STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

2007 No. 153

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

The Social Security Benefits Up-rating Order (Northern Ireland) 2007

Made - - - - 9th March 2007

Coming into operation in accordance with Article 1

This Order is made in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 132 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 an Order(**3**) under sections 150, 151 and 189(1), (4) and (5) of the Social Security Administration Act 1992(**4**).

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

PART I

INTRODUCTION

Citation, commencement and effect

1.—(1) This Order may be cited as the Social Security Benefits Up-rating Order (Northern Ireland) 2007 and, subject to paragraph (2), shall come into operation for the purposes of—

(a) this Article and Articles 2 and 6 on 1st April 2007;

(b) Article 3—

(**1**) 1992 c. 8; section 132 was amended by paragraph 41 of Schedule 7 to the Pension Schemes (Northern Ireland) Act 1993 (c. 49) 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)

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

(**3**) S.I. 2007/688

(**4**) 1992 c. 5

(i) in so far as it relates to any increase to which Article 6(10)(b) applies, on 1st April 2007, and

(ii) for all other purposes, on 9th April 2007;

(c) Article 8, 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 2007 and, for the purpose of this sub-paragraph, "benefit week" has the same meaning as in the Computation of Earnings Regulations;

(d) Article 10 on 1st April 2007, except for the purpose of determining the rate of maternity allowance in accordance with section 35A(1) of the Contributions and Benefits Act(**5**) for which purpose it shall come into operation on 9th April 2007;

(e) Article 11 on 1st April 2007;

(f) Article 9 on 6th April 2007;

(g) Articles 4, 5, 7, 12 and 13 on 9th April 2007;

(h) Articles 14, 15 and 25 on 12th April 2007;

(i) 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 9th April 2007 and, for the purpose of this sub-paragraph, "benefit week" has the same meaning as in the Income Support Regulations;

(j) Articles 19 and 20, in relation to a case where rent is payable at intervals of a week or any multiple thereof, on 2nd April 2007, and in relation to any other case, on 1st April 2007;

(k) Articles 21 to 23, in so far as they relate to a particular beneficiary—

(i) for the purposes of Article 21(c), in so far as it relates to an increase to which Article 6(10)(b) applies, on 1st April 2007, and

(ii) for all other purposes, on the first day of the first benefit week to commence for that beneficiary, on or after 9th April 2007, and for the purposes of this head "benefit week" has the same meaning as in the Jobseeker's Allowance Regulations; and

(l) 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 9th April 2007 and, for the purpose of this sub-paragraph, "benefit week" has the same meaning as in the State Pension Credit Regulations.

(2) The increases made—

(a) in the sums specified for rates or amounts of benefit under the Contributions and Benefits Act or the Pension Schemes Act; and

(b) by Article 21(c), in so far as it is relevant for the purposes referred to in Article 6(10),

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(**6**);

(**5**) 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.))

(**6**) 1992 c. 7

"the Pension Schemes Act" means the Pension Schemes (Northern Ireland) Act 1993(**7**);

"the Computation of Earnings Regulations" means the Social Security Benefit (Computation of Earnings) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1996(**8**);

"the Housing Benefit Regulations" means the Housing Benefit Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006(**9**);

"the Housing Benefit (SPC) Regulations" means the Housing Benefit (Persons who have attained the qualifying age for State Pension Credit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006(**10**);

"the Income Support Regulations" means the Income Support (General) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1987(**11**);

"the Jobseeker's Allowance Regulations" means the Jobseeker's Allowance Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1996(**12**);

"the State Pension Credit Regulations" means the State Pension Credit Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003(**13**).

(2) The Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954(**14**) shall apply to this Order as it applies to an Act of the Assembly.

PART II

SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS AND PENSIONS

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

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

(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—

(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(**15**), the sums specified for the increase in disablement pension for dependent children, widow's pension (initial rate) and death benefit allowance in respect of children and qualifying young persons,

which remain the same.

(**7**) 1993 c. 49
(**8**) S.R. 1996 No. 520
(**9**) S.R. 2006 No. 405
(**10**) S.R. 2006 No. 406
(**11**) S.R. 1987 No. 459; relevant amending Rules are S.R. 1988 Nos. 146 and 318, S.R. 1989 Nos. 139 and 249, S.R. 1990 Nos. 213 and 346, S.R. 1994 No. 77, S.R. 1995 Nos. 86, 301 and 434, S.R. 1996 Nos. 199, 288 and 476, S.R. 1997 Nos. 3 and 165, S.R. 1998 No.112, S.R. 1999 Nos. 371 (C. 28), 382 and 472 (C. 36), S.R. 2000 Nos. 4, 71, 260 and 367, S.R. 2001 No. 406, S.R. 2002 No. 323, S.R. 2003 Nos. 191 and 261, S.R. 2004 Nos. 394 and 461 and S.R. 2006 Nos. 97, 109 and 128
(**12**) 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, 260, 350 and 367, S.R. 2001 Nos. 120 and 406, S.R. 2002 Nos. 132 and 323, S.R. 2003 Nos. 261 and 267, S.R. 2004 Nos. 394 and 461, S.R. 2005 No. 536 and S.R. 2006 Nos. 109 and 128
(**13**) S.R. 2003 No. 28; relevant amending Rules are S.R. 2004 Nos. 394 and 461 and S.R. 2006 Nos. 97, 109 and 359
(**14**) 1954 c. 33 (N.I.)
(**15**) Part V was amended by paragraph 41 of Schedule 1 to the Child Benefit Act 2005 (c. 6)

Rates or amounts of certain pensions or 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 3·6 per cent.

(3) In section 44(4) of the Contributions and Benefits Act(**16**) (basic pension of Category A retirement pension)—

(a) for "£75·35" substitute "£78·05"; and

(b) for "£84·25" substitute "£87·30".

(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 2006-07;

(b) the increases in the rates of retirement pensions under Schedule 5 to the Contributions and Benefits Act(**17**) (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 on becoming entitled to a Category A or Category B retirement pension; and

(d) payable to a pensioner as part of his Category A or Category B retirement pension by virtue of an order made under section 120 of the Social Security (Northern Ireland) Act 1975(**18**), Article 64 of the Social Security (Northern Ireland) Order 1986(**19**) or section 132 of the Administration Act,

shall in each case be increased by 3·6 per cent.

(5) The sums which are shared additional pensions under section 55A of the Contributions and Benefits Act(**20**), and the sums which are increases in the rates of such pensions under paragraph 2 of Schedule 5A to that Act(**21**), shall in each case be increased by 3·6 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) shall be increased by—

(**16**) Section 44(4) was substituted by Article 64 of the Social Security (Northern Ireland) Order 1998 (S.I. 1998/1506 (N.I. 10))

(**17**) 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)), paragraph 18(15) and (18) 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)) and paragraph 6 of the Schedule to S.R. 2005 No. 434

(**18**) 1975 c. 15; section 120 was repealed by Schedule 1 to the Social Security (Consequential Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Act 1992 (c. 9)

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

(**20**) 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

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

(a) 3·6 per cent. where the increase under section 11(1) is attributable to earnings factors for the tax year 1987-88 and earlier tax years(**22**); and

(b) 0·6 per cent. where the increase under section 11(1) is attributable to earnings factors for the tax years 1988-89 to 1996-97 inclusive.

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

6.—(1) Paragraphs (2) to (9), which are subject to the provisions of paragraph (10), specify the date on which the increases 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) Subject to paragraph (3), any increases in the sums specified in Articles 3, 4 and 12 for Category A and Category B retirement pension and graduated retirement benefit together with, where appropriate, increases for dependants, shall take effect on 9th April 2007.

(3) In the case of a person over pensionable age whose entitlement to a Category A retirement pension is deferred and for whom the rate of short-term incapacity benefit falls to be calculated in accordance with section 30B(3) of the Contributions and Benefits Act(**23**), any increases in the sums mentioned in Articles 3, 4 and 12 for Category A and Category B retirement pension and graduated retirement benefit together with, where appropriate, any increases for dependants, shall take effect on 12th April 2007.

(4) The increases in the sums mentioned in Articles 4(4)(d) and 5(2) shall take effect on 9th April 2007.

(5) Any increases in the sums specified for the rate of maternity allowance, widowed mother's allowance and widowed parent's allowance, Category C and Category D retirement pension, attendance allowance and carer's allowance (except in a case where the Department has made arrangements for it to be paid on a Wednesday) together with, in each case where appropriate, increases for dependants, shall in all cases take effect on 9th April 2007.

(6) Any increases in the sums specified for the rate of carer's allowance in a case where the Department has made arrangements for it to be paid on a Wednesday, together with, where appropriate, increases for dependants, disablement benefit together with increases of disablement pension, maximum disablement gratuity under paragraph 9(2) of Schedule 7 to the Contributions and Benefits Act, industrial death benefit by way of widow's and widower's pension and allowance in respect of children and qualifying young persons together with, where appropriate, increases for dependants, and the maximum of the aggregate of weekly benefit payable for successive accidents under section 107(1) of that Act, shall in all cases take effect on 11th April 2007.

(7) In any case where a person's weekly rate of Category A or Category B retirement pension falls to be increased under the provisions of section 47(1) or 48C(2) of the Contributions and Benefits Act(**24**), by reference to the weekly rate of invalidity allowance or age addition to long-term incapacity benefit to which he was previously entitled, any increase in such sum shall take effect on 9th April 2007.

(**22**) *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. 2007 No. 139

(**23**) Section 30B was inserted by Article 4(1) of the Social Security (Incapacity for Work) (Northern Ireland) Order 1994 and amended by paragraph 18(3) of Schedule 2 to the Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 1995, paragraph 21 of Schedule 8 to the Welfare Reform and Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 1999 and paragraph 69 of Schedule 24 to the Civil Partnership Act 2004 (c. 33)

(**24**) Section 47(1) was amended by paragraph 13 of Schedule 1 to the Social Security (Incapacity for Work) (Northern Ireland) Order 1994; *see also* regulation 23 of S.R. 1995 No. 35; section 48C was inserted by paragraph 3(1) of Schedule 2 to the Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 and amended by paragraph 6 of Schedule 8 and paragraph 11 of Schedule 9 to the Welfare Reform and Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 1999, sections 33(12) and 35(1) of the Child Support, Pensions and Social Security Act (Northern Ireland) 2000 and paragraph 2 of the Schedule to S.R. 2005 No. 434