STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

2020 No. 14

HOUSING

The Housing Benefit and Universal Credit Housing Costs (Executive Determinations) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020

Made - - - -	*at 9.10 a.m. on 15th January 2020*
Laid before Parliament	*at 4.30 p.m. on 15th January 2020*
Coming into force - -	*30th January 2020*

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions makes the following Regulations in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 122(1)(d), 129A(2) and 171(1), (3) and (5) of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits (Northern Ireland) Act 1992(**1**), and Articles 16(4) and 48(1) of the Welfare Reform (Northern Ireland) Order 2015(**2**).

These powers are exercisable by the Secretary of State by virtue of Article 4(1) of the Welfare Reform (Northern Ireland) Order 2015.

Citation, commencement and interpretation

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Housing Benefit and Universal Credit Housing Costs (Executive Determinations) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020 and shall come into operation on 30th January 2020.

(2) The Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954(**3**) shall apply to these Regulations as it applies to an Act of the Assembly.

Amendment to the Housing Benefit (Executive Determinations) Regulations 2008

2.—(1) The Housing Benefit (Executive Determinations) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2008(**4**) are amended as follows.

(**1**) 1992 c. 7; section 129A was inserted by section 30(2) of the Welfare Reform Act (Northern Ireland) 2007 (2007 c. 2 (N.I.)) and section 171(1) was amended by paragraph 5 of Schedule 4 to the Tax Credits Act 2002 (c. 21). For the meaning of "prescribed" see section 133.
(**2**) S.I 2015/2006 (N.I. 1); for the meaning of "regulations" see Article 5.
(**3**) 1954 c. 33 (N.I.)
(**4**) S.R. 2008 No. 100.

(2) In regulation 3(1A) (broad rental market area determinations)(**5**) for "2(2A) or (2B)" substitute "2(2)".

(3) In Schedule (local housing allowance determinations)—

(a) in paragraph 2 (local housing allowance for category of accommodation in paragraph 1), for sub-paragraphs (2A), (2B), (3) and (3A) substitute—

"(2) The local housing allowance for any category of accommodation is the lowest of—

(a) the rent at the 30th percentile determined in accordance with sub-paragraphs (4) to (8);

(b) the local housing allowance last determined for that category of accommodation (or, where the determination is amended under regulation 14F of the Housing Benefit Regulations, the allowance provided for in the amended determination), increased by 1.7%; and

(c) for a category of accommodation listed in column 1 of the following table, the amount listed in column 2 of that table (maximum local housing allowance)—

1. Category of accommodation specified as in paragraph 1	*2. Maximum local housing allowance for that accommodation*
paragraph 1(a) (one bedroom, shared accommodation)	£1,218.57
paragraph 1(b) (one bedroom, exclusive use)	£1,218.57
paragraph 1(c) (two bedrooms)	£1,413.54
paragraph 1(d) (three bedrooms)	£1,657.25
paragraph 1(e) (four bedrooms)	£1,949.71"

; and

(b) omit paragraph 5A.

Amendment to the Universal Credit Housing Costs (Executive Determinations) Regulations 2016

3.—(1) The Universal Credit Housing Costs (Executive Determinations) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016(**6**) are amended as follows.

(2) In regulation 3(2A)(**7**) (broad rental market area determination) for "2(1A) or (1B)" substitute "2(2)".

(3) In Schedule 1 (local housing allowance determinations)—

(a) in paragraph 2 (local housing allowance for category of accommodation in paragraph 1), for sub-paragraphs (1A), (1B), (2) and (2A) substitute—

"(2) The local housing allowance for any category of accommodation is the lowest of—

(a) the rent at the 30th percentile determined in accordance with paragraph 3;

(**5**) Paragraph (2A) was inserted by regulation 2(2) of S.R. 2017 No. 144
(**6**) S.R. 2016 No. 222 was amended by S.R. 2017 No. 144.
(**7**) Paragraph (1A) was inserted by regulation 2(2) of S.R. 2017 No. 144.