



# Social Security Act 1998

## 1998 CHAPTER 14

### PART I

#### DECISIONS AND APPEALS

#### CHAPTER I

#### GENERAL

#### *Decisions*

### **2 Use of computers**

- (1) Any decision, determination or assessment falling to be made or certificate falling to be issued by the Secretary of State under or by virtue of a relevant enactment, or in relation to a war pension, may be made or issued not only by an officer of his acting under his authority but also—
  - (a) by a computer for whose operation such an officer is responsible; and
  - (b) in the case of a decision, determination or assessment that may be made or a certificate that may be issued by a person providing services to the Secretary of State, by a computer for whose operation such a person is responsible.
- (2) In this section “relevant enactment” means any enactment contained in—
  - (a) Chapter II of this Part;
  - (b) the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992 (“the Contributions and Benefits Act”);
  - (c) the Administration Act;
  - (d) the Child Support Act;
  - (e) the Social Security (Incapacity for Work) Act 1994;
  - (f) the Jobseekers Act 1995 (“the Jobseekers Act”);
  - (g) the Child Support Act 1995; <sup>F1</sup>...

*Changes to legislation: Social Security Act 1998, Section 2 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 23 June 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*

- (h) the Social Security (Recovery of Benefits) Act 1997; <sup>F2</sup>...
- [<sup>F3</sup>(i) the State Pension Credit Act 2002]; <sup>F4</sup> ...
- [<sup>F5</sup>(j) Part 1 of the Welfare Reform Act 2007];
- [<sup>F6</sup>(k) Part 1 of the Welfare Reform Act 2012;]<sup>F7</sup>...
- [<sup>F8</sup>(l) Part 4 of that Act];
- [<sup>F9</sup>(m) Part 1 of the Pensions Act 2014;]<sup>F10</sup> ...
- [<sup>F11</sup>(n) section 30 of the Pensions Act 2014;]<sup>F12</sup>or
- (o) sections 18 to 21 of the Welfare Reform and Work Act 2016].

(3) In this section and section 3 below “war pension” has the same meaning as in section 25 of the Social Security Act 1989 (establishment and functions of war pensions committees).

#### Textual Amendments

- F1** Word in s. 2(2) repealed (7.4.2003) by [State Pension Credit Act 2002 \(c. 16\)](#), s. 22(3), **Sch. 3**; S.I. 2003/966, art. 2(b), Sch.
- F2** Word in s. 2(2)(h) repealed (27.10.2008) by [Welfare Reform Act 2007 \(c. 5\)](#), s. 70(1), **Sch. 8**; S.I. 2008/787, art. 2(4)(g)
- F3** S. 2(2)(i) and preceding word inserted (2.7.2002 for specified purposes, 7.4.2003 in so far as not already in force) by [State Pension Credit Act 2002 \(c. 16\)](#), s. 22(3), **Sch. 1 para. 5**; S.I. 2002/1691, art. 2(i); S.I. 2003/966, art. 2(a)
- F4** Word in s. 2(2) repealed (29.4.2013) by [Welfare Reform Act 2012 \(c. 5\)](#), s. 150(3), **Sch. 2 para. 44(a)**; S.I. 2013/983, art. 3(1)(b)(iii)
- F5** S. 2(2)(j) and preceding word inserted (27.7.2008) by [Welfare Reform Act 2007 \(c. 5\)](#), s. 70(2), **Sch. 3 para. 17(2)**; S.I. 2008/787, art. 2(3)(a)
- F6** S. 2(2)(k) inserted (29.4.2013) by [Welfare Reform Act 2012 \(c. 5\)](#), s. 150(3), **Sch. 2 para. 44(b)**; S.I. 2013/983, art. 3(1)(b)(iii)
- F7** Word in s. 2(2)(k) omitted (6.4.2016) by virtue of [Pensions Act 2014 \(c. 19\)](#), s. 56(4), **Sch. 12 para. 32(a)**
- F8** S. 2(2)(l) and word inserted (8.4.2013 for specified purposes, 10.6.2013 in so far as not already in force) by [Welfare Reform Act 2012 \(c. 5\)](#), s. 150(3), **Sch. 9 para. 38**; S.I. 2013/358, art. 7(1)(2)(k), Sch. 3; S.I. 2013/1250, art. 2
- F9** S. 2(2)(m) inserted (6.4.2016) by [Pensions Act 2014 \(c. 19\)](#), s. 56(4), **Sch. 12 para. 32(b)**
- F10** Word in s. 2(2) omitted (27.7.2017) by virtue of [Welfare Reform and Work Act 2016 \(c. 7\)](#), **ss. 20(3)(a)**, 36(6); S.I. 2017/802, reg. 2
- F11** S. 2(2)(n) and preceding word inserted (6.4.2017) by [Pensions Act 2014 \(c. 19\)](#), s. 56(1), **Sch. 16 para. 38**; S.I. 2017/297, art. 3(2) (with arts. 4, 5)
- F12** S. 2(2)(o) and preceding word inserted (27.7.2017) by [Welfare Reform and Work Act 2016 \(c. 7\)](#), **ss. 20(3)(b)**, 36(6); S.I. 2017/802, reg. 2

#### Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** S. 2 applied (with modifications) (4.3.1999 for specified purposes, 5.7.1999 for specified purposes) by [Pension Schemes Act 1993 \(c. 48\)](#), **s. 170(1)** (as substituted by [Social Security Act 1998 \(c. 14\)](#), s. 87(2), Sch. 7 para. 131 (with s. 83, Sch. 6); S.I. 1999/528, art. 2(a), Sch.; S.I. 1999/1958, art. 2(1)(b), Sch. 1 (with art. 5, Sch. 12))

#### Commencement Information

- I1** S. 2 in force at 29.11.1999 for specified purposes by S.I. 1999/3178, art. 2(1)(a)(2), **Sch. 1** (with art. 4, Schs. 21-23)
- I2** S. 2(1)(2)(b)-(h)(3) in force at 8.9.1998 by S.I. 1998/2209, art. 2(a), **Sch. Pt. I**

---

**Changes to legislation:** Social Security Act 1998, Section 2 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 23 June 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(2)(a) in force at 5.7.1999 for specified purposes by [S.I. 1999/1958](#), art. 2(1)(b), **Sch. 1** (with art. 5, [Sch. 12](#))
- I4** S. 2(2)(a) in force at 6.9.1999 for specified purposes by [S.I. 1999/2422](#), art. 2(c), **Sch. 1** (with art. 4, [Sch. 14](#))
- I5** S. 2(2)(a) in force at 5.10.1999 for specified purposes by [S.I. 1999/2739](#), art. 2, **Sch. 1** (with art. 3, [Sch. 2](#))
- I6** S. 2(2)(a) in force at 18.10.1999 for specified purposes by [S.I. 1999/2860](#), art. 2(c), **Sch. 1** (with art. 4, [Schs. 16-18](#))

**Changes to legislation:**

Social Security Act 1998, Section 2 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 23 June 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.

[View outstanding changes](#)

**Changes and effects yet to be applied to :**

- s. 2(3) words substituted by [2023 c. 48 s. 2\(1\)\(f\)](#)

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

- Act applied (with modifications) by [S.I. 2010/1907 reg. 16\(2\)\(c\)Sch. 2](#)
- Act applied (with modifications) by [S.I. 2010/875 reg. 16Sch. 2](#) (This amendment not applied to [legislation.gov.uk](#). [S.I. 2010/875](#) revoked (27.8.2010) before coming into force by [S.I. 2010/1906](#), regs. 1(2), 2)
- Act power to apply (with modifications) conferred by [2004 c. 6 s. 24\(5\)-\(7\)](#)

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

- s. 38(1A) inserted by [2009 c. 24 s. 20\(2\)](#) (This amendment not applied to [legislation.gov.uk](#). Ss. 16-21 repealed (1.4.2013) by [2012 c. 5](#), s. 73; [S.I. 2012/3090](#), art. 2(1)(b))
- Sch. 2 para. 7A and cross-head inserted by [2012 c. 5 Sch. 2 para. 50\(3\)](#)
- Sch. 18 functions modified by [S.I. 2000/2853 reg. 3\(1\)Sch. 2 para. 4](#)
- Sch. 24 functions modified by [S.I. 2000/2853 reg. 3\(1\)Sch. 2 para. 5](#)