Draft Regulations laid before Parliament under section 37(2) of the Jobseekers Act 1995, for approval by resolution of each House of Parliament.

DRAFT STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2004 No.

SOCIAL SECURITY

The Social Security (Basic Skills Training Pilot) Regulations 2004

Made - - - -	*2004*
Coming into force - -	*5th April 2004*

Whereas a draft of this instrument was laid before Parliament in accordance with section 37(2) of the Jobseekers Act 1995(**1**) and approved by resolution of each House of Parliament;

Whereas these Regulations are made with a view to ascertaining whether their provisions will, or will be likely to, encourage persons to obtain work or will, or will be likely to, facilitate the obtaining by persons of work(**2**);

Now, therefore, the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, in exercise of the powers conferred upon him by sections 19(10)(c), 29(1) and (3), 35(1) and 36(2) and (4) of the Jobseekers Act 1995(**3**) and of all other powers enabling him in that behalf, after reference to the Social Security Advisory Committee(**4**), hereby makes the following Regulations:

Citation, commencement and duration

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Social Security (Basic Skills Training Pilot) Regulations 2004 and shall come into force on 5th April 2004.

(2) These Regulations shall cease to have effect on 4th April 2005 unless revoked with effect from an earlier date.

Interpretation

2.—(1) In these Regulations—

(**1**) 1995 c. 18.
(**2**) *See* section 29(8) of the Jobseekers Act 1995.
(**3**) Section 35(1) is an interpretation provision and is cited because of the meaning given to the words "prescribed" and "regulations". Sections 35(1) and 36(4) were amended by section 2 of, and paragraphs 62 and 63 respectively of Schedule 3 to, the Social Security Contributions (Transfer of Functions, etc.) Act 1999 (c. 2).
(**4**) *See* section 172(1) of the Social Security Administration Act 1992 (c. 5); paragraph 67 of Schedule 2 to the Jobseekers Act 1995 added that Act to the list of "relevant enactments" in respect of which regulations must normally be referred to the Committee.

"appropriate office" means an office, by whatever name it is from time to time known, of the Department for Work and Pensions which is identified in the Schedule to these Regulations by reference to its region, pilot area and name as at the date these Regulations come into force;

"benefit" means a jobseeker's allowance or any earnings credited to a person in accordance with regulation 8A of the Social Security (Credits) Regulations 1975(**5**);

"basic skills training" means a scheme provided in pursuance of arrangements made by the Secretary of State under section 2 of the Employment and Training Act 1973(**6**) for the attainment of appropriate literacy skills, language skills or numeracy skills (whether all or any of them) and which, in respect of any individual, is intended to last for a period not exceeding 12 months.

(2) For the purpose of calculating the period of not less than six months referred to in regulation 3(2)(c) of these Regulations, a period of interruption to the receipt of benefit not exceeding 28 days, or any periods of such interruption which added together do not exceed a total of 28 days, shall be disregarded.

(3) In respect of any period throughout which a member of a joint-claim couple is receiving a joint-claim jobseeker's allowance, the other member of that couple shall, for the purposes of regulation 3(2)(c) of these Regulations, also be treated as receiving benefit throughout that period.

Application of basic skills training

3.—(1) In relation to a person to whom paragraph (2) applies, "training scheme" in sections 19 and 20A of the Jobseekers Act 1995(**7**) (circumstances in which a jobseeker's allowance is not payable and denial or reduction of joint-claim jobseeker's allowance) means, in addition to the training schemes listed in regulation 75 of the Jobseeker's Allowance Regulations 1996(**8**) (interpretation), basic skills training.

(2) This paragraph shall apply to any person—

(a) who, on or after 5th April 2004, but before 4th April 2005, attends an appropriate office pursuant to a notification given or sent under regulation 23 or 23A of the Jobseeker's Allowance Regulations 1996(**9**) (attendance and attendance by members of a joint-claim couple); and

(b) who, on the day he so attends, is aged 18 years or over and less than 60; and

(c) who has been receiving benefit for a period of not less than six months; and

(d) in respect of whom the Secretary of State considers it appropriate that he should participate in basic skills training; and

(e) who has been given or sent a notice in writing by an employment officer advising him that if he fails to participate in such training, his jobseeker's allowance could cease to be payable or could be payable at a lower rate.

(**5**) S.I. 1975/556. Regulation 8A was inserted by S.I. 1996/2367; the relevant amending instruments are S.I. 2000/3120, 2001/518, 1711 and 2002/490.
(**6**) 1973 c. 50; section 2 was substituted by the Employment Act 1988 (c. 19), section 25(1).
(**7**) Section 20A was inserted by the Welfare Reform and Pensions Act 1999 (c. 30), section 59 and Schedule 7, paragraph 13.
(**8**) S.I. 1996/207; the relevant amending instruments are S.I. 1997/2863, 1998/1274, 2000/1978 and 2001/652.
(**9**) Regulation 23 was substituted by S.I. 2000/2194 and regulation 23A was inserted by S.I. 2000/1978.

Signed by authority of the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions.

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State,
2004 Department for Work and Pensions

SCHEDULE

Regulation 2(1)

Region	*Pilot Area*	*Name of Office of the Department for Work and Pensions*
South West	Dorset	Blandford
		Boscombe
		Bournemouth
		Bridport
		Christchurch
		Dorchester
		Poole
		Shaftesbury
		Wareham
		Winton
North West	Bolton & Bury	Bolton (Blackhorse Street)
		Bolton (Elizabeth House)
		Bolton (Great Moor Street)
		Bury (Silver Street)
		Farnworth
		Horwich
		Prestwich
		Radcliffe
		Westhoughton
	Cheshire & Warrington	Chester (Chantry House)
		Chester (Gateway)
		Crewe (Market Street)
		Crewe (Wellington House)
		Congleton

Region	*Pilot Area*	*Name of Office of the Department for Work and Pensions*
		Ellesmere Port
		Macclesfield
		Nantwich
		Neston
		Northwich (Hartford House)
		Northwich (London Road)
		Sandbach
		Warrington
		Warrington New Town
		Wilmslow
		Winsford
West Midlands	Wolverhampton & Walsall	Aldridge
		Bilston
		Brownhills
		Darlaston
		Walsall (Bayard House)
		Walsall (Bridle Court)
		Walsall (Government Buildings)
		Wednesfield
		Willenhall
		Wolverhampton (Chapel Court)
		Wolverhampton (Crown House)
East of England	Bedfordshire	Bedford
		Biggleswade