1981 No. 274

SOCIAL SECURITY

The Social Security Benefits Up-rating Order (Northern Ireland) 1981

Made . . . . . *14th August 1981*

Coming into operation . . . *23rd November 1981*

Whereas the Secretary of State for Social Services has made an order(**a**) under sections 124 and 126A of the Social Security Act 1975(**b**) and section 23(1) of the Social Security Pensions Act 1975(**c**):

Now, therefore, the Department of Health and Social Services for Northern Ireland, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by section 120 of the Social Security (Northern Ireland) Act 1975(**d**) and of all other powers enabling it in that behalf, and in conjunction with the Department of Finance for Northern Ireland(**e**), hereby makes the following order:

Citation, commencement and interpretation

1.—(1) This order may be cited as the Social Security Benefits Up-rating Order (Northern Ireland) 1981 and shall come into operation on 23rd November 1981.

(2) In this order, unless the context otherwise requires—

"the Act" means the Social Security (Northern Ireland) Act 1975, and

"the Pensions Order" means the Social Security Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 1975(**f**).

Alteration in rates or amounts of certain benefits under the Act

2.—(1) In this Article, "Schedule 4" means Schedule 4 to the Act(**g**).

(2) The sums specified in paragraph (3) shall be altered from and including the respective dates specified in Article 4; and Schedule 4 shall accordingly have effect as set out in the Schedule to this order.

(a) S.I. 1981/1195

(b) 1975 c. 14; section 124 was modified in application by section 17(4) of the Child Benefit Act 1975 c. 61 and by section 1(3) of the Social Security (No. 2) Act 1980 c. 39 and amended by section 5(1) of the Social Security (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1977 c. 5 and by section 7(6) of, and the Sch. to, the Social Security (No. 2) Act 1980 c. 39. Section 126A was inserted by section 12 of the Social Security Act 1979 c. 18; it was modified in application by section 1(3) and (4) of, and amended by section 1(2) of, the Social Security Act 1981 c.33

(c) 1975 c. 60; section 23(1) was amended by section 21(4) of, and para. 16 of Sch. 3 to, the Social Security Act 1979 c. 18 and by section 21(4) of, and Part I of Sch. 5 to, the Social Security Act 1980 c. 30

(d) 1975 c. 15; section 120 was extended in application by Article 25 of the Social Security Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 1975 (S.I. 1975/1503 (N.I. 15)) and amended by Article 18(17) of the Social Security (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 1977 (S.I. 1977/610 (N.I. 11)) and by Article 16 of, and para. 9 of Sch. 3 to, the Social Security (Northern Ireland) Order 1979 (S.I. 1979/396 (N.I. 5))

(e) *See* section 155(5) of the Social Security (Northern Ireland) Act 1975 c. 15

(f) S.I. 1975/1503 (N.I. 15)

(g) Sch. 4 was amended by Article 23(1) and (2) of, and Schs. 4 and 5 to, the Child Benefit (Northern Ireland) Order 1975 (S.I.1975/1504 (N.I. 16)), Articles 24(2) and 74(2) of, and paras. 42 and 43 of Sch. 5, and Sch. 6 to, the Social Security Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 1975 (S.I. 1975/1503 (N.I. 15)), para. 13 of Sch. 1 and para. 11 of Sch. 3 to the Social Security (Northern Ireland) Order 1979 (S.I. 1979/396 (N.I. 5)) and S.R. 1980 No. 294

(3) The sums mentioned in paragraph (2) are the sums specified in Parts I, III, IV and V of Schedule 4 (contributory periodical benefits, non-contributory periodical benefits, increases of benefits for dependants and rate or amount of industrial injuries benefits, respectively), except the sum specified in the said Part III for age addition.

Increase in rates or amounts of certain benefits under the Pensions Order

3.—(1) The sums mentioned in paragraphs (2) to (5) shall be increased from and including the respective dates specified in Article 4.

(2) In Article 8(1)(*a*) of the Pensions Order (basic component of Category A retirement pension)—

(*a*) so far as the sum is relevant for the purpose of calculating under section 14(6) of the Act the rate of unemployment or sickness benefit and of calculating under section 15(4) of the Act or Article 16, 17 or 18 of the Pensions Order the rate of an invalidity pension, for the sum of £26·00 there shall be substituted the sum of £28·35; and

(*b*) except so far as mentioned in sub-paragraph (*a*), for the sum of £27·15 there shall be substituted the sum of £29·60.

(3) It is hereby directed that the sums which are the additional components in the rates of long-term benefits calculated by reference to any final relevant year earlier than the tax year 1981/1982 shall be increased by 9·06 per cent. of their amount apart from this order.

(4) It is hereby directed that the sums payable by way of increases of retirement pensions under Schedule 1 to the Pensions Order (increase of pension where pensioner defers retirement) shall be increased by 9·06 per cent.

(5) It is hereby directed that an amount equal to 9·06 per cent. of—

(*a*) the aggregate amount of the sums payable to a person by virtue of Article 37(6) of the Pensions Order (which provides for increases in a person's guaranteed minimum pension if payment of his occupational pension is postponed after he attains pensionable age), including such sums which are payable by virtue of Article 38(3) of that Order; and

(*b*) the amount by which that person's Category A or Category B retirement pension has been increased by an order under section 120 of the Act corresponding to an order made by the Secretary of State under section 126A of the Social Security Act 1975 by virtue of sub-section (1)(*b*) of that section (up-rating of increments in guaranteed minimum pensions),

but excluding, in either case, any increases under Schedule 1 to the Pensions Order which are increased by paragraph (4), shall be payable by way of an increase of his Category A or Category B retirement pension.

Dates on which sums specified for rates or amounts of benefit under the Act or the Pensions Order are altered by this order

4.—(1) Subject to paragraph (8), the alterations made by this order in the sums specified for rates or amounts of benefit under the Act or the Pensions Order shall take effect for each case on the date specified in relation to such case in the following provisions of this Article.

(2) In relation to the case of a person over pensionable age who has not retired from regular employment and for whom the rate of unemployment benefit, sickness benefit or invalidity pension falls to be calculated in accordance with section 14(6) or 15(4) of the Act, the increases in the sums mentioned in Articles 2, 3 and 6 for

Category A and B retirement pension and graduated retirement benefit (together with, where appropriate, increases for dependants) shall take effect on 26th November 1981 and in relation to all other cases the increases in such sums shall take effect on 23rd November 1981.

(3) The increase mentioned in Article 3(5) shall take effect on 23rd November 1981.

(4) The alterations in the amounts of maternity allowance, widow's allowance, widowed mother's allowance, widow's pension, Category C and D retirement pension, child's special allowance, attendance allowance, invalid care allowance (except in a case where the Department has made arrangements for it to be paid on a Wednesday), guardian's allowance and industrial death benefit by way of widow's and widower's pension and allowance in respect of children (together with, where appropriate, increases for dependants) shall in all cases take effect on 23rd November 1981.

(5) The sums specified for the rate of mobility allowance, invalid care allowance (in a case where the Department has made arrangements for it to be paid on a Wednesday), disablement benefit (together with increases of disablement pension), maximum disablement gratuity under section 57(5) of the Act, increase of unemployability supplement under section 59 of the Act and maximum, under section 91(1) of the Act, of aggregate of weekly benefit payable for successive accidents, shall be increased in all cases with effect from 25th November 1981.

(6) In relation to the case of a person whose weekly rate of Category A or B retirement pension falls to be increased under the provisions of section 28(7) or 29(8) of the Act by reference to the weekly rate of invalidity allowance to which he was previously entitled, the increase in the sum specified for the appropriate rate of invalidity allowance shall take effect on 23rd November 1981 and in relation to all other cases the increase in such sums shall take effect on 26th November 1981.

(7) The alterations in the rates or amounts of unemployment and sickness benefit, invalidity pension, non-contributory invalidity pension and injury benefit (together with, where appropriate, increases for dependants), shall take effect in all cases on 26th November 1981.

(8) In the case of a person to whom injury benefit under the Act is payable for 25th November 1981 at a reduced weekly rate by virtue of the provisions of section 91(1) of the Act (maximum aggregate of weekly benefit payable for successive accidents), the rate of that benefit or of any sickness benefit or invalidity pension under the Act or the Pensions Order shall be determined as if the alteration in the rates of those benefits took effect on 25th November 1981 and, where appropriate, as if the reference to 26th November 1981 in paragraph (2) of this Article were a reference to 25th November 1981.

Increase in rate of benefit under the Industrial Injuries and Diseases (Northern Ireland Old Cases) Act 1975

5. With effect from and including 25th November 1981, for "£16·30" there shall be substituted "£17·75" in section 2(6)(*c*) of the Industrial Injuries and Diseases (Northern Ireland Old Cases) Act 1975(**a**) (maximum weekly rate of lesser incapacity allowance supplementing workmen's compensation).

(a) 1975 c. 17; section 2(6)(*c*) was amended by S.R. 1980 No. 294

Increase in rate of graduated retirement benefit and increments thereof

6.—(1) In the National Insurance Act (Northern Ireland) 1966(**a**) the sum of 3·54 pence referred to in section 35(1) (graduated retirement benefit) shall be increased by 9·06 per cent.; and from and including 23rd November 1981 the reference in that provision to that sum shall accordingly have effect as a reference to 3·86 pence.

(2) It is hereby directed that the aggregate amount of any increase of graduated retirement benefit payable under Schedule 2 to the Social Security (Graduated Retirement Benefit) (No. 2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1978(**b**) (increases for deferred retirement) shall be increased by 9·06 per cent.

Revocations

7. The Social Security Benefits Up-rating Order (Northern Ireland) 1980(**c**) is hereby revoked.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Health and Social Services for Northern Ireland on 14th August 1981.

(L.S.) *T. S. Martin*
Assistant Secretary

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Finance for Northern Ireland on 14th August 1981.

(L.S.) *Desmond Cole*
Assistant Secretary

(**a**) 1966 c. 6 (N.I.); section 35 was repealed by the Social Security Act 1973 c.38 but subsection (1) is now continued in force by regulation 2 of S.R. 1978 No. 105 in the modified form set out in Sch.1 to those regulations as amended by Article 6 of S.R. 1980 No. 294
(**b**) S.R. 1978 No. 105
(**c**) S.R. 1980 No. 294

SCHEDULE Article 2(2)

Schedule 4 to the Act as amended by this Order

SCHEDULE 4

Rates of Benefits, Grants and Increases for Dependants

PART I

Contributory Periodical Benefits (Sections 14-31)

Description of benefit	*Weekly rate*
1. Unemployment or sickness benefit (section 14).	£22·50
3. Invalidity allowance (section 16).	(*a*) higher rate £6·20 (*b*) middle rate £4·00 (*c*) lower rate £2·00 (the appropriate rate being determined in accordance with section 16(2)(**a**)).
4. Maternity allowance (section 22).	£22·50
5. Widow's allowance (section 24).	£41·40
9. Category B retirement pension where section 29(7)(*a*)(i) applies.	£17·75
10. Child's special allowance (section 31).	£7·70

PART II

Maternity Grant and Death Grant

Description of Grant	*Amount*
	£
1. Maternity grant (section 21)	25·00
2. Death grant (section 32), where the deceased was at his death—	
(*a*) under the age of 3	9·00
(*b*) between the ages of 3 and 6	15·00
(*c*) between the ages of 6 and 18	22·50
(*d*) over the age of 18—	
(i) if on 5th July 1948 that person had attained the age of 55 in the case of a man or 50 in the case of a woman	15·00
(ii) in any other case	30·00

(**a**) Section 16(2) was amended by para. 10 of Sch. 1 to the Social Security (Northern Ireland) Order 1979 (S.I. 1979/396 (N.I. 5))