
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1998 No. 1506

The Social Security (Northern Ireland) Order 1998

PART V

MISCELLANEOUS AND SUPPLEMENTAL

Pilot schemes

73.—(1) Any regulations to which this paragraph applies may be made so as to have effect for a specified period not exceeding 12 months.

(2) Any regulations which, by virtue of paragraph (1), are to have effect for a limited period are referred to in this Article as “a pilot scheme”.

(3) A pilot scheme may provide that its provisions are to apply only in relation to—

- (a) one or more specified areas or localities;
- (b) one or more specified classes of person;
- (c) persons selected—
 - (i) by reference to prescribed criteria; or
 - (ii) on a sampling basis.

(4) A pilot scheme may make consequential or transitional provision with respect to the cessation of the scheme on the expiry of the specified period.

(5) A pilot scheme (“the previous scheme”) may be replaced by a further pilot scheme making the same, or similar, provision (apart from the specified period) to that made by the previous scheme.

(6) In so far as a pilot scheme would, apart from this paragraph, have the effect of—

- (a) treating as capable of work any person who would not otherwise be so treated; or
- (b) reducing the total amount of benefit that would otherwise be payable to any person,

it shall not apply in relation to that person.

(7) Paragraph (1) applies to—

- (a) regulations made under section 167D of the Contributions and Benefits Act (incapacity for work: persons to be treated as incapable or capable of work); and
- (b) in so far as they are consequential on or supplementary to any such regulations, regulations made under any of the provisions mentioned in paragraph (8).

(8) The provisions are—

- (a) subsection (5)(a) of section 22 of the Contributions and Benefits Act (earnings factors);
- (b) section 30C of that Act (incapacity benefit: days and periods of incapacity for work);
- (c) sections 68 and 69 of that Act (severe disablement allowance);
- (d) subsection (1)(e) of section 123 of that Act (income support) and, so far as relating to income support, subsection (1) of section 131 of that Act (the applicable amount);

- (e) Part XIIA of that Act (incapacity for work);
- (f) section 59A of the Administration Act and Article 31 (incapacity for work).