satisfy the quality requirement under this section merely because the trustees or managers of the scheme may on any occasion refuse to accept a contribution below an amount prescribed for the purposes of this section on the grounds that it is below that amount.

Textual Amendments

F45 S. 20(2) omitted (6.4.2012) by virtue of [The Pensions \(2008 Act\) \(Abolition of Contracting-out for Defined Contribution Pension Schemes\) \(Consequential Provisions\) Regulations \(Northern Ireland\) 2012 \(S.R. 2012/120\)](#), regs. 1(a), **3(2)**

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C19 S. 20(1) modified (1.7.2012) by [The Occupational and Personal Pension Schemes \(Automatic Enrolment\) Regulations \(Northern Ireland\) 2010 \(S.R. 2010/122\)](#), regs. 1(1), **45(2)** (as amended (1.7.2012) by [S.R. 2012/237](#), regs. 1(1)(b), **2(2)**)

Commencement Information

I34 S. 20 partly in force; s. 20 in force for certain purposes at Royal Assent see s. 118(2)

I35 S. 20 in operation at 30.6.2012 in so far as not already in operation by [S.R. 2012/266](#), [art. 2](#), [Sch. Pt. 1](#)

Quality requirement: UK defined benefits schemes

[^{F46}**21** A defined benefits scheme that has its main administration in the United Kingdom satisfies the quality requirement in relation to a jobholder if it satisfies the test scheme standard in relation to that jobholder]

Changes to legislation: *Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, CHAPTER 1 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 16 April 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*

Textual Amendments

- F46** S. 21 substituted (6.4.2016) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2015 \(c. 5\), s. 53\(3\), Sch. 13 para. 80](#)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C20** S. 21 modified (1.7.2012) by [The Occupational and Personal Pension Schemes \(Automatic Enrolment\) Regulations \(Northern Ireland\) 2010 \(S.R. 2010/122\), regs. 1\(1\), 45\(4\)](#) (as amended (1.7.2012) by [S.R. 2012/237](#), regs. 1(1)(b), 2(2))

Commencement Information

- I36** S. 21 partly in force; s. 21 in force for certain purposes at Royal Assent see s. 118(2)
- I37** S. 21 in operation at 30.6.2012 in so far as not already in operation by [S.R. 2012/266, art. 2, Sch. Pt. 1](#)

Test scheme standard

22.—(1) A scheme satisfies the test scheme standard in relation to a jobholder (J) if the pensions to be provided for the relevant members of the scheme are broadly equivalent to, or better than, the pensions which would be provided for them under a test scheme.

[^{F47}(2) Subject to subsection (3), the relevant members are J and all active members who are jobholders of the same employer as J.]

(3) In applying this section the pensions to be provided for relevant members must be considered as a whole.

(4) The Department may by regulations make provision for the manner of, and criteria for, determining whether the pensions to be provided for the relevant members under a scheme are broadly equivalent to, or better than, the pensions which would be provided for them under a test scheme.

(5) Regulations under subsection (4) may provide for the determination to be made in accordance with guidance issued from time to time by the Department.

(6) The Department may by regulations provide that a scheme only satisfies the test scheme standard if the scheme actuary certifies that it does.

(7) Except in prescribed circumstances, the scheme actuary is the actuary appointed under Article 47(1)(b) of the Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 (NI 22) (in this Act referred to as “the 1995 Order”) (professional advisers) in relation to the scheme.

[^{F48}(8) In the case of a scheme under which a sum of money is made available for the provision of benefits to a relevant member, references in this section to pensions are to be read as references to such sums.]

Changes to legislation: *Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, CHAPTER 1 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 16 April 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*

Textual Amendments

- F47** S. 22(2) substituted (6.4.2016) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2015 \(c. 5\), s. 53\(3\), Sch. 13 para. 81](#)
- F48** S. 22(8) added (2.6.2012 for specified purposes, 30.6.2012 in so far as not already in operation) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2012 \(c. 3\), ss. 12\(1\), 34\(1\)\(3\); S.R. 2012/265, art. 2\(1\)\(c\)](#)

Commencement Information

- I38** S. 22 partly in force; s. 22 in force for certain purposes at Royal Assent see s. 118(2)
- I39** S. 22 in operation at 30.6.2012 in so far as not already in operation by [S.R. 2012/266, art. 2, Sch. Pt. 1](#)

Test scheme

^{F49}**23.**—(1) A test scheme is an occupational pension scheme which satisfies—

- (a) the requirement in subsection (2),
 - (b) the requirement in subsection (4) or requirements prescribed under subsection (6) (as appropriate), and
 - (c) any further requirements that are prescribed.
- (2) The scheme must either—
- (a) provide for a member to be entitled to a pension commencing at the appropriate age and continuing for life, or
 - (b) provide for a sum of money to be made available for the provision of benefits to a member commencing at the appropriate age and continuing for life.
- (3) The appropriate age is 65 or any higher age prescribed.
- (4) In the case of a scheme that provides entitlement to a pension as mentioned in subsection (2)(a), the annual rate of the pension at the appropriate age must be—
- (a) 1/120th of average qualifying earnings in the last three tax years preceding the end of pensionable service,
- multiplied by
- (b) the number of years of pensionable service, up to a maximum of 40.
- (5) Section 13(1) (qualifying earnings) applies for the purposes of subsection (4) as if the reference to a pay reference period were a reference to a tax year.

Changes to legislation: *Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, CHAPTER 1 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 16 April 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*

(6) In the case of a scheme that provides for a sum of money to be made available as mentioned in subsection (2)(b), regulations must prescribe requirements relating to that sum.]

Textual Amendments

F49 S. 23 substituted (2.6.2012 for specified purposes, 30.6.2012 in so far as not already in operation) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2012 \(c. 3\)](#), **ss. 12(2), 34(1)(3)**; S.R. [2012/265](#), art. 2(1)(c)

Commencement Information

I40 S. 23 partly in force; s. 23 in force for certain purposes at Royal Assent see s. 118(2)

[^{F50} Alternative quality requirements for UK defined benefits schemes

23A.—(1) The Department may by regulations provide that a defined benefits scheme that has its main administration in the United Kingdom satisfies the quality requirement in relation to a jobholder if any one or more of the following is satisfied—

- (a) the scheme is of a prescribed description and satisfies the quality requirement under section 20 in relation to that jobholder;
- (b) the cost of providing the benefits accruing for or in respect of the relevant members over a relevant period would require contributions to be made of a total amount equal to at least a prescribed percentage of the members' total relevant earnings over that period;
- (c) in the case of each of at least 90% of the relevant members, the cost of providing the benefits accruing for or in respect of the member over a relevant period would require contributions to be made of a total amount equal to at least a prescribed percentage of the member's total relevant earnings over that period.

(2) For this purpose—

“contributions” means contributions to the scheme by, or on behalf or in respect of, a relevant member;

“relevant earnings” means earnings of a prescribed description;

“relevant members” means members of the scheme of a prescribed description;

“relevant period” means a period specified in or determined in accordance with the regulations.

(3) A percentage prescribed under subsection (1)(b) or (c) must be at least 8%.

(4) Regulations under subsection (1)(b) or (c) may make provision—

Changes to legislation: *Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, CHAPTER 1 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 16 April 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*

- (a) about how to calculate whether the requirement is satisfied, including provision requiring the calculation to be made in accordance with prescribed methods or assumptions;
 - (b) requiring benefits of a prescribed description to be disregarded in determining whether the requirement is satisfied;
 - (c) that a scheme only satisfies the requirement if the scheme actuary certifies that it does; and for this purpose “scheme actuary” has the prescribed meaning.
- (5) Section 13(3) (meaning of “earnings”) applies for the purposes of this section as it applies for the purposes of that section.]

Textual Amendments

F50 S. 23A inserted (16.7.2015) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2015 \(c. 5\)](#), **ss. 38(2)**, 53(1); [S.R. 2015/307](#), art. 2(1)(d)

Quality requirement: UK hybrid schemes

24.—(1) A hybrid scheme that has its main administration in the United Kingdom satisfies the quality requirement in relation to a jobholder if it satisfies the requirements mentioned in whichever of these is the appropriate paragraph—

- (a) the requirements for a money purchase scheme under section 20, subject to any prescribed modifications;
 - (b) the requirements for a defined benefits scheme under sections 21 to ^{F51}23A], subject to any prescribed modifications.
- (2) Which paragraph of subsection (1) is appropriate for any hybrid scheme is to be determined by rules made by the Department.
- (3) The rules may provide for different paragraphs to be appropriate for different provisions of a scheme.
- (4) The rules may provide for the paragraphs to be appropriate as alternatives, for any scheme or any provisions of a scheme.

Textual Amendments

F51 Word in s. 24(1)(b) substituted (16.7.2015) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2015 \(c. 5\)](#), **ss. 38(3)**, 53(1); [S.R. 2015/307](#), art. 2(1)(d)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C21 S. 24 applied (with modifications) (1.7.2012) by [The Occupational and Personal Pension Schemes \(Automatic Enrolment\) Regulations \(Northern Ireland\) 2010 \(S.R. 2010/122\)](#), regs. 1(1), **45(5)(6)** (as amended (1.7.2012) by [S.R. 2012/237](#), regs. 1(1)(b), 2(2))

Changes to legislation: *Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, CHAPTER 1 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 16 April 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*

Commencement Information

- I41** S. 24 partly in force; s. 24 in force for certain purposes at Royal Assent see s. 118(2)
- I42** S. 24 in operation at 30.6.2012 in so far as not already in operation by [S.R. 2012/266, art. 2](#), [Sch. Pt. 1](#)

Quality requirement: non-UK occupational pension schemes

25 The Department may by regulations make provision as to the quality requirement to be satisfied in the case of an occupational pension scheme within section 18(b) or (c).

Commencement Information

- I43** S. 25 partly in force; s. 25 in force for certain purposes at Royal Assent see s. 118(2)

Quality requirement: UK personal pension schemes

26.—(1) This section applies to a personal pension scheme if the operation of the scheme—

- (a) is carried on in such a way as to be a regulated activity for the purposes of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (c. 8), and
- (b) is carried on in the United Kingdom by a person who is in relation to that activity an authorised person or an exempt person under section 19 of that Act.

(2) The scheme satisfies the quality requirement in relation to a jobholder if the following conditions are satisfied.

(3) The first condition is that all of the benefits that may be provided to the jobholder under the scheme are money purchase benefits.

(4) The second condition is that, in relation to the jobholder, there is an agreement between the provider of the scheme and the employer under which—

- (a) the employer must pay contributions in respect of the jobholder;
- (b) the employer's contribution, however calculated, must be equal to or more than 3% of the amount of the jobholder's qualifying earnings in the relevant pay reference period.

(5) In subsection (6), “shortfall” means the difference (if any) between—

- (a) the employer's contribution in respect of the jobholder under the agreement referred to in subsection (4), and
- (b) 8% of the amount of the jobholder's qualifying earnings in the relevant pay reference period.

Changes to legislation: *Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, CHAPTER 1 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 16 April 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*

(6) The third condition is that if there is a shortfall there is an agreement between the provider of the scheme and the jobholder under which the jobholder must pay contributions which, however calculated, are equal to or more than the shortfall.

(7) The fourth condition is that, in relation to the jobholder, there are direct payment arrangements (within the meaning of section 107A of the Pension Schemes Act) between the jobholder and the employer.

^{F52}(8)

(9) A scheme does not fail to satisfy the quality requirement under this section merely because the provider of the scheme may on any occasion refuse to accept a contribution below an amount prescribed for the purposes of this section on the grounds that it is below that amount.

Textual Amendments

F52 S. 26(8) omitted (6.4.2012) by virtue of [The Pensions \(2008 Act\) \(Abolition of Contracting-out for Defined Contribution Pension Schemes\) \(Consequential Provisions\) Regulations \(Northern Ireland\) 2012 \(S.R. 2012/120\)](#), regs. 1(a), **3(3)**

Commencement Information

I44 S. 26 partly in force; s. 26 in force for certain purposes at Royal Assent see s. 118(2)

I45 S. 26 in operation at 30.6.2012 in so far as not already in operation by [S.R. 2012/266](#), art. 2, [Sch. Pt. 1](#)

Quality requirement: other personal pension schemes

27 The Department may by regulations make provision as to the quality requirement to be satisfied in the case of a personal pension scheme to which section 26 does not apply.

Commencement Information

I46 S. 27 partly in force; s. 27 in force for certain purposes at Royal Assent see s. 118(2)

[^{F53}Certification that quality requirement or alternative requirement is satisfied]

^{F54}**28.**—(1) The Department may by regulations provide that, subject to provision within subsection (6)(f), a scheme to which this section applies is to be taken to satisfy the relevant quality requirement in relation to [^{F55}each of an employer's relevant jobholders] if a certificate given in accordance with the regulations is in force in relation to the employer.

[^{F56}(1A) In this section—

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- (a) “relevant jobholder” means a jobholder to whom the certificate in question applies;
- (b) a reference to a scheme includes a reference to part of a scheme.]
- (2) The certificate must [^{F57}state—
 - (a) that], in relation to [^{F58}relevant jobholders] of the employer who are active members of the scheme, the scheme is in the opinion of the person giving the certificate able to satisfy the relevant quality requirement throughout the certification period[^{F59}, or
 - (b) that, in relation to those jobholders, the scheme is in that person's opinion able to satisfy a prescribed alternative requirement throughout the certification period.]
- (3) This section applies to—
 - (a) a money purchase scheme to which section 20 applies;
 - (b) a personal pension scheme to which section 26 applies;
 - (c) a hybrid scheme, to the extent that requirements within section 24(1)(a) apply.
- [^{F60}(3A) This section also applies to—
 - (a) a money purchase scheme that is an occupational pension scheme within section 18(b);
 - (b) a personal pension scheme of a prescribed description for which provision is made under section 27;
 - (c) a hybrid scheme that is an occupational pension scheme within section 18(b), to the extent prescribed.]
- [^{F61}(3B) This section also applies to a defined benefits scheme that has its main administration in the United Kingdom and is of a description prescribed under section 23A(1)(a).]
- (4) The “relevant quality requirement”—
 - (a) for a scheme within subsection (3)(a), means the quality requirement under section 20;
 - (b) for a scheme within subsection (3)(b), means the quality requirement under section 26;
 - (c) for a scheme within paragraph (c) of subsection (3), means the requirements mentioned in that paragraph.
- [^{F62}(d) for a scheme within subsection (3A), means a prescribed requirement.]
- [^{F63}(e) for a scheme within subsection (3B), means the quality requirement under section 23A(1)(a).]
- (5) Regulations may make further provision in relation to certification under this section.

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(6) Regulations may in particular make provision—

- (a) as to the period for which a certificate is in force (the “certification period”);
- (b) as to the persons by whom a certificate may be given;
- (c) as to procedures in connection with certification or where a certificate has been given;
- (d) requiring persons to have regard to guidance issued by the Department;
- (e) requiring an employer to calculate the amount of contributions that a scheme, and any [^{F64}contribution agreements] , required to be paid by or in respect of [^{F65}any relevant jobholder] in the certification period;
- (f) as to cases where the requirements of a scheme, and any [^{F66}contribution agreements] , as to payment of contributions by or in respect of [^{F67}relevant jobholders] of an employer did not satisfy prescribed conditions.

(7) Provision within subsection (6)(f) includes in particular provision for a scheme not to be treated by virtue of regulations under this section as having satisfied the relevant quality requirement unless prescribed steps are taken (which may include the making of prescribed payments).

(8) In subsection (6) [^{F68}“contribution agreements” means—

- (a) the agreement] required, in the case of a scheme within subsection (3)(b), by section 26(4) and any agreement required, in the case of such a scheme, by section 26(6). [^{F69}, or
- (b) any agreement of the same or a similar kind that is required, in the case of a scheme within subsection (3A)(b), by regulations under section 27.]

(9) The Department may by order repeal this section.

Textual Amendments

- F53** S. 28 heading substituted (2.6.2012 for specified purposes, 7.6.2012 in so far as not already in operation) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2012 \(c. 3\)](#), **ss. 13(2)**, 34(1)(3); S.R. 2012/233, art. 2(1)(b)
- F54** S. 28 applied by S.R. 2010/122, reg. 32J (as inserted (1.7.2012) by [The Occupational and Personal Pension Schemes \(Automatic Enrolment\) \(Amendment\) Regulations \(Northern Ireland\) 2012 \(S.R. 2012/237\)](#), regs. 1(1)(a), **2(3)**)
- F55** Words in s. 28(1) substituted (2.6.2012 for specified purposes, 7.6.2012 in so far as not already in operation) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2012 \(c. 3\)](#), **ss. 13(3)**, 34(1)(3); S.R. 2012/233, art. 2(1)(b)
- F56** S. 28(1A) inserted (2.6.2012 for specified purposes, 7.6.2012 in so far as not already in operation) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2012 \(c. 3\)](#), **ss. 13(4)**, 34(1)(3); S.R. 2012/233, art. 2(1)(b)

Changes to legislation: *Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, CHAPTER 1 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 16 April 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*

- F57** Words in s. 28(2) substituted (2.6.2012 for specified purposes, 7.6.2012 in so far as not already in operation) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2012 \(c. 3\)](#), **ss. 13(5)(a)**, 34(1)(3); [S.R. 2012/233](#), art. 2(1)(b)
- F58** Words in s. 28(2) substituted (2.6.2012 for specified purposes, 7.6.2012 in so far as not already in operation) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2012 \(c. 3\)](#), **ss. 13(5)(b)**, 34(1)(3); [S.R. 2012/233](#), art. 2(1)(b)
- F59** S. 28(2)(b) and preceding word added (2.6.2012 for specified purposes, 7.6.2012 in so far as not already in operation) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2012 \(c. 3\)](#), **ss. 13(5)(c)**, 34(1)(3); [S.R. 2012/233](#), art. 2(1)(b); [S.R. 2012/233](#), art. 2(1)(b)
- F60** S. 28(3A) inserted (2.6.2012 for specified purposes, 7.6.2012 in so far as not already in operation) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2012 \(c. 3\)](#), **ss. 14(2)**, 34(1)(3); [S.R. 2012/233](#), art. 2(1)(c)
- F61** S. 28(3B) inserted (16.7.2015) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2015 \(c. 5\)](#), **ss. 38(4)(a)**, 53(1); [S.R. 2015/307](#), **art. 2(1)(d)**
- F62** S. 28(4)(d) added (2.6.2012 for specified purposes, 7.6.2012 in so far as not already in operation) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2012 \(c. 3\)](#), **ss. 14(3)**, 34(1)(3); [S.R. 2012/233](#), art. 2(1)(c)
- F63** S. 28(4)(e) inserted (16.7.2015) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2015 \(c. 5\)](#), **ss. 38(4)(b)**, 53(1); [S.R. 2015/307](#), **art. 2(1)(d)**
- F64** Words in s. 28(6)(e) substituted (2.6.2012 for specified purposes, 7.6.2012 in so far as not already in operation) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2012 \(c. 3\)](#), **ss. 14(4)**, 34(1)(3); [S.R. 2012/233](#), art. 2(1)(c)
- F65** Words in s. 28(6)(e) substituted (2.6.2012 for specified purposes, 7.6.2012 in so far as not already in operation) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2012 \(c. 3\)](#), **ss. 13(6)(a)**, 34(1)(3); [S.R. 2012/233](#), art. 2(1)(b)
- F66** Words in s. 28(6)(f) substituted (2.6.2012 for specified purposes, 7.6.2012 in so far as not already in operation) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2012 \(c. 3\)](#), **ss. 14(4)**, 34(1)(3); [S.R. 2012/233](#), art. 2(1)(c)
- F67** Words in s. 28(6)(f) substituted (2.6.2012 for specified purposes, 7.6.2012 in so far as not already in operation) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2012 \(c. 3\)](#), **ss. 13(6)(b)**, 34(1)(3); [S.R. 2012/233](#), art. 2(1)(b)
- F68** Words in s. 28(8) substituted (2.6.2012 for specified purposes, 7.6.2012 in so far as not already in operation) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2012 \(c. 3\)](#), **ss. 14(5)(a)**, 34(1)(3); [S.R. 2012/233](#), art. 2(1)(c)
- F69** S. 28(8)(b) and preceding word added (2.6.2012 for specified purposes, 7.6.2012 in so far as not already in operation) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2012 \(c. 3\)](#), **ss. 14(5)(b)**, 34(1)(3); [S.R. 2012/233](#), art. 2(1)(c)

Commencement Information

- I47** S. 28 partly in force; s. 28 in force for certain purposes at Royal Assent see s. 118(2)
- I48** S. 28 in operation at 8.6.2012 in so far as not already in operation by [S.R. 2012/236](#), **art. 2(b)**

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Transitional

Transitional periods for money purchase and personal pension schemes

29.—(1) During the first transitional period ^{F70}...—

- (a) sections 20(1)(b) and 26(4)(b) have effect as if for “3%” there were substituted “ 1% ”;
- (b) sections 20(1)(c) and 26(5)(b) have effect as if for “8%” there were substituted “ 2% ”.

(2) The first transitional period is a prescribed period of at least one year, beginning with the coming into operation of section 20.

(3) During the second transitional period ^{F71}...—

- (a) sections 20(1)(b) and 26(4)(b) have effect as if for “3%” there were substituted “ 2% ”;
- (b) sections 20(1)(c) and 26(5)(b) have effect as if for “8%” there were substituted “ 5% ”.

(4) The second transitional period is a prescribed period of at least one year, beginning with the end of the first transitional period.

Textual Amendments

F70 Words in s. 29(1) omitted (16.7.2015) by virtue of [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2015](#) (c. 5), ss. 38(5), 53(1); S.R. 2015/307, art. 2(1)(d)

F71 Words in s. 29(3) omitted (16.7.2015) by virtue of [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2015](#) (c. 5), ss. 38(5), 53(1); S.R. 2015/307, art. 2(1)(d)

Commencement Information

I49 S. 29 partly in force; s. 29 in force for certain purposes at Royal Assent see s. 118(2)

I50 S. 29 in operation at 30.6.2012 in so far as not already in operation by [S.R. 2012/266](#), art. 2, [Sch. Pt. 1](#)

Transitional period for defined benefits and hybrid schemes

30.—(1) Subsection (3) applies if, in relation to a person who on the employer's first enrolment date is a jobholder to whom section 3 applies, the conditions in subsection (2) are satisfied, and continue to be satisfied during the transitional period for defined benefits and hybrid schemes.

(2) The conditions are that—

- (a) the jobholder has been employed by the employer for a continuous period beginning before the employer's first enrolment date,

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- (b) at a time in that period before the employer's first enrolment date, the jobholder became entitled to become an active member of a defined benefits scheme or ^{F72}[a defined benefits member of a hybrid scheme],
- (c) the jobholder is, and has always since that time been, entitled to become an active member of a defined benefits scheme or ^{F73}[a defined benefits member of a hybrid scheme], and
- (d) the scheme to which that entitlement relates is a qualifying scheme, and any scheme to which it has related on or after the employer's first enrolment date has been a qualifying scheme.

(3) ^{F74}[If by the end of the prescribed period the employer has given the jobholder notice that the employer intends to defer automatic enrolment until the end of the transitional period for defined benefits and hybrid schemes], section 3 has effect in relation to the jobholder with the substitution for subsection (2) of the following subsection—

“(2) The employer must make prescribed arrangements by which the jobholder becomes

- ^{F75}(a) an active member, with effect from the end of the transitional period for defined benefits and hybrid schemes, of an automatic enrolment scheme which is a defined benefits scheme ^{F76}[, or
- (b) a defined benefits member, with effect from the end of that period, of an automatic enrolment scheme which is a hybrid scheme.”]

^{F77}[A reference in this subsection to a scheme does not include a scheme to which section 30(11)(a) or (b) applies.]

(4) If ^{F78}[a notice is given under subsection (3) and at any later time] in the transitional period for defined benefits and hybrid schemes the condition in subsection (2)(c) or (d) ceases to be satisfied, subsection (5) applies instead of subsection (3) (and the day after the last day on which that condition is satisfied is referred to as “the closure date”).

(5) Where this subsection applies, section 3 has effect in relation to the jobholder with the substitution for subsection (2) of the following subsection—

“(2) The employer must make prescribed arrangements by which the jobholder either—

- (a) becomes an active member, with effect from the closure date, of an automatic enrolment scheme which is a defined benefits scheme ^{F79}[other than a scheme to which section 30(11)(a) applies] or
- ^{F80}(aa) becomes a defined benefits member, with effect from the closure date of an automatic enrolment scheme which is a hybrid scheme ^{F81}[other than a scheme to which section 30(11)(b) applies] ;]

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- (b) becomes an active member, with effect from the automatic enrolment date, of an automatic enrolment scheme which is a money purchase scheme [^{F82}or personal pension scheme].
 - [^{F83}(c) becomes a money purchase member, with effect from the automatic enrolment date, of an automatic enrolment scheme which is a hybrid scheme.]
 - [^{F84}(d) becomes an active member, with effect from the automatic enrolment date, of an automatic enrolment scheme which is a defined benefits scheme to which section 30(11)(b) applies, or
 - (e) becomes a defined benefits member, with effect from the automatic enrolment date, of an automatic enrolment scheme which is a hybrid scheme to which section 30(11)(b) applies.”]
- (6) If the jobholder becomes a member of a scheme under arrangements made under subsection (2)(b) of that section (as substituted by subsection (5))—
 - (a) the employer's contributions are payable with effect from the automatic enrolment date;
 - (b) any requirement of the scheme ^{F85}... for contributions to be payable by the jobholder does not apply in respect of the period of the jobholder's membership before the closure date;
 - (c) regulations made for the purposes of section 3(2)(b) must secure that the jobholder may pay, within a period prescribed by the regulations, any contributions which would have been payable by the jobholder but for paragraph (b) of this subsection.
- (7) Where subsection (3) or (5) [^{F86}applies—
 - (a) section] 3(3) and (4) applies as if references to the automatic enrolment date were references to the [^{F87}day with effect from which] arrangements would by virtue of this section fall to be made in respect of the jobholder.
 - [^{F88}(b) section 4 applies as if—
 - (i) the reference in subsection (1) to the employer's staging date were a reference to the employer's first enrolment date;
 - (ii) in that subsection, for “the worker's automatic enrolment date is the deferral date” there were substituted “ the day with effect from which arrangements fall to be made by virtue of section 30 in respect of the jobholder is changed to the deferral date ”;
 - (iii) in subsections (4) to (6), references to the starting day were references to the day with effect from which arrangements would by virtue of this section fall to be made in respect of the jobholder.]
 - [^{F89}(c) section 5(2) does not apply in relation to an automatic re-enrolment date that falls before the day with effect from which arrangements would by virtue of this section fall to be made in respect of the jobholder.]

Changes to legislation: Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, CHAPTER 1 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 16 April 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

[^{F90}(7A) The Department may by regulations make provision about the form and content of a notice under subsection (3).]

(8) The transitional period for defined benefits and hybrid schemes is a prescribed period beginning with the day on which section 3 comes into operation.

(9) In this section, the “employer's first enrolment date” means the first day on which section 3 applies in the case of the employer (where that day falls within the transitional period for defined benefits and hybrid schemes).

[^{F91}(10) For the purposes of this section—

- (a) a person is a “money purchase member” of a hybrid scheme if—
 - (i) the person is an active member of the scheme, and
 - (ii) all the benefits accruing in respect of his or her membership are money purchase benefits, and
- (b) a person is a “defined benefits member” of a hybrid scheme if the person is an active member of the scheme other than a money purchase member.]

[^{F92}(11) In subsection (2) references to a scheme do not include—

- (a) a defined benefits scheme that satisfies the quality requirement in relation to the jobholder by reason only of section 23A(1)(a), or
- (b) a hybrid scheme if—
 - (i) the appropriate paragraph of section 24(1) for any provisions of the scheme is paragraph (b) (those provisions are referred to below as “the defined benefits section”),
 - (ii) the defined benefits section satisfies section 23A(1)(a) as applied by section 24(1)(b), and
 - (iii) the defined benefits section does not satisfy any of the other requirements mentioned in section 24(1)(b).]

Textual Amendments

- F72** Words in s. 30(2)(b) substituted (16.7.2015) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2015 \(c. 5\), ss. 39\(2\), 53\(1\); S.R. 2015/307, art. 2\(1\)\(e\)](#)
- F73** Words in s. 30(2)(c) substituted (16.7.2015) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2015 \(c. 5\), ss. 39\(2\), 53\(1\); S.R. 2015/307, art. 2\(1\)\(e\)](#)
- F74** Words in s. 30(3) substituted (2.6.2012 for specified purposes, 30.6.2012 in so far as not already in operation) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2012 \(c. 3\), ss. 15\(2\), 34\(1\)\(3\); S.R. 2012/265, art. 2\(1\)\(d\)](#)
- F75** Word in s. 30(3) (in the substituted ss. (2)) inserted (16.7.2015) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2015 \(c. 5\), ss. 39\(3\)\(a\), 53\(1\); S.R. 2015/307, art. 2\(1\)\(e\)](#)
- F76** Words in s. 30(3) (in the substituted ss. (2)) substituted (16.7.2015) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2015 \(c. 5\), ss. 39\(3\)\(b\), 53\(1\); S.R. 2015/307, art. 2\(1\)\(e\)](#)

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- F77** Words in s. 30(3) inserted (16.7.2015) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2015 \(c. 5\), ss. 38\(7\), 53\(1\)](#); S.R. 2015/307, art. 2(1)(d)
- F78** Words in s. 30(4) substituted (2.6.2012 for specified purposes, 30.6.2012 in so far as not already in operation) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2012 \(c. 3\), ss. 15\(3\), 34\(1\)\(3\)](#); S.R. 2012/265, art. 2(1)(d)
- F79** Words in s. 30(5) (in the substituted ss. (2)) inserted (16.7.2015) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2015 \(c. 5\), ss. 38\(8\)\(a\), 53\(1\)](#); S.R. 2015/307, art. 2(1)(d)
- F80** Words in s. 30(5) (in the substituted ss. (2)) substituted (16.7.2015) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2015 \(c. 5\), ss. 39\(4\)\(a\), 53\(1\)](#); S.R. 2015/307, art. 2(1)(e)
- F81** Words in s. 30(5) (in the substituted ss. (2)) inserted (16.7.2015) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2015 \(c. 5\), ss. 38\(8\)\(b\), 53\(1\)](#); S.R. 2015/307, art. 2(1)(d)
- F82** Words in s. 30(5) (in the substituted ss. (2)) inserted (2.6.2012 for specified purposes, 30.6.2012 in so far as not already in operation) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2012 \(c. 3\), ss. 16\(2\), 34\(1\)\(3\)](#); S.R. 2012/265, art. 2(1)(e)
- F83** Words in s. 30(5) (in the substituted ss. (2)) inserted (16.7.2015) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2015 \(c. 5\), ss. 39\(4\)\(b\), 53\(1\)](#); S.R. 2015/307, art. 2(1)(e)
- F84** Words in S. 30(5) (in the substituted ss. (2)) inserted (16.7.2015) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2015 \(c. 5\), ss. 38\(8\)\(c\), 53\(1\)](#); S.R. 2015/307, art. 2(1)(d)
- F85** Words in s. 30(6)(b) omitted (2.6.2012 for specified purposes, 30.6.2012 in so far as not already in operation) by virtue of [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2012 \(c. 3\), ss. 16\(3\), 34\(1\)\(3\)](#); S.R. 2012/265, art. 2(1)(e)
- F86** Words in s. 30(7) substituted (2.6.2012 for specified purposes, 30.6.2012 in so far as not already in operation) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2012 \(c. 3\), ss. 7\(6\)\(a\), 34\(1\)\(3\)](#); S.R. 2012/265, art. 2(1)(b)
- F87** Words in s. 30(7) substituted (2.6.2012 for specified purposes, 30.6.2012 in so far as not already in operation) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2012 \(c. 3\), ss. 7\(6\)\(b\), 34\(1\)\(3\)](#); S.R. 2012/265, art. 2(1)(b)
- F88** S. 30(7)(b) added (2.6.2012 for specified purposes, 30.6.2012 in so far as not already in operation) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2012 \(c. 3\), ss. 7\(6\)\(c\), 34\(1\)\(3\)](#); S.R. 2012/265, art. 2(1)(b)
- F89** S. 30(7)(c) inserted (16.7.2015) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2015 \(c. 5\), ss. 36\(3\), 53\(1\)](#); S.R. 2015/307, art. 2(1)(b)
- F90** S. 30(7A) inserted (2.6.2012 for specified purposes, 30.6.2012 in so far as not already in operation) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2012 \(c. 3\), ss. 15\(4\), 34\(1\)\(3\)](#); S.R. 2012/265, art. 2(1)(d)
- F91** S. 30(10) inserted (16.7.2015) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2015 \(c. 5\), ss. 39\(5\), 53\(1\)](#); S.R. 2015/307, art. 2(1)(e)
- F92** S. 30(11) added (16.7.2015) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2015 \(c. 5\), ss. 38\(9\), 53\(1\)](#); S.R. 2015/307, art. 2(1)(d)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C22** S. 30(5)-(7) applied (with modifications) (conditional) (16.7.2015) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2015 \(c. 5\), ss. 39\(7\), 53\(1\)](#); S.R. 2015/307, art. 2(1)(e)

Changes to legislation: *Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, CHAPTER 1 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 16 April 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*

Commencement Information

I51 S. 30 partly in force; s. 30 in force for certain purposes at Royal Assent see s. 118(2)

I52 S. 30 in operation at 30.6.2012 in so far as not already in operation by [S.R. 2012/266, art. 2, Sch. Pt. 1](#)

Miscellaneous

^{F93}Effect of freezing order [^{F94}, assessment period or pause order]

31.—(1) Where a jobholder is an active member of a qualifying scheme and a freezing event occurs in relation to the scheme, the jobholder does not, for the purposes of this Chapter, cease to be an active member of the scheme, and the scheme does not, for those purposes, cease to be a qualifying scheme, by virtue of any relevant provision.

(2) Where a worker is an active member of a scheme that satisfies the requirements of section 9 and a freezing event occurs in relation to the scheme, the worker does not, for the purposes of section 9(1)(c), cease to be an active member of the scheme by virtue of any relevant provision.

(3) In this section—

“freezing event” in relation to a scheme means—

- (a) the making of a freezing order under Article 19 of the Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 2005 (NI 1) (in this Act referred to as “the 2005 Order”) in relation to the scheme, ^{F95}...
- (b) the beginning of an assessment period within the meaning of Article 116 of that Order in relation to the scheme [^{F96}, or
- (c) the making of a pause order under section 95 of the Pension Schemes Act 2021;]^{F97}, or
- (d) the making of a pause order under section 31 of the Pension Schemes Act (Northern Ireland) 2021;]

“relevant provision” means—

- (a) in relation to a freezing order, provision contained in the order, or the provision made with respect to the order by Article 19 of the 2005 Order;
- (b) in relation to an assessment period, the provision made with respect to the period by Article 117 of that Order.
- (c) [^{F98}in relation to a pause order, provision contained in the order or the provision made with respect to the order by section 95 of the Pension Schemes Act 2021.]
- (d) [^{F99}in relation to a pause order, provision contained in the order or the provision made with respect to the order by section 31 of the Pension Schemes Act (Northern Ireland) 2021.]

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Textual Amendments

- F93** Words in [s. 31 heading](#) heading substituted (11.2.2021 for specified purposes, 1.8.2022 in so far as not already in operation) by [Pension Schemes Act 2021 \(c. 1\), s. 131\(1\)\(3\)\(a\), Sch. 6 para. 22\(2\)](#); [S.R. 2022/197, art. 3\(a\)](#)
- F94** Words in [s. 31 heading](#) substituted (11.2.2021 for specified purposes) by [Pension Schemes Act 2021 \(c. 1\), s. 131\(2\)\(a\)\(3\)\(a\), Sch. 6 para. 22\(2\)](#) and (16.3.2022 for specified purposes, 6.4.2022 in so far as not already in operation) by [Pension Schemes Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2021 \(c. 6\), s. 44\(2\), Sch. 3 para. 20\(c\)](#); [S.R. 2022/110, art. 2\(a\)\(b\)](#)
- F95** Word in [s. 31\(3\)](#) omitted (11.2.2021 for specified purposes, 1.8.2022 in so far as not already in operation) by virtue of [Pension Schemes Act 2021 \(c. 1\), s. 131\(1\)\(3\)\(a\), Sch. 6 para. 22\(3\)\(a\)\(i\)](#); [S.R. 2022/197, art. 3\(a\)](#)
- F96** Words in [s. 31\(3\)](#) inserted (11.2.2021 for specified purposes, 1.8.2022 in so far as not already in operation) by [Pension Schemes Act 2021 \(c. 1\), s. 131\(1\)\(3\)\(a\), Sch. 6 para. 22\(3\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#); [S.R. 2022/197, art. 3\(a\)](#)
- F97** Words in [s. 31\(3\)](#) added (16.3.2022 for specified purposes, 6.4.2022 in so far as not already in operation) by [Pension Schemes Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2021 \(c. 6\), s. 44\(2\), Sch. 3 para. 20\(a\)](#); [S.R. 2022/110, art. 2\(a\)\(b\)](#)
- F98** Words in [s. 31\(3\)](#) inserted (11.2.2021 for specified purposes, 1.8.2022 in so far as not already in operation) by [Pension Schemes Act 2021 \(c. 1\), s. 131\(1\)\(3\)\(a\), Sch. 6 para. 22\(3\)\(b\)](#); [S.R. 2022/197, art. 3\(a\)](#)
- F99** Words in [s. 31\(3\)](#) added (16.3.2022 for specified purposes, 6.4.2022 in so far as not already in operation) by [Pension Schemes Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2021 \(c. 6\), s. 44\(2\), Sch. 3 para. 20\(b\)](#); [S.R. 2022/110, art. 2\(a\)\(b\)](#)

Commencement Information

- I53** S. 31 in operation at 30.6.2012 by [S.R. 2012/266, art. 2, Sch. Pt. 2](#)

^{F93}Power of trustees [^{F100}or managers] to modify by resolution

32.—(1) The trustees [^{F101}or managers] of an occupational pension scheme may by resolution modify the scheme—

- (a) with a view to enabling the scheme to comply with the conditions in section 17(2), or
 - (b) by increasing the amount required to be paid in contributions in order for the scheme^{F102} to satisfy—
 - (i) the requirements contained in section 20(1),
 - (ii) those requirements as modified under section 24(1)(a), or
 - (iii) a requirement prescribed under section 28(2)(b).]
- (2) An increase under subsection (1)(b) may be made only—
- (a) by increasing the amount of any contribution, directly or by modifying the basis on which it is calculated, or

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(b) by increasing the frequency of any contributions.

(3) No modification may be made by virtue of subsection (1) without the consent of the employer in relation to the scheme.

(4) In the application of subsection (3) to a scheme in relation to which there is more than one employer, references to the employer have effect as if they were references to a person nominated by the employers, or by the scheme, to act as the employers' representative for the purposes of this section or, if no such nomination is made, to all of the employers.

(5) Regulations may provide that this section does not apply to occupational pension schemes within a prescribed class or description.

Textual Amendments

F93 Words in [s. 31 heading](#) heading substituted (11.2.2021 for specified purposes, 1.8.2022 in so far as not already in operation) by [Pension Schemes Act 2021 \(c. 1\)](#), [s. 131\(1\)\(3\)\(a\)](#), [Sch. 6 para. 22\(2\)](#); [S.R. 2022/197](#), [art. 3\(a\)](#)

F100 Words in [s. 32 heading](#) inserted (30.6.2012) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2012 \(c. 3\)](#), [ss. 17, 34\(3\)](#); [S.R. 2012/265](#), [art. 2\(2\)\(b\)](#)

F101 Words in [s. 32\(1\)](#) inserted (30.6.2012) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2012 \(c. 3\)](#), [ss. 17, 34\(3\)](#); [S.R. 2012/265](#), [art. 2\(2\)\(b\)](#)

F102 Words in [s. 32\(1\)\(b\)](#) substituted (2.6.2012 for specified purposes, 7.6.2012 in so far as not already in operation) by [Pensions Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2012 \(c. 3\)](#), [ss. 13\(7\), 34\(1\)\(3\)](#); [S.R. 2012/233](#), [art. 2\(1\)\(b\)](#)

Commencement Information

I54 [S. 32](#) partly in force; [s. 32](#) in force for certain purposes at Royal Assent see [s. 118\(2\)](#)

I55 [S. 32](#) in operation at 30.6.2012 in so far as not already in operation by [S.R. 2012/266](#), [art. 2](#), [Sch. Pt. 1](#)

^{F93}Deduction of contributions

33.—(1) An employer who arranges for a person to become a member of a scheme in accordance with [section 3\(2\)](#), [5\(2\)](#) or [7\(3\)](#), or of an occupational pension scheme in accordance with [section 9\(2\)](#), may deduct the person's contributions to the scheme from the person's remuneration and pay them to the trustees or managers of the scheme (in the case of an occupational pension scheme) or the provider of the scheme (in the case of a personal pension scheme).

(2) Regulations prescribing arrangements for the purposes of [section 3\(2\)](#), [5\(2\)](#), [7\(3\)](#) or [9\(2\)](#), may require the employer to make such a deduction or payment at any time on or after the date with effect from which the jobholder is to become an active member of a scheme under the arrangements.

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Textual Amendments

- F93** Words in [s. 31 heading](#) heading substituted (11.2.2021 for specified purposes, 1.8.2022 in so far as not already in operation) by [Pension Schemes Act 2021 \(c. 1\)](#), [s. 131\(1\)\(3\)\(a\)](#), [Sch. 6 para. 22\(2\)](#); [S.R. 2022/197](#), [art. 3\(a\)](#)
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Commencement Information

- I56** S. 33 partly in force; s. 33 in force for certain purposes at Royal Assent see [s. 118\(2\)](#)
- I57** S. 33 in operation at 30.6.2012 in so far as not already in operation by [S.R. 2012/266](#), [art. 2](#), [Sch. Pt. 1](#)

Changes to legislation:

Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, CHAPTER 1 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 16 April 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.

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to :

- s. 29 heading substituted by [2016 c. 1 \(N.I.\) Sch. 2 para. 42](#)
- s. 20 heading words substituted by [2016 c. 1 \(N.I.\) Sch. 2 para. 36\(3\)](#)
- s. 24 heading words substituted by [2016 c. 1 \(N.I.\) Sch. 2 para. 39\(4\)](#)
- s. 30 heading words substituted by [2016 c. 1 \(N.I.\) Sch. 2 para. 43\(10\)](#)

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

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

- s. 24(1)(c) inserted by [2016 c. 1 \(N.I.\) Sch. 2 para. 39\(2\)\(d\)](#)