STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

2003 No. 80

HOUSING; RATES

The Housing Benefit (General) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003

Made - - - - 17th February 2003

Coming into operation 1st April 2003

The Department for Social Development, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by section 129(4) of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits (Northern Ireland) Act 1992(**1**) and sections 1(1), 5(1)(a), (b) and (c), 5A(1), (2)(a) and 165(1), (4) and (5) of the Social Security Administration (Northern Ireland) Act 1992(**2**) and now vested in it(**3**), and of all other powers enabling it in that behalf, with the consent of the Department of Finance and Personnel(**4**) and after agreement by the Social Security Advisory Committee that proposals in respect of these Regulations should not be referred to it(**5**), hereby makes the following Regulations:

Citation, commencement and interpretation

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Housing Benefit (General) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 and shall come into operation on 1st April 2003.

(2) In these Regulations "the principal Regulations" means the Housing Benefit (General) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1987(**6**).

(3) The Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954(**7**) shall apply to these Regulations as it applies to an Act of the Assembly.

Amendment to regulation 2 of the principal Regulations

2. In regulation 2(1) of the principal Regulations (interpretation) for the definition of "designated office"(**8**) there shall be substituted the following definition –

(**1**) 1992 c. 7
(**2**) 1992 c. 8; section 5A was inserted by Article 68 of the Welfare Reform and Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 1999 (S.I.1999/3147 (N.I. 11))
(**3**) *See* Article 8(b) of S.R. 1999 No. 481
(**4**) *See* section 171(6A) of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits (Northern Ireland) Act 1992 as inserted by Article 3(3) of the Social Security (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) Order 1993 (S.I. 1993/1579 (N.I. 8)); *see* also Article 6(b) of S.R. 1999 No. 481
(**5**) *See* section 150(1)(b) of the Social Security Administration (Northern Ireland) Act 1992
(**6**) S.R. 1987 No. 461; relevant amending Regulations are S.R. 1996 No. 334 and S.R. 2001 No. 215
(**7**) 1954 c. 33 (N.I.)
(**8**) Definition of "designated office" was amended by Schedule 1 to S.R. 2001 No. 215