2004 No. 273

SOCIAL SECURITY

The Income Support (General) (Standard Interest Rate Amendment No. 2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2004

Made - - - - -	*24th June 2004*
Coming into operation	*18th July 2004*

The Department for Social Development, in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 122(1)(a), 131(1) and 171(1) and (3) to (5) of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits (Northern Ireland) Act 1992(**a**), and now vested in it(**b**), and of all other powers enabling it in that behalf, hereby makes the following Regulations:

Citation, commencement and interpretation

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Income Support (General) (Standard Interest Rate Amendment No. 2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2004 and shall come into operation on 18th July 2004.

(2) These Regulations shall have effect in relation to any particular claimant –

(a) in a case where income support is paid to the claimant in arrears, in accordance with paragraph 1(a) of Schedule 2A to the Decisions and Appeals Regulations(**c**) (date on which change of circumstances takes effect in certain cases where a claimant is in receipt of income support) –

(i) from the first day of the benefit week which includes 25th July 2004, or

(ii) if the claim for income support is for a period commencing after 25th July 2004, from the first day of the first benefit week commencing after 18th July 2004;

(b) in a case where income support is paid to the claimant in advance, in accordance with paragraph 1(b) of Schedule 2A to the Decisions and Appeals Regulations, from the first day of the first benefit week commencing after 25th July 2004,

and for this purpose, the expressions "claimant" and "benefit week" have the same meanings as in regulation 2(1) of the Income Support Regulations(**d**) (interpretation).

(3) In these Regulations –

"the Decisions and Appeals Regulations" means the Social Security and Child Support (Decisions and Appeals) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1999(**e**);

"the Income Support Regulations" means the Income Support (General) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1987(**f**).

(**a**) 1992 c. 7
(**b**) *See* Article 8(b) and Part II of Schedule 6 to, S.R. 1999 No. 481
(**c**) Schedule 2A was inserted by regulation 6(22) of, and Schedule 1 to, S.R. 2000 No. 215
(**d**) The definition of "benefit week" was amended by regulation 2(a) of S.R. 1988 No. 318
(**e**) S.R. 1999 No. 162; relevant amending Regulations are S.R. 2000 No. 215
(**f**) S.R. 1987 No. 459; relevant amending Regulations are S.R. 1988 No. 318, S.R. 1995 No. 301 and S.R. 2004 No. 72

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

Amendment of Schedule 3 to the Income Support Regulations

2. In Schedule 3 to the Income Support Regulations(**b**) (housing costs), in paragraph 12(1)(a) (standard rate of interest on qualifying loans) for "5.33 per cent." there shall be substituted "5.59 per cent.".

Revocation and saving

3. The Income Support (General) (Standard Interest Rate Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2004(**c**) are hereby revoked save that those Regulations shall continue to have effect until the day before the first day of the benefit week having effect in relation to any particular claimant for the purpose of regulation 1(2) of these Regulations.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department for Social Development on 24th June 2004.

(L.S.) *John O'Neill*

A senior officer of the Department for Social Development

(**a**) 1954 c. 33 (N.I.)
(**b**) Schedule 3 was substituted by Schedule 1 to S.R. 1995 No. 301; paragraph 12 was amended by regulation 2 of S.R. 2004 No.72
(**c**) S.R. 2004 No.72

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations.)

These Regulations amend Schedule 3 to the Income Support (General) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1987, as substituted and amended, with respect to the standard rate of interest applicable to a loan which qualifies for income support under that Schedule to those Regulations. The rate is increased from 5.33 per cent. to 5.59 per cent. (regulation 2). The Regulations also revoke, with a saving provision, the Income Support (General) (Standard Interest Rate Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2004 which made the previous amendment to the standard rate of interest (regulation 3).

These Regulations make in relation to Northern Ireland only provision corresponding to provision contained in Regulations made by the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in relation to Great Britain and accordingly, by virtue of section 149(3) of, and paragraph 10 of Schedule 5 to, the Social Security Administration (Northern Ireland) Act 1992 (c. 8), are not subject to the requirement of section 149(2) of that Act for prior reference to the Social Security Advisory Committee.

These Regulations do not impose a charge on business.

Printed in the UK by The
Stationery Office Limited
under the authority and
superintendence of Carol
Tullo, Controller of
Her Majesty's Stationery
Office being the Government
Printer for Northern Ireland and
the Officer appointed to print the
Acts of the Northern Ireland Assembly

Dd. N1603. C3. 7/04. Gp. 130. 14567.

© Crown Copyright 2004

£3·00

Published by The Stationery Office Limited

ISBN 0-337-95582-4

9 780337 955822