1994 No. 100

HEALTH AND PERSONAL SOCIAL SERVICES

Optical Charges and Payments (Amendment No. 2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1994

Made	*18th March 1994*
Coming into operation . .	*1st April 1994*

The Department of Health and Social Services, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Articles 98 and 106 of, and Schedule 15 to, the Health and Personal Social Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1972(**a**) and of all other powers enabling it in that behalf, with the approval of the Department of Finance and Personnel, hereby makes the following regulations:

Citation, commencement and interpretation

1.—(1) These regulations may be cited as the Optical Charges and Payments (Amendment No. 2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1994 and shall come into operation on 1st April 1994.

(2) In these regulations, "the principal regulations" means the Optical Charges and Payments Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1989(**b**).

Amendment of regulation 2 of the principal regulations

2. In regulation 2 of the principal regulations (charges for optical appliances supplied by a Board)—

(*a*) in paragraph (3) for "£36·90" there shall be substituted "£37·80"; and

(*b*) in paragraph (5)(*b*) for "£44·60" and "£72·50" in both places where they occur there shall be substituted "£46·40" and "£75·40" respectively.

Amendment of regulation 20 of the principal regulations

3. In regulation 20 of the principal regulations (redemption value of voucher for replacement or repair)—

(*a*) in paragraph (1)(*b*) for "£36·90" there shall be substituted "£37·80"; and

(*b*) in paragraph (3) for "£9·20" there shall be substituted "£9·60".

(**a**) S.I. 1972/1265 (N.I. 14) as amended by S.I. 1984/1158 (N.I. 8) Article 3(2) and paragraph 3 of Schedule 1; S.I. 1988/2249 (N.I. 24) paragraphs 4 and 5 of Article 8, and S.I. 1991/194 (N.I. 1) Article 34 and Part II of Schedule 5; there are other amendments which are not relevant

(**b**) S.R. 1989 No. 114 as amended by S.R. 1990 No. 99, S.R. 1991 Nos. 115 and 332, S.R. 1992 Nos. 155 and 242 and S.R. 1993 No. 141

Amendment of Schedules to the principal regulations

4.—(1) In Schedule 1 to the principal regulations (voucher letter codes and face values — supply and replacement) in column 3 (face value of voucher) for each amount specified in column 1 of the Table below (old amount) there shall be substituted the amount specified in relation to it in column 2 of that Table (new amount).

TABLE

Column 1 *Old amount*	Column 2 *New amount*
£ 24·40	£ 25·50
£ 38·40	£ 39·30
£ 52·40	£ 53·60
£102·80	£105·20
£ 42·10	£ 44·00
£ 55·50	£ 56·80
£ 66·80	£ 68·40
£113·00 (in both places where it appears)	£115·70
£ 36·90	£ 37·80

(2) In Schedule 2 to the principal regulations (prisms, tints, photochromic lenses, small and special glasses and complex appliances)—

(*a*) in paragraph 1(1)(*a*) (prism — single vision lens) for "£4·70" there shall be substituted "£4·90";

(*b*) in paragraph 1(1)(*b*) (prism — other lens) for "£5·90" there shall be substituted "£6·10";

(*c*) in paragraph 1(1)(*c*) (single vision tinted lens) for "£2·40" there shall be substituted "£2·50";

(*d*) in paragraph 1(1)(*d*) (other tinted lens) for "£2·90" there shall be substituted "£3·00";

(*e*) in paragraph 1(1)(*e*) (small glasses)—

(i) in sub-head (i) for "£40·50" there shall be substituted "£42·10",

(ii) in sub-head (ii) for "£36·00" there shall be substituted "£37.40", and

(iii) in sub-head (iii) for "£19·40" there shall be substituted "£20·20";

(*f*) in paragraph 1(1)(*f*) (photochromic lenses) for "£2·40" there shall be substituted "£2·50" and for "£2·90" there shall be substituted "£3·00";

(*g*) in paragraph 1(1)(*g*) (specially manufactured frames) for "£40·50" there shall be substituted "£42·10";

(*h*) in paragraph 2(*a*) (minimum complex appliance payment — single vision lenses) for ''£4·10'' there shall be substituted ''£4·20''; and

(*i*) in paragraph 2(*b*) (minimum complex appliance payment — other cases) for ''£22·20'' there shall be substituted ''£22·70''.

(3) For Schedule 3 to the principal regulations (voucher values — repair)(**a**) there shall be substituted the Schedule 3 set out in the Schedule.

Application of regulations

5. The amendments made by regulations 2, 3 and 4 and the Schedule apply only in relation to a voucher—

(*a*) accepted or used on or after 1st April 1994 pursuant to regulation 12 or regulation 18 of the principal regulations; or

(*b*) sent to the Agency pursuant to regulation 14(2)(*c*) of the principal regulations in respect of cost incurred on or after that date.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Health and Social Services on 18th March 1994.

(L.S.) *Joan Dixon*
Assistant Secretary

The Department of Finance and Personnel hereby approves the foregoing Regulations.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Finance and Personnel on 18th March 1994.

(L.S.) *R. Miller*
Assistant Secretary

(**a**) Schedule 3 was last substituted by S.R. 1993 No. 141

SCHEDULE Regulation 4(3)

Schedule 3 to the Principal Regulations as substituted by these Regulations

SCHEDULE 3 Regulation 20(2) and (3)

Voucher Value — Repair

Nature of repair to appliance	*Letter Codes — Values* A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H & I £
Repair or replacement of one lens	7·90	14·80	22·00	47·80	17·20	23·60	29·40	53·00
Repair or replacement of two lenses	15·90	29·70	44·00	95·60	34·40	47·20	58·80	106.10
Repair or replacement of:								
the front of a frame	8·20	8·20	8·20	8·20	8·20	8·20	8·20	8·20
a side of a frame	4·80	4·80	4·80	4·80	4·80	4·80	4·80	4·80
the whole frame	9·60	9·60	9·60	9·60	9·60	9·60	9·60	9·60

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations.)

These regulations further amend the Optical Charges and Payments Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1989 ("the principal regulations") which provide for payments to be made, by means of a voucher system, in respect of costs incurred by certain categories of persons in connection with the supply, replacement and repair of optical appliances.

The regulations increase the value of vouchers issued in respect of the cost of:—

(*a*) the supply and replacement of glasses and contact lenses (regulation 4(1)); and

(*b*) the repair or replacement of appliances (regulation 4(3) and the Schedule).

The increases in voucher values range from approximately 1·3% to 5·3% (approximately 2·3% or 4·5% in the case of vouchers for the supply of optical appliances).

Regulation 2 provides for an increase in the charges for glasses and contact lenses supplied by a Board or an HSS trust.

Regulation 3 makes consequential amendments to regulation 20 of the principal regulations (redemption value of voucher for replacement or repair).

Regulation 4(2) increases the additional values for vouchers in respect of prisms, tints, photochromic lenses and special categories of appliances.