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STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

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**2016 No. 220**

The Universal Credit, Personal Independence  
Payment, Jobseeker's Allowance and  
Employment and Support Allowance (Claims and  
Payments) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016

PART 2

Claims

**Time within which a claim to universal credit is to be made**

**25.**—(1) Subject to the following provisions of this regulation, a claim for universal credit must be made on the first day of the period in respect of which the claim is made.

(2) Where the claim for universal credit is not made within the time specified in paragraph (1), the Department is to extend the time for claiming it, subject to a maximum extension of one month, to the date on which the claim is made, if—

- (a) any one or more of the circumstances specified in paragraph (3) applies or has applied to the claimant; and
  - (b) as a result of that circumstance or those circumstances the claimant could not reasonably have been expected to make the claim earlier.
- (3) The circumstances referred to in paragraph (2) are—
- (a) the claimant was previously in receipt of a jobseeker's allowance or an employment and support allowance and notification of expiry of entitlement to that benefit was not sent to the claimant before the date that the claimant's entitlement expired;
  - (b) the claimant has a disability;
  - (c) the claimant has supplied the Department with medical evidence that satisfies the Department that the claimant had an illness that prevented the claimant from making a claim;
  - (d) the claimant was unable to make a claim in writing by means of an electronic communication used in accordance with Schedule 1 because the official computer system was inoperative;
  - (e) where—
    - (i) the Department decides not to award universal credit to members of a couple jointly because one of the couple does not meet the basic condition in Article 9(1)(e) of the 2015 Order,
    - (ii) they cease to be a couple, and
    - (iii) the person who did meet the basic condition in Article 9(1)(e) of the 2015 Order makes a further claim as a single person;

(f) where—

- (i) an award of universal credit to joint claimants has been terminated because one of the couple does not meet the basic condition in Article 9(1)(e) of the 2015 Order,
- (ii) they cease to be a couple, and
- (iii) the person who did meet the basic condition in Article 9(1)(e) of the 2015 Order makes a further claim as a single person.

(4) In the case of a claim for universal credit made by each of joint claimants, the prescribed time for claiming is not to be extended under paragraph (2) unless both claimants satisfy that paragraph.

(5) In the case of a claim for universal credit referred to in regulation 22(7) of the Universal Credit Regulations (assessment periods) the claim for universal credit must be made before the end of the assessment period in respect of which it is made.