

*These notes refer to the Welfare Reform Act (Northern Ireland)
2010 (c.13) which received Royal Assent on 13 August 2010*

Welfare Reform Act (Northern Ireland) 2010

EXPLANATORY NOTES

SCHEDULES

Schedule 1 - Amendments connected to section 4

Part 1

20A: Requirements imposed on claimants by officers of the Departments etc.

This makes provision for jobseeker's directions to require the claimant to take part in any activity, particularly some form of activity related to finding employment, becoming more employable or remaining in employment, such as improving skills, which an employment officer considers relevant. This direction can be included in an action plan.

If the person is notified of a place on a training scheme, he or she can be required to apply for such a place and if offered it the person can be required to accept and attend. A person required to meet the jobseeking conditions can be required to apply for a place on an employment programme, or for a vacant job. This can also apply to those who are not required to meet the jobseeking conditions if they so agree.

Paragraph (8) of new Article 20A makes provision to allow for the requirement for those not required to meet the jobseeking conditions to undertake a direction to be suspended in particular circumstances.

Claimants who fail to comply with these requirements will incur a sanction.