STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

2012 No. 215

OFFICIAL STATISTICS

The Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 (Disclosure of Social Security Information) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012

Made - - - - 23rd May 2012
Affirmed by resolution of the Assembly on - - - - 19th June 2012

Coming into force in accordance with regulation 1

The Department of Finance and Personnel makes these Regulations in exercise of the powers conferred by section 49(1) and (2), (5)(b) and (6)(b) of the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007(**1**).

In accordance with section 49(7) of that Act these Regulations are made with the consent of the Minister for the Cabinet Office.

In accordance with section 49(8) of that Act the Department of Finance and Personnel and the Minister for the Cabinet Office are satisfied that the disclosure authorised by these Regulations is required by the Statistics Board(**2**) to enable it to carry out the functions in relation to which the disclosure is authorised, and is in the public interest.

Citation and commencement

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 (Disclosure of Social Security Information) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012 and shall come into operation on the day after the day on which they are affirmed by a resolution of the Assembly.

Interpretation

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

(2) In these Regulations —

"the Act" means the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007;

(**1**) 2007 c. 18
(**2**) The Statistics Board is established under section 1 of the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 (c.18).
(**3**) 1954 c. 33 (NI).

"benefit" means any benefit within the meaning of section 1(4) of the Social Security Administration (Northern Ireland) Act 1992(**4**);

"unique individual identifier" means the number which—

(a) is assigned to an individual by the Department for Social Development, the Secretary of State or the Commissioners for Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs; and

(b) does not, without additional information, identify the individual.

Disclosure of social security information

3.—(1) The Department for Social Development may, for the purpose set out in paragraph (2), disclose to the Board the information set out in paragraphs (a) to (f) of regulation 4 in respect of an individual who received a benefit on or after 1st January 2001 and the information set out in paragraphs (g) to (i) of regulation 4 held in connection with that information.

(2) The purpose mentioned in paragraph (1) is to enable the Board to carry out its functions in connection with—

(a) the production of population statistics under section 20 (production of statistics) of the Act;

(b) the assessment of census returns under the Census Act (Northern Ireland) 1969(**5**).

4. The information referred to in regulation 3 is —

(a) the individual's—

(i) surname, and any former surname;

(ii) first name;

(iii) middle name, or if more than one , each middle name;

(iv) date of birth;

(v) date of death, if applicable;

(vi) gender; and

(vii) unique individual identifier;

(b) if the individual is, or was, married or formed a civil partnership on or after 1st January 2001, that information;

(c) in relation to each address in the United Kingdom at which the individual resides, or has resided at any time on or after 1 January 2001—

(i) that individual's full address including postcode; and

(ii) the start and end dates for the period the individual is recorded as resident at that address;

(d) if the individual is, or was, resident outside of the United Kingdom on or after 1st January 2001, that information, and the start and end dates for the period the individual is recorded as resident outside of the United Kingdom;

(e) in relation to each benefit the individual has received—

(i) the type of benefit received; and

(ii) the date the individual started and ceased to receive that benefit;

(**4**) 1992 c. 8(NI); section 1(4) was amended by paragraph 21 of Schedule 2 to the Jobseekers (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 (S.I. 1995/2705 (N.I. 15)), paragraph 2 of Schedule 1 to the State Pension Credit Act (Northern Ireland) 2002 (c. 14 (N.I.)) and paragraph 4(2) of Schedule 3 to the Welfare Reform Act (Northern Ireland) 2007 (c. 2 (N.I.))

(**5**) 1969 c.8.