EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO

THE SOCIAL SECURITY (CLAIMS AND PAYMENTS) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2025

S.R. 2025 No. 127

1. Introduction

1.1. This Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared by the Department for Communities ("the Department") to accompany the Statutory Rule (details above), which is laid before the Northern Ireland Assembly.

1.2. The Statutory Rule is made under sections 5(1)(a) and (j), 165(1), (4), (5), (5A) and (6) of the Social Security Administration (Northern Ireland) Act 1992 and is subject to the negative resolution procedure.

2. Purpose

2.1. The Statutory Rule amends regulations 4(11), 4ZC and paragraph 2 of Schedule 8D to the Social Security (Claims and Payments) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1987 ("the Claims and Payments Regulations") to list the specified benefits in alphabetical order. These amendments are stylistic changes only and do not change the intention or purpose of the stated regulations.

2.2. The Statutory Rule also makes provision for claims to industrial injuries benefit to be made via telephone.

3. Background

3.1 Currently claims to industrial injuries benefit can be made in writing under regulation 4 of the Claims and Payments Regulations.

3.2 While there are no immediate plans to change the current service delivery for industrial injuries benefit, if the necessary processes are developed, the telephone option would sit alongside and complement the existing application method.

4. Consultation

4.1. No consultation was considered necessary as the proposed legislative changes make provision to extend available options for claimants to industrial injuries benefit in the future and no one would be disadvantaged by the changes.

5. Equality Impact

5.1. In accordance with its duty under section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, the Department has conducted a screening exercise on these legislative proposals and has concluded that the proposals do not have significant implications for equality of opportunity. In light of this, the Department considers that an equality impact assessment is not necessary.

6. Regulatory Impact

6.1. These Regulations do not require a Regulatory Impact Assessment as they do not impose a cost on business, charities, social enterprises or voluntary bodies.

7. Financial Implications

7.1. None for the Department.

8. Section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998

8.1. The Department has considered section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 and is satisfied that the Rule complies with that provision.

9. EU Implications

9.1. Not applicable

10. Parity or Replicatory Measure

10.1. The corresponding Great Britain Regulations are the Social Security (Claims and Payments) (Amendment) Regulations 2016.

11. Additional Information

11.1. Not applicable