STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

2026 No. 186

SOCIAL SECURITY

The Universal Credit, Personal Independence Payment, Jobseeker's Allowance and Employment and Support Allowance (Claims and Payments) (Amendment No. 2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026

Made - - - -	09th November 2026
Coming into operation	*30th November 2026*

The Department for Communities(**a**) makes these Regulations in exercise of the powers conferred by Sections 1(1) and 165(1), (4) and (6) of the Social Security Administration (Northern Ireland) Act 1992(**b**) and now vested in it**(c)**.

The powers are exercisable by the Department for Communities by virtue of Article 2 of the Welfare Reform (Northern Ireland) Order 2015 (Cessation of Transitory Provision) Order 2020(**d**).

Citation and commencement

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Universal Credit, Personal Independence Payment, Jobseeker's Allowance and Employment and Support Allowance (Claims and Payments) (Amendment No. 2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026 and come into operation on 30 November 2026.

Amendment of the Universal Credit, Personal Independence Payment, Jobseeker's Allowance and Employment and Support Allowance (Claims and Payments) Regulations (Northern Ireland)

2. After regulation 31A(2) (reclaims of universal credit after nil award due to earnings) of The Universal Credit, Personal Independence Payment, Jobseeker's Allowance and Employment and Support Allowance (Claims and Payments) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016(**e**) insert—

> "(3) Where, in the month that would otherwise be the fifth month for the purposes of paragraph (2), the claimant (or either of joint claimants) is a participant in a funded employment scheme, having been placed on such a scheme by the Department, the

(**a**) The Department for Social Development was renamed the Department for Communities in accordance with section 1(7) of the Departments Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 (c. 5 (N.I.))
(**b**) 1992 (c. 8). Regulation 165(1) was amended by paragraph 49(2) of Schedule 3 to the Social Security Contributions (Transfer of Functions, etc.) (Northern Ireland) Order 1999 (S.I.1999/671) and section 18(5) of the National Insurance Contributions Act 2014 (2014 c. 7). Section 165(6) was amended by S.I.1998/1506 (N.I. 10), S.R.1999 No. 371 (c. 28), S.R.1999 No. 407 (c. 31), S.R.1999 No. 428 (c. 32), S.R.1999 No. 472 (c. 36),
(**c**) See Article 8(b) of S.R. 1999 No. 481
(**d**) S.I. 2020/927
(**e**) S.R. 2016 No. 220. Regulation 31A was inserted by regulation 3 of S.R.2020 No.85

maximum of 5 months referred to in that paragraph is to be extended up to and including the first month in which the claimant is not (or in the case of joint claimants neither of them is) a participant in the scheme.

(4) In this regulation "funded employment scheme" means a scheme under which the wages of the claimant are funded, in whole or in part, pursuant to arrangements by the Department under section 1(1) of the Employment and Training Act (Northern Ireland) 1950(**a**).".

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department for Communities on 09 November 2026

(L.S.)

David Tarr
A senior officer of the Department for Communities

Explanatory Note

(This is not part of the Regulations)

These Regulations amend the Universal Credit, Personal Independence Payment, Jobseeker's Allowance and Employment and Support Allowance (Claims and Payments) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016 (S.R. 2016 No. 220) so as to make provision for reclaims of universal credit for claimants taking part in a funded employment scheme.

Regulation 31A of the Universal Credit, Personal Independence Payment, Jobseeker's Allowance and Employment and Support Allowance (Claims and Payments) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016 allows a person to be treated as claiming universal credit for up to 5 months after the assessment period in which their earnings cause them to lose entitlement. Regulation 2 of these Regulations extends that period while the claimant, or either of joint claimants, is participating in a funded employment scheme. This will allow them to be automatically re-awarded universal credit if the earnings from the scheme have ceased.

These Regulations make in relation to Northern Ireland 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.

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(**a**) 1950 c. 29. Section 1(1) was amended by paragraph 26 of Schedule 6 to the Departments (Transfer of Functions) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016 (S.R.2016 No. 76)

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