STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

2015 No. 124

SOCIAL SECURITY
STATUTORY MATERNITY PAY; STATUTORY SICK PAY; EMPLOYMENT; HOUSING; RATES

The Social Security Benefits Up-rating Order (Northern Ireland) 2015

Made - - - - 5th March 2015

Coming into operation in accordance with Article 1

Approved by resolution of the Assembly on 27th April 2015

This Order is made in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 132, 132A and 165(1), (4) and (5) of the Social Security Administration (Northern Ireland) Act 1992(**1**) and now vested in the Department for Social Development(**2**).

The Secretary of State has made Orders(**3**) under sections 150, 150A, 151 and 189(1), (4) and (5) of the Social Security Administration Act 1992(**4**) and section 1 of the Welfare Benefits Up-rating Act 2013(**5**).

Accordingly, the Department for Social Development makes the following Order:

PART 1

INTRODUCTION

Citation, commencement and effect

1.—(1) This Order may be cited as the Social Security Benefits Up-rating Order (Northern Ireland) 2015 and, subject to paragraph (2), shall come into operation for the purposes of—

(a) this Article and Articles 2 and 6 on 1st April 2015;

(**1**) 1992 c. 8; section 132 was amended by paragraph 41 of Schedule 7 to the Pension Schemes (Northern Ireland) Act 1993 (c. 49), paragraph 9 of Schedule 4 to the Tax Credits Act 2002 (c. 21), section 3 of the Pensions Act (Northern Ireland) 2012 (c. 3 (N.I.)) and regulation 2(2) of S.R. 2012 No. 120 (*see also* section 1(8) of the Welfare Benefits Up-rating Act 2013 (c. 16)), section 132A was inserted by section 5(1) of the Pensions Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (c. 1 (N.I.)) and section 165(1) was amended by paragraph 49(2) of Schedule 3 to the Social Security Contributions (Transfer of Functions, etc.) (Northern Ireland) Order 1999 (S.I. 1999/671) and section 18(5) of the National Insurance Contributions Act 2014 (c. 7)

(**2**) *See* Article 8(b) of S.R. 1999 No. 481

(**3**) S.I. 2015/30 and 457

(**4**) 1992 c. 5

(**5**) 2013 c. 16

(b) Article 3—

(i) in so far as it relates to any increase to which Article 6(9)(b) applies, on 1st April 2015, and

(ii) for all other purposes, on 6th April 2015;

(c) Articles 4, 5, 8, 11, 12 and 15 on 6th April 2015;

(d) Article 7, in so far as it relates to a particular beneficiary, on the first day of the first benefit week to commence for that beneficiary on or after 1st April 2015 and, for the purpose of this sub-paragraph, "benefit week" has the same meaning as in regulation 2(1) of the Computation of Earnings Regulations;

(e) Article 9 on 5th April 2015, except for the purpose of determining the rate of maternity allowance in accordance with section 35A(1) of the Contributions and Benefits Act(**6**) for which purpose it shall come into operation on 6th April 2015;

(f) Article 10 on 5th April 2015;

(g) Articles 13 and 14 on 9th April 2015;

(h) Articles 16 to 18, in so far as they relate to a particular beneficiary, on the first day of the first benefit week to commence for that beneficiary on or after 6th April 2015 and, for the purpose of this sub-paragraph, "benefit week" has the same meaning as in the Income Support Regulations;

(i) Articles 19 and 20, in relation to a case where rent is payable at intervals of a week or any multiple thereof, on 6th April 2015, and in relation to any other case, on 1st April 2015;

(j) Articles 21 to 23, in so far as they relate to a particular beneficiary, on the first day of the first benefit week to commence for that beneficiary on or after 6th April 2015, and for the purposes of this sub-paragraph "benefit week" has the same meaning as in the Jobseeker's Allowance Regulations;

(k) Article 24, in so far as it relates to a particular beneficiary, on the first day of the first benefit week to commence for that beneficiary on or after 6th April 2015 and, for the purpose of this sub-paragraph, "benefit week" has the same meaning as in the State Pension Credit Regulations; and

(l) Article 25, in so far as it relates to a particular beneficiary, on the first day of the first benefit week to commence for that beneficiary on or after 6th April 2015 and, for the purpose of this sub-paragraph, "benefit week" has the same meaning as in the Employment and Support Allowance Regulations; and

(m) Article 26 on 13th April 2015.

(2) The changes made in the sums specified for rates or amounts of benefit under the Contributions and Benefits Act or the Pension Schemes Act shall take effect for each case on the date specified in relation to that case in Article 6.

Interpretation

2.—(1) In this Order—

"the Administration Act" means the Social Security Administration (Northern Ireland) Act 1992;

"the Contributions and Benefits Act" means the Social Security Contributions and Benefits (Northern Ireland) Act 1992(**7**);

(**6**) Section 35A was inserted by Article 50(3) of the Welfare Reform and Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 1999 (S.I. 1999/3147 (N.I. 11)) and subsection (1) was substituted by section 4(1)(a) of the Social Security Act (Northern Ireland) 2002 (c. 10 (N.I.))

(**7**) 1992 c. 7

"the Pension Schemes Act" means the Pension Schemes (Northern Ireland) Act 1993(**8**);

"the Computation of Earnings Regulations" means the Social Security Benefit (Computation of Earnings) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1996(**9**);

"the Employment and Support Allowance Regulations" means the Employment and Support Allowance Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2008(**10**);

"the Housing Benefit Regulations" means the Housing Benefit Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006(**11**);

"the Housing Benefit (SPC) Regulations" means the Housing Benefit (Persons who have attained the qualifying age for State Pension Credit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006(**12**);

"the Income Support Regulations" means the Income Support (General) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1987(**13**);

"the Jobseeker's Allowance Regulations" means the Jobseeker's Allowance Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1996(**14**);

"the State Pension Credit Regulations" means the State Pension Credit Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003(**15**).

(2) Subject to paragraph (3), the Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954(**16**) shall apply to this Order as it applies to an Act of the Assembly.

(3) For the purposes of this Order and notwithstanding section 39(2) of the Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954, where a period of time is expressed to begin on, or to be reckoned from, a particular day, that day shall be included in the period.

PART 2

SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS AND PENSIONS

Rates or amounts of certain benefits under the Contributions and Benefits Act

3.—(1) From and including the respective dates specified in Article 6 the sums specified in paragraph (2) shall be increased so that Schedule 4 to the Contributions and Benefits Act (rates of benefit, etc.), except paragraph 5 of Part III (guardian's allowance) of that Schedule, has effect as set out in Schedule 1 to this Order.

(2) The sums mentioned in paragraph (1) are the sums specified in Parts I, III, IV and V of Schedule 4 to the Contributions and Benefits Act except, in—

(**8**) 1993 c. 49
(**9**) S.R. 1996 No. 520
(**10**) S.R. 2008 No. 280; relevant amending Rules are S.R. 2008 Nos.413 and 503, S.R. 2009 No. 338, S.R. 2010 No. 340, S.R. 2011 No. 368 and S.R. 2014 No. 78
(**11**) S.R. 2006 No. 405; relevant amending Rules are S.R. 2008 No. 378, S.R. 2009 No. 382, S.R. 2011 Nos. 136 and 357, S.R. 2012 No. 116 and S.R. 2014 No. 78
(**12**) S.R. 2006 No. 406; relevant amending Rules are S.R. 2008 No. 498, S.R. 2012 No. 116 and S.R. 2014 No. 78
(**13**) S.R. 1987 No. 459; relevant amending Rules are S.R. 1988 Nos. 146 and 318, S.R. 1990 Nos. 213 and 346, S.R. 1995 Nos. 301 and 434, S.R. 1996 Nos. 199, 288 and 476, S.R. 1997 No. 3, S.R. 1998 No. 112, S.R. 1999 Nos. 371 (C. 28) , 382 and 472 (C. 36), S.R. 2000 Nos. 4, 71 and 367, S.R. 2001 No. 406, S.R. 2002 Nos. 132 and 323, S.R. 2003 Nos. 191 and 195, S.R. 2004 Nos. 394 and 461, S.R. 2005 No. 580, S.R. 2006 No. 128, S.R. 2007 Nos. 154 and 396, S.R. 2008 No. 503, S.R. 2010 Nos. 69 and 340, S.R. 2011 No. 135 and S.R. 2014 No. 78
(**14**) S.R. 1996 No. 198; relevant amending Rules are S.R. 1996 Nos. 288, 356, 358 and 476, S.R. 1997 No. 3, S.R. 1998 No. 112, S.R. 1999 Nos. 382 and 428 (C. 32), S.R. 2000 Nos. 71, 350 and 367, S.R. 2001 Nos. 120 and 406, S.R. 2002 No. 323, S.R. 2003 No. 195, S.R. 2004 Nos. 394 and 461, S.R. 2005 No. 536, S.R. 2006 No. 128, S.R 2007 No. 154, S.R. 2008 Nos. 112, 286 and 503, S.R. 2009 No. 261, S.R. 2010 Nos. 103 and 340, S.R. 2011 No. 135 and S.R. 2014 No. 78
(**15**) S.R. 2003 No. 28; relevant amending Rules are S.R. 2004 Nos. 394 and 461, S.R. 2005 No. 580, S.R. 2006 Nos. 97 and 359, S.R. 2008 No. 503, S.R. 2010 No. 340 and S.R. 2014 No. 78
(**16**) 1954 c. 33 (N.I.)

(a) Part III, the sum specified for age addition to a pension of any category, and otherwise under section 79 of that Act;

(b) Part IV, the sums specified in column (2) (increase for qualifying child); and

(c) Part V(**17**), the sums specified for disablement pension for beneficiaries not over the age of 18, dependent children, widow's pension (initial rate) and death benefit allowance in respect of children and qualifying young persons.

Rates or amounts of certain pensions and allowances under the Contributions and Benefits Act

4.—(1) The sums specified in paragraphs (2) to (5) shall be increased from and including the respective dates specified in Article 6.

(2) The sums falling to be calculated under paragraph 13(4) of Schedule 7 to the Contributions and Benefits Act (calculation of weekly rate of a beneficiary's retirement allowance) shall be increased by 1·2 per cent.

(3) In section 44(4) of the Contributions and Benefits Act(**18**) (basic pension of Category A retirement pension)—

(a) for "£99·90" substitute "£101·10"; and

(b) for "£113·10" substitute "£115·95".

(4) It is directed that the sums which are—

(a) the additional pensions in long-term benefits calculated by reference to any final relevant year earlier than the tax year 2014-15;

(b) the increases in the rates of retirement pensions under Schedule 5 to the Contributions and Benefits Act(**19**) (pension increase or lump sum where entitlement to retirement pension is deferred);

(c) lump sums to which surviving spouses or civil partners will become entitled under paragraph 7A of that Schedule(**20**) on becoming entitled to a Category A or Category B retirement pension; and

(d) payable to a pensioner as part of their Category A or Category B retirement pension by virtue of an order made under section 120 of the Social Security (Northern Ireland) Act 1975(**21**), Article 64 of the Social Security (Northern Ireland) Order 1986(**22**) or section 132 of the Administration Act,

shall in each case be increased by 1·2 per cent.

(**17**) Part V was amended by paragraph 41 of Schedule 1 to the Child Benefit Act 2005 (c. 6)

(**18**) Section 44(4) was substituted by Article 64 of the Social Security (Northern Ireland) Order 1998 (S.I. 1998/1506 (N.I. 10)) and amended by Article 4(3) of S.R. 2014 No. 78

(**19**) Schedule 5 was amended by paragraph 36 of Schedule 7 to the Pension Schemes (Northern Ireland) Act 1993, paragraph 40 of Schedule 1 to the Social Security (Incapacity for Work) (Northern Ireland) Order 1994 (S.I. 1994/1898 (N.I. 12)), paragraphs 6 and 18(15) of Schedule 2 to the Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 (S.I. 1995/3213 (N.I. 22)), section 35(1) of the Child Support, Pensions and Social Security Act (Northern Ireland) 2000 (c. 4 (N.I.)), paragraphs 2 to 13 of Schedule 9 to the Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/255 (N.I. 1)), paragraph 6 of the Schedule to S.R. 2005 No. 434, paragraph 19 of Schedule 1 and Schedule 6 to the Pensions Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and section 3(5) of, and paragraph 3 of Schedule 2 to, the Pensions Act (Northern Ireland) 2012

(**20**) Paragraph 7A was inserted by paragraph 10 of Schedule 9 to the Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 2005 and amended by paragraph 6(j) of the Schedule to S.R. 2005 No. 434

(**21**) 1975 c. 15; section 120 was repealed by Schedule 1 to the Social Security (Consequential Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Act 1992 (c. 9)

(**22**) S.I. 1986/1888 (N.I. 18); Article 64 was repealed by Schedule 1 to the Social Security (Consequential Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Act 1992

(5) The sums which are shared additional pensions under section 55A of the Contributions and Benefits Act(**23**), and the sums which are increases in the rates of such pensions under paragraph 2 of Schedule 5A to that Act(**24**), shall in each case be increased by 1·2 per cent.

Rates or amounts of certain benefits under the Pension Schemes Act

5.—(1) It is directed that the sums specified in paragraph (2) shall be increased from and including the respective dates specified in Article 6.

(2) Sums which are payable by virtue of section 11(1) of the Pension Schemes Act (increase of guaranteed minimum where commencement of guaranteed minimum pension is postponed) to a person who is also entitled to a Category A or Category B retirement pension (including sums payable by virtue of section 13(2) and (3) of that Act(**25**)) shall be increased by 1·2 per cent. where the increase under section 11(1) is attributable to earnings factors for the tax year 1987-88 and earlier tax years(**26**).

Dates on which sums specified for rates or amounts of benefit under the Contributions and Benefits Act or the Pension Schemes Act are changed by this Order

6.—(1) Paragraphs (2) to (8), which are subject to the provisions of paragraph (9), specify the date on which the changes made by this Order in the sums specified for rates or amounts of benefit under the Contributions and Benefits Act or the Pension Schemes Act shall take effect for each case.

(2) Any increases in the sums mentioned in Articles 3, 4 and 11 for Category A and Category B retirement pension and graduated retirement benefit together with, where appropriate, any increases for dependants, shall take effect on 6th April 2015.

(3) The increases in the sums mentioned in Article 5(2) shall take effect on 6th April 2015.

(4) Any increases in the sums specified for—

(a) the rates of—

(i) Category C and Category D retirement pensions;

(ii) attendance allowance; and

(iii) carer's allowance (except in a case where the Department has made arrangements for it to be paid on a Wednesday); and

(b) any increases in—

(i) Category C retirement pension and carer's allowance referred to in sub-paragraph (a)(i) and (iii), and

(ii) widowed mother's allowance and widowed parent's allowance,

in respect of dependants,

shall in all cases take effect on 6th April 2015.

(5) Any increases in the sums specified for—

(a) the rate of—

(i) carer's allowance in a case where the Department has made arrangements for it to be paid on a Wednesday,

(ii) disablement benefit,

(**23**) Section 55A was inserted by paragraph 3 of Schedule 6 to the Welfare Reform and Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 1999 and amended by section 37(3) of the Child Support, Pensions and Social Security Act (Northern Ireland) 2000

(**24**) Schedule 5A was inserted by paragraph 14 of Schedule 9 to the Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 2005

(**25**) Section 13(2) was amended by paragraph 5(b) of Schedule 1 to S.R. 2005 No. 433

(**26**) *See* section 132(4) of the Social Security Administration (Northern Ireland) Act 1992 as amended by paragraph 41(c) of Schedule 7 to the Pension Schemes (Northern Ireland) Act 1993; *see also*S.R. 2015 No. 117