
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2008 No. 959

**The Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit
(Extended Payments) Amendment Regulations 2008**

Amendments to the Housing Benefit Regulations relating to extended payments (qualifying contributory benefits)

3.—(1) The Housing Benefit Regulations shall be amended as follows.

(2) For regulation 73(1) (extended payments (severe disablement allowance and incapacity benefit)) substitute—

“Extended payments (qualifying contributory benefits)

73.—(1) A claimant who is entitled to housing benefit (by virtue of the general conditions of entitlement) shall be entitled to an extended payment (qualifying contributory benefits) where—

- (a) the claimant or the claimant’s partner was entitled to a qualifying contributory benefit;
- (b) entitlement to a qualifying contributory benefit ceased because the claimant or the claimant’s partner—
 - (i) commenced employment as an employed or self-employed earner;
 - (ii) increased their earnings from such employment; or
 - (iii) increased the number of hours worked in such employment,and that employment is or, as the case may be, increased earnings or increased number of hours are expected to last five weeks or more;
- (c) the claimant or the claimant’s partner had been entitled to and in receipt of a qualifying contributory benefit or a combination of qualifying contributory benefits for a continuous period of at least 26 weeks before the day on which the entitlement to a qualifying contributory benefit ceased; and
- (d) the claimant or the claimant’s partner was not entitled to and not in receipt of a qualifying income-related benefit in the last benefit week in which the claimant, or the claimant’s partner, was entitled to a qualifying contributory benefit.

(2) A claimant must be treated as entitled to housing benefit by virtue of the general conditions of entitlement where—

- (a) the claimant ceased to be entitled to housing benefit because the claimant vacated the dwelling occupied as the claimant’s home;
- (b) the day on which the claimant vacated the dwelling was either in the week in which entitlement to a qualifying contributory benefit ceased, or in the preceding week; and
- (c) entitlement to the qualifying contributory benefit ceased in any of the circumstances listed in paragraph (1)(b).

Duration of extended payment period (qualifying contributory benefits)

73A.—(1) Where a claimant is entitled to an extended payment (qualifying contributory benefits), the extended payment period starts on the first day of the benefit week immediately following the benefit week in which the claimant, or the claimant's partner, ceased to be entitled to a qualifying contributory benefit.

(2) For the purpose of paragraph (1), a claimant or a claimant's partner ceases to be entitled to a qualifying contributory benefit on the day immediately following the last day of entitlement to that benefit.

(3) The extended payment period ends—

- (a) at the end of a period of four weeks; or
- (b) on the date on which the claimant to whom the extended payment (qualifying contributory benefits) is payable has no liability for rent, if that occurs first.

Amount of extended payment (qualifying contributory benefits)

73B.—(1) For any week during the extended payment period the amount of the extended payment (qualifying contributory benefits) payable to a claimant shall be the higher of—

- (a) the amount of housing benefit to which the claimant was entitled under the general conditions of entitlement in the last benefit week before the claimant or the claimant's partner ceased to be entitled to a qualifying contributory benefit;
- (b) the amount of housing benefit to which the claimant would be entitled under the general conditions of entitlement for any benefit week during the extended payment period, if regulation 73 (extended payments (qualifying contributory benefits)) did not apply to the claimant; or
- (c) the amount of housing benefit to which the claimant's partner would be entitled under the general conditions of entitlement, if regulation 73 did not apply to the claimant.

(2) Paragraph (1) is subject to the paragraphs (3) to (6) and does not apply in the case of a mover.

(3) Where the last benefit week referred to in paragraph (1)(a) fell, in whole or in part, within a rent free period, the last benefit week for the purposes of that paragraph is the last benefit week that did not fall within the rent free period.

(4) Where—

- (a) a claimant is entitled to an extended payment (qualifying contributory benefits) by virtue of regulation 73(2) (early vacation of dwelling); and
- (b) the last benefit week before the claimant ceased to be entitled to a qualifying contributory benefit was a week in which the claimant's eligible rent was calculated in accordance with regulation 80(3)(c)(2) (calculation of rent for a partial week),

the last benefit week for the purpose of calculating the amount of the extended payment (qualifying contributory benefits) under paragraph (1)(a) shall be the benefit week before the partial week.

(5) Where—

- (a) a claimant was treated as occupying two dwellings as the claimant's home under regulation 7(6) (liability to make payments in respect of two homes) at the time when the claimant's entitlement to a qualifying contributory benefit ceased; and

- (b) the claimant's liability to pay rent for either of those dwellings ceases during the extended payment period,

the amount of the extended payment (qualifying contributory benefits) for any week shall be reduced by a sum equivalent to the housing benefit which was payable in respect of that dwelling.

(6) No extended payment (qualifying contributory benefits) is payable for any rent free period as defined in regulation 81(1)(3) (rent free periods).

(7) Where a claimant is in receipt of an extended payment (qualifying contributory benefits) under this regulation and the claimant's partner makes a claim for housing benefit, no amount of housing benefit shall be payable by the appropriate authority during the extended payment period.

Extended payments (qualifying contributory benefits) – movers

73C.—(1) This regulation applies—

- (a) to a mover; and
- (b) from the Monday following the day of the move.

(2) The amount of the extended payment (qualifying contributory benefits) payable from the Monday from which this regulation applies until the end of the extended payment period shall be the amount of housing benefit which was payable to the mover for the last benefit week before the mover, or the mover's partner, ceased to be entitled to a qualifying contributory benefit.

(3) Where a mover's liability to make payments for the new dwelling is to the second authority, the extended payment (qualifying contributory benefits) may take the form of a payment from the appropriate authority to—

- (a) the second authority; or
- (b) the mover directly.

(4) Where—

- (a) a mover, or the mover's partner, makes a claim for housing benefit to the second authority after the mover, or the mover's partner, ceased to be entitled to a qualifying contributory benefit; and
- (b) the mover, or the mover's partner, is in receipt of an extended payment (qualifying contributory benefits) from the appropriate authority,

the second authority shall reduce the weekly amount of housing benefit that the mover, or the mover's partner, is entitled to by a sum equal to the amount of the extended payment (qualifying contributory benefits) until the end of the extended payment period.

(5) The reduction of housing benefit made by the second authority under paragraph (4) is subject to any entitlement the claimant may have pursuant to regulation 7(6) (liability to make payments in respect of two homes).

(6) Where the last benefit week referred to in paragraph (2) fell, in whole or in part, within a rent free period, the last benefit week for the purposes of that paragraph is the last benefit week that did not fall within the rent free period.

(7) No extended payment (qualifying contributory benefits) is payable for any rent free period as defined in regulation 81(1) (rent free periods).

Relationship between extended payment (qualifying contributory benefits) and entitlement to housing benefit under the general conditions of entitlement

73D.—(1) Where a claimant’s housing benefit award would have ended when the claimant ceased to be entitled to a qualifying contributory benefit in the circumstances listed in regulation 73(1)(b), that award will not cease until the end of the extended payment period.

(2) Part 9 (calculation of weekly amounts and changes of circumstances) shall not apply to any extended payment (qualifying contributory benefits) payable in accordance with regulation 73B(1)(a) or 73C(2) (amount of extended payment – movers).”.

(3) For regulation 116 (supply of information: extended payments (severe disablement allowance and incapacity benefit)) substitute—

“Supply of information – extended payments (qualifying contributory benefits)

116.—(1) This regulation applies for the purposes of section 122E(3) of the Administration Act (duty of an authority to supply information to another authority).

(2) Information is to be disclosed by one authority to another where—

- (a) there is a mover who is or was in receipt of housing benefit from Authority “A”;
- (b) either the mover’s new dwelling is within the area of another Authority “B” or the mover is liable or treated as liable to make payments in respect of the new dwelling to housing authority B; and
- (c) the mover is entitled to an extended payment (qualifying contributory benefits) in accordance with regulation 73.

(3) Authority A shall disclose to Authority B—

- (a) the amount of the extended payment (qualifying contributory benefits) calculated in accordance with regulation 73C(2) (amount of extended payment – movers);
- (b) the date that entitlement to the extended payment will commence or has commenced;
- (c) the date that entitlement to the extended payment ceased or will cease;
- (d) the date of the move from Authority A to Authority B;
- (e) where the extended payment will be paid by Authority A to Authority B in accordance with regulation 73C(3)(a) (payment of the extended payment to the second authority)—
 - (i) the amount that Authority A will pay to Authority B in accordance with that paragraph; and
 - (ii) any other information required by Authority B to enable Authority A to make the payment in accordance with that paragraph; and
- (f) if any deduction was being made in respect of a recoverable overpayment.

(4) Authority B shall disclose to Authority A—

- (a) if a mover’s liability to make payments for the new dwelling is to Authority B; and
- (b) where the extended payment will be paid by Authority A to Authority B in accordance with regulation 73C(3)(a)—
 - (i) any information required by Authority A to enable Authority A to make the payment in accordance with that paragraph; and
 - (ii) the date on which Authority B receives any such payment.”.