STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

2020 No. 44

WELFARE

The Discretionary Support (Amendment) (COVID-19) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020

Laid before the Assembly in draft

Made - - - - 24th March 2020

Coming into operation in accordance with regulation 1

The Department for Communities(**1**) makes the following Regulations in exercise of the powers conferred by Article 135 of the Welfare Reform (Northern Ireland) Order 2015(**2**).

In accordance with Article 135(5) of that Order, a draft of these Regulations was laid before, and approved by a resolution of, the Assembly.

Citation and commencement

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Discretionary Support (Amendment) (COVID-19) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020 and shall come into operation on the day after they are approved by a resolution of, the Assembly.

Amendment to the Discretionary Support Regulations

2. In regulation 12 of the Discretionary Support Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016(**3**) (grant eligibility)—

(a) in paragraph (2) after sub-paragraph (d) add—

"(e) the grant is to provide assistance in the form of living expenses where the claimant or any member of their immediate family is diagnosed with COVID-19 or is advised to self-isolate in accordance with guidance published by the Regional Agency for Public Health and Social Well-being(**4**).";

(b) in paragraph (3), for "(a) and (b)" substitute "(a), (b) and (e)".

(**1**) *See* section 1(7) of the Departments Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 (c. 5 (N.I.))
(**2**) S.I. 2015/2006 (N.I. 1)
(**3**) S.R. 2016 No. 270
(**4**) Established under the Health and Social Care (Reform) Act (Northern Ireland) 2009 c.1 (N.I.)