STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

1998 No. 66

PENSIONS

Pensions Increase (Review) Order (Northern Ireland) 1998

Made - - - -	*4th March 1998*
Coming into operation	*6th April 1998*

Whereas by virtue of section 132 of the Social Security Administration (Northern Ireland) Act 1992(**1**) a direction(**2**) has been given by the Department of Health and Social Services that the sums which are the additional pensions in the rate of long-term benefits are to be increased by a specified percentage;

Now, therefore the Department of Finance and Personnel, in exercise of the powers conferred by Article 69(1), (2), (5) and (5ZA) of the Social Security Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 1975(**3**) and now vested in it(**4**) and of every other power enabling it in that behalf, hereby makes the following Order:

Citation and commencement

1. This Order may be cited as the Pensions Increase (Review) Order (Northern Ireland) 1998 and shall come into operation on 6th April 1998.

Interpretation

2.—(1) In this Order—

"the Act of 1971" means the Pensions (Increase) Act (Northern Ireland) 1971(**5**);

"basic rate" and "derivative pension" have the meanings given by section 15(1)(**6**) of the Act of 1971;

"existing Orders" means the Orders referred to in the Schedule;

(**1**) 1992 c. 8
(**2**) Contained in S.R. 1998 No. 59
(**3**) S.I. 1975/1503 (N.I. 15); Art. 69 was amended by S.I. 1979/396 (N.I. 5) Arts. 10(2), 16 and Sch. 3, S.I. 1985/1209 (N.I. 16) Art. 25(2) and Sch. 6, S.I. 1986/1888 (N.I. 18) Arts. 11(8), 19(1)(*b*), 83(1) and Sch. 9, para. 58, S.I. 1990/1509 (N.I. 13) Arts. 3(7) and 7, by section 4 and paragraph 14(19) of Schedule 2 to the Social Security (Consequential Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Act 1992 (1992 c. 9) and by section 184 of and paragraph 15(1) of Schedule 7 to the Pension Schemes (Northern Ireland) Act 1993 (1993 c. 49). Article 69 is modified by Article 69A, which was inserted by Article 10(3) of the Social Security (Northern Ireland) Order 1979 (S.I. 1979/396 (N.I. 5)), and amended by S.I. 1986/1888 (N.I. 18) Art. 11(9) and by section 184 of and paragraph 15(2) of Schedule 7 to the Pension Schemes (Northern Ireland) Act 1993
(**4**) By S.R. 1976 No. 281 Art. 3 and Sch. 1 and S.I. 1982/338 (N.I. 6) Art. 4
(**5**) 1971 c. 35 (N.I.)
(**6**) As amended by S.I. 1974/1267 (N.I. 2) Arts. 3(3) and 5(3)(*b*) and S.I. 1990/1509 (N.I. 13) Art. 3(6)

"official pension" has the meaning given by section 5(1) of the Act of 1971;

"the Order of 1975" means the Social Security Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 1975;

"pension authority" has the meaning given by section 7(1) of the Act of 1971;

"qualifying condition" means one of the conditions laid down in section 3 of the Act of 1971(**7**);

"relevant injury pension", "substituted pension" and "widow's pension" have the meanings given by section 15(1) of the Act of 1971.

(2) For the purpose of this Order the time when a pension "begins" is that stated in section 8(2) of the Act of 1971(**8**).

(3) Where, for the purposes of this Order, it is necessary to calculate the number of complete months in any period an incomplete month shall be treated as a complete month if it consists of at least 16 days.

Increases in certain pensions

3.—(1) The annual rate of an official pension may, if a qualifying condition is satisfied or the pension is a derivative or substituted pension or a relevant injury pension, be increased as set out in paragraphs (2) and (3) by the pension authority in respect of any period beginning on or after 6th April 1998.

(2) A pension beginning before 7th April 1997 may be increased by 3.6 per cent of the basic rate as increased by the amount of any increase under section 1 of the Act of 1971 or the existing Orders.

(3) A pension beginning on or after 7th April 1997 and before 6th April 1998 may be increased by 3.6 per cent multiplied by

$$\frac{A}{B}$$

where

A is the number of complete months in the period between the beginning of the pension and 5th April 1998 and B is 12.

Increase in certain lump sums

4. In respect of any lump sum or installment of a lump sum which became payable before 6th April 1998 but after 6th April 1997 there may be paid an increase of 3.6 per cent of the amount of the lump sum or instalment (as increased by the amount of any increase under section 1 of the Act of 1971 or under the existing Orders) multiplied by

$$\frac{A}{B}$$

where—

a A is the number of complete months in the period between the beginning date for the lump sum (or, if later, 7th April 1997) and the date on which it became payable; and

b B is 12.

Reduction in respect of guaranteed minimum pensions

5. Where—

(**7**) As amended by S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1972 No. 264. S.I. 1974/1267 (N.I. 2) Art. 5(2) and (3), S.I. 1987/2203 (N.I. 22) Art. 72(3) and Sch. 5 Part I, S.I. 1990/1509 (N.I. 13) Art. 3 and S.I. 1995/3213 (N.I. 22) Art. 163

(**8**) As amended by S.I. 1990/1509 (N.I. 13) Art. 3(5)

(a) a person is entitled to a guaranteed minimum pension on 6th April 1998; and

(b) entitlement to that guaranteed minimum pension arises from an employment from which (either directly or by virtue of the payment of transfer credit) entitlement to the official pension also arises,

the amount by reference to which any increase in the rate of an official pension provided for by this Order is to be calculated shall be reduced by an amount equal to the rate of the guaranteed minimum pension unless the Department of Finance and Personnel(**9**) in accordance with the provisions of Article 69A of the Order of 1975, otherwise directs.

6. The amount by reference to which any increase in the rate of a widow's or widower's pension provided for by this Order is to be calculated shall, where the pensioner becomes entitled on the death of the deceased spouse to a guaranteed minimum pension, be reduced in accordance with Article 69(5ZA)(**10**) of the Order of 1975.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Finance and Personnel on

L.S.

Dorothy Angus
Assistant Secretary

4th March 1998.

(**9**) *See*S.I. 1982/338 (N.I. 6) Art. 4
(**10**) Inserted by S.I. 1990/1509 (N.I. 13) Art. 7(1)