STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

2010 No. 298

EMPLOYMENT

WORK AND FAMILIES

The Additional Statutory Paternity Pay (Adoptions from Overseas) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010

Made - - - - 9th September 2010

Coming into operation 6th October 2010

Approved by resolution of the Assembly on 9th November 2010

The Department for Employment and Learning makes the following Regulations in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 167ZEB(1), (2) and (3), 167ZEC(1) and (3), 167ZED(2) and (3), 167ZEE(2), (4) and (7), 167ZG(3), 167ZJ(3), (4), (7) and (8) and 171(4) of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits (Northern Ireland) Act 1992(**1**), and with the concurrence of the Commissioners for Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs in so far as such concurrence is required(**2**).

Citation and commencement

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Additional Statutory Paternity Pay (Adoptions from Overseas) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010 and come into operation on 6th October 2010.

Interpretation and scope

2.—(1) In these Regulations—

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

(**1**) 1992 (c. 7). Part 12ZA of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits (Northern Ireland) Act 1992 was inserted by Article 5 of the Employment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002 (S.I. 2002/2836 (N.I. 2)). Sections 167ZEA to 167ZEE were inserted by the Work and Families (Northern Ireland) Order 2006 (S.I. 2006/1947 (N.I. 16)). Part 12ZA (in so far as it concerns additional statutory paternity pay) is, by regulations made under section 167ZK, namely the Social Security Contributions and Benefits (Northern Ireland) Act 1992 (Application of Parts 12ZA and 12ZB to Adoptions from Overseas) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010 (S.R. 2010 No. 305), applied to cases which involve adoption, but not the placement of a child for adoption under the law of any part of the United Kingdom, with the modifications prescribed by those Regulations. The sections cited in the preamble that are so modified are sections 167ZEB(2) and 167ZEE(4).

(**2**) Regulations made by the Department for Employment and Learning pursuant to section 167ZED(3) of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits (Northern Ireland) Act 1992 must be made with the concurrence of the Commissioners for Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs. By virtue of 167ZJ(13) of the Act, regulations made by the Department pursuant to section 167ZJ(4), (7) and (8) of that Act must be made with the concurrence of the Commissioners of Inland Revenue. By virtue of section 50(1) of the Commissioners for Revenue and Customs Act 2005 (c. 11), references to the Commissioners of Inland Revenue in statutory provisions are to be taken as references to the Commissioners for Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs.

"additional statutory paternity pay (adoption)" means additional statutory paternity pay payable in accordance with the provisions of Part 12ZA of the Act where the conditions specified in section 167ZEB(2) of the Act are satisfied;

"additional statutory paternity pay period (adoption)" means the period in respect of which additional statutory paternity pay (adoption) is payable;

"adopter", in relation to a child, means a person by whom the child has been or is to be adopted or, in a case where the child has been or is to be adopted by two people jointly, whichever of them has elected to take adoption leave in respect of the child;

"adoption from overseas" means the adoption of a child who enters Northern Ireland from outside the United Kingdom in connection with or for the purposes of adoption which does not involve the placement of the child for adoption under the law of any part of the United Kingdom;

"adoption leave" means ordinary adoption leave under Article 107A of the Employment Rights (Northern Ireland) Order 1996(**3**) or additional adoption leave under section 107B of that Order;

"adoption pay period" has the meaning given by regulation 12 of the Statutory Paternity Pay (Adoption) and Statutory Adoption Pay (Adoptions from Overseas) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003(**4**);

"the Application Regulations" means the Social Security Contributions and Benefits (Northern Ireland) Act 1992 (Application of Part 12ZA and 12ZB to Adoptions from Overseas) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010(**5**);

"child" means a person who is, or when entering Northern Ireland was, under the age of eighteen;

"enter Northern Ireland" means enter Northern Ireland from outside the United Kingdom in connection with or for the purposes of adoption, and cognate expressions shall be construed accordingly;

"the General Regulations" means the Additional Statutory Paternity Pay (General) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010(**6**);

"official notification" means written notification, issued by or on behalf of the relevant central authority, that it is prepared to issue a certificate to the overseas authority concerned with the adoption of the child, or that it has issued a certificate and sent it to that authority, confirming, in either case, that the adopter is eligible to adopt, and has been assessed and approved as being a suitable adoptive parent;

"partner", in relation to a child's adopter, means a person (whether of a different sex or the same sex) who lives with the adopter and the child in an enduring family relationship, but is not a relative of the adopter of a kind specified in paragraph (2);

"processing", in relation to information, has the meaning given by section 1(1) of the Data Protection Act 1998(**7**); and

"relevant central authority" means—

(**3**) 1996 No. 1919 (N.I. 16). Articles 107A and 107B were inserted by Article 3 of the Employment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002 (S.I. 2002/2836 (N.I. 2)) and were amended by paragraphs 32 and 33 respectively of Schedule 1 to the Work and Families (Northern Ireland) Order 2006 (S.I. 2006/1947 (N.I. 16).
(**4**) S.R. 2003 No. 223.
(**5**) S.R. 2010 No. 305
(**6**) S.R. 2010 No. 300
(**7**) 1998 c. 29.

(a) in the case of an adopter to whom the Intercountry Adoption (Hague Convention) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003(**8**) apply, the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety;

(b) in any other case, the Secretary of State.

(2) The relatives of a child's adopter referred to in the definition of "partner" in paragraph (1) are the adopter's parent, grandparent, sister, brother, aunt or uncle.

(3) References to relationships in paragraph (2)—

(a) are to relationships of the full blood or half blood or, in the case of an adopted person, such of those relationships as would exist but for the adoption, and

(b) include the relationship of a child with his adoptive, or former adoptive parents, but do not include any other adoptive relationships.

(4) References in these Regulations to Part 12ZA of the Act are references to sections 167ZEA to 167ZEE and, in so far as they concern additional statutory paternity pay, to sections 167ZF to 167ZJ of the Act.

(5) References in these Regulations to any of the provisions referred to in paragraph (4) are to be construed as references to those provisions as modified, where appropriate, by the Application Regulations.

(6) These Regulations apply to additional statutory paternity pay (adoption) in respect of adoptions from overseas.

Application of the General Regulations to these Regulations

3.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), the provisions of the General Regulations mentioned in paragraph (3) shall, in so far as they apply to additional statutory paternity pay (adoption), apply to adoptions from overseas.

(2) Any references to the provisions of Part 12ZA of the Act in the provisions of the General Regulations mentioned in paragraph (3) shall be construed as references to the provisions of Part 12ZA as modified, where appropriate, by the Application Regulations.

(3) The provisions of the General Regulations referred to in paragraph (1) are regulations 21, 22, 24 to 31, 33 to 39 and, subject to paragraphs (4) and (5) respectively, regulations 20 and 32.

(4) In the General Regulations, the provisions of regulation 20 shall apply as if for ", as appropriate, regulation 11(1)(b) or regulation 18(1)(b),", there were substituted "regulation 11(1)(b) of the Additional Statutory Paternity Pay (Adoptions from Overseas) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010,".

(5) In the General Regulations, the provisions of regulation 32 shall apply as if—

(a) in paragraph (2)(b), for "the week in which the adopter is notified of being matched with the child for the purposes of adoption" there were substituted—

"(b) the week in which—

(i) official notification is sent to the adopter, or

(ii) the person satisfies the condition in regulation 5(3)(a) of the Additional Statutory Paternity Pay (Adoptions from Overseas) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010 (26 weeks' continuous employment),

whichever is the later"; and

(**8**) S.R. 2003 No. 16.

(b) at the end of paragraph (2), there were added ""official notification" has the same meaning as in the Additional Statutory Paternity Pay (Adoptions from Overseas) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010".

Application

4. Subject to the provisions of Part 12ZA of the Act and of these Regulations, there is entitlement to additional statutory paternity pay (adoption) in respect of adoptions from overseas of children who enter Northern Ireland on or after 3rd April 2011.

Entitlement to additional statutory paternity pay (adoption) in respect of adoptions from overseas

5.—(1) A person ("P") is entitled to additional statutory paternity pay (adoption) in respect of an adoption from overseas if—

(a) P satisfies the conditions—

(i) as to relationship with a child ("C") and the child's adopter ("A") specified in paragraph (2); and

(ii) as to continuity of employment and normal weekly earnings specified in paragraph (3);

(b) A satisfies the conditions specified in regulation 6;

(c) P intends to care for C during the additional statutory paternity pay period (adoption) in respect of C;

(d) A has signed the declaration referred to in regulation 8(1)(c); and

(e) P has complied with the requirements in regulation 8, including, where applicable, the requirements in regulation 8(3).

(2) The conditions referred to in paragraph (1)(a)(i) are that—

(a) P is married to, or is the civil partner or the partner of, A; and

(b) P has, or expects to have, the main responsibility (apart from any responsibility of A) for the upbringing of C.

(3) The conditions referred to in paragraph (1)(a)(ii) are that—

(a) P has been in employed earner's employment with an employer for a continuous period of at least 26 weeks prior to the date on which C enters Northern Ireland;

(b) P's normal weekly earnings for the period of eight weeks ending with the prescribed week are not less than the lower earnings limit in force under section 5(1)(a) of the Act at the end of the prescribed week; and

(c) P continues in employed earner's employment with the employer by reference to whom the condition in sub-paragraph (a) above is satisfied for a continuous period beginning with the prescribed week and ending with the week before the additional statutory paternity pay period (adoption) in respect of C begins.

(4) The references in paragraph (3) to the "prescribed week" are to the week in which—

(a) official notification is sent to A; or

(b) P satisfies the condition in paragraph (3)(a) (26 weeks' continuous employment);

whichever is the later.

Conditions to be satisfied by the child's adopter

6. The conditions referred to in regulation 5(1)(b) are that A—

(a) became entitled, by reference to the adoption of C, to statutory adoption pay;

(b) has taken action constituting a return to work within the meaning of regulation 12;

(c) has taken the action referred to in paragraph (b) not less than two weeks after the date C enters Northern Ireland; and

(d) has at least two weeks of their adoption pay period which remain unexpired.

Additional statutory paternity pay period (adoption) in respect of adoptions from overseas

7.—(1) For the purposes of section 167ZEE(2)(a) of the Act, the date on which the additional statutory paternity pay period (adoption) in respect of C begins is—

(a) the date specified by P in accordance with regulation 8(2)(d) or last varied in accordance with regulation 8(6); or

(b) if later, the date of A's taking action constituting a return to work within the meaning of regulation 12

being, in either case, a date which falls no earlier than 20 weeks after the date on which C enters Northern Ireland.

(2) For the purposes of section 167ZEE(2)(b)(ii) of the Act, the date on which the additional statutory paternity pay period (adoption) in respect of C ends is the date specified by P in accordance with regulation 8(2)(e) or last varied in accordance with regulation 8(6).

(3) For the purposes of section 167ZEE(4)(a) of the Act, the additional statutory paternity pay period (adoption) in respect of C shall not last longer than 26 weeks.

(4) This paragraph applies instead of paragraph (2) where—

(a) A dies after the beginning but before the end of the additional statutory paternity pay period (adoption) in respect of C; and

(b) as soon as reasonably practicable after A's death, P gives the person paying P additional statutory paternity pay (adoption) notice in writing of A's death.

(5) Where paragraph (4) applies, the date on which the additional statutory paternity pay period (adoption) in respect of C ends is the date—

(a) on which the adoption pay period in respect of C, which would have applied but for A's death, would have ended; or

(b) if earlier, such date which, for the purposes of section 167ZEE(2)(b)(ii) of the Act, P may specify in the notice given under paragraph (4)(b).

Application for, and evidence of entitlement to, additional statutory paternity pay (adoption) in respect of adoptions from overseas

8.—(1) P shall apply for additional statutory paternity pay (adoption) to the person ("E") who will be liable to pay P such pay by providing to E—

(a) the information, in writing, specified in paragraph (2);

(b) a written declaration, signed by P—

(i) that that information is correct;

(ii) that P intends to care for C during the additional statutory paternity pay period (adoption) in respect of C; and

(iii) that P meets the conditions in regulation 5(2);