STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

2012 No. 159

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The Fuel Allowance Payments Scheme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012

Made - - - -	*20th March 2012*
Coming into operation	*20th March 2012*

The Department for Social Development makes the following Regulations in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 1(2) and 3 of the Financial Assistance Act (Northern Ireland) 2009 (**1**).

The Department for Social Development has been designated as a relevant department under section 1(3)(a) of that Act.

The Regulations are made with the approval of the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister.

Citation and commencement

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Fuel Allowance Payments Scheme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012 and shall come into operation on 20th March 2012.

Fuel Allowance Payments Scheme (Northern Ireland) 2012

2. The Department for Social Development makes the Scheme set out in the Schedule.

Sealed with the official seal of the Department for Social Development on 20th March 2012

Heather Cousins
A senior officer of the Department for Social Development

(**1**) 2009 c.2 (N.I.)

SCHEDULE Regulation 2

Fuel Allowance Payments Scheme (Northern Ireland) 2012

Citation and interpretation

1.—(1) This Scheme may be cited as the Fuel Allowance Payments Scheme (Northern Ireland) 2012.

(2) In this Scheme:—

"the Department" means the Department for Social Development;

"the higher rate" means a single payment of £100;

"a fuel allowance payment" means financial assistance provided under this Scheme;

"income support" means income support under section 123 of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits (Northern Ireland) Act 1992(**2**);

"the qualifying week" means the week beginning with (and including) Monday 12th December 2011 and ending with Sunday 18th December 2011;

"social security information" means information held by or on behalf of the Department and obtained as a result of, or for the purpose of, the exercise of the Department's functions in relation to social security;

"state pension credit" means state pension credit under the State Pension Credit Act (Northern Ireland) 2002(**3**);

"the standard rate" means a single payment of £75.

Eligibility

2.—(1) A person is not eligible for a fuel allowance payment at the standard rate unless they were in receipt of:—

(a) income support;

(b) income-related employment and support allowance; or

(c) income-based job seeker's allowance

on any one day during the qualifying week.

(2) A person is not eligible for a fuel allowance payment at the higher rate unless they were in receipt of state pension credit on any one day during the qualifying week.

Delayed payment

3.—(1) A person who is eligible for a fuel allowance payment, and has not received it by 29th February 2012, may apply for a payment.

(2) An application under sub-paragraph (1) must:—

(a) be in writing to the Department or by telephone to 0300 200 7870;

(b) be received by the Department before 30th June 2012; and

(c) specify:—

(i) the applicant's name, address, date of birth and national insurance number;

(**2**) 1992 c. 7. Section 123 was amended by Schedules 2 and 3 to the Jobseekers (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 and paragraph 2 of Schedule 2 to the State Pension Credit Act (Northern Ireland) 2002.

(**3**) 2002 c.14 (N.I.)