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STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

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**2000 No. 350**

**SOCIAL SECURITY**

**The Jobseeker's Allowance (Joint Claims)  
Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2000**

*Made* - - - - *17th November 2000*

*Coming into operation* *19th March 2001*

The Department for Social Development, in exercise of the powers conferred by Articles 3(2C), (2D) and (4), 5(1)(f)(iii) and (2), 5A(1)(e)(ii), 6(5), 10(1A)(a) to (c) and (2), 11(1) and (10), 14(1), (2) and (4)(a) and (b), 15(2A), 19(1A), 21(8) and (10), 22(3), (4), (6) and (8), 22A(3), (5)(b), (6) and (8), 22B(3) to (8) and 36(2) of, and paragraphs 1, 4, 5 and 8A(1) and (2), 9, 9A to 9D and 10(1) to (4), 11(2), 12 and 15 of Schedule 1 to, the Jobseekers (Northern Ireland) Order 1995(1), sections 167D and 171(3) of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits (Northern Ireland) Act 1992(2) and Articles 69(1) and 73(4) of the Welfare Reform and Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 1999(3), and now vested in it(4), and of all other powers enabling it in that behalf, hereby makes the following Regulations:

**Citation, commencement and interpretation**

1.—(1) These Regulations shall be cited as the Jobseeker's Allowance (Joint Claims) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2000 and shall come into operation on 19th March 2001.

(2) In these Regulations, “the principal Regulations” means the Jobseeker's Allowance Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1996(5).

(3) The Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954(6) shall apply to these Regulations as it applies to an Act of the Assembly.

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- (1) S.I.1995/2705 (N.I. 15); Articles 3(2C) and (2D), 5A, 10(1A), 15(2A), 19(1A), 22A, 22B, and paragraphs 8A and 9A to 9D of Schedule 1 were inserted, and Article 3(4) and paragraph 10 of Schedule 1 were amended, by Schedule 7 to the Welfare Reform and Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 1999 (S.I. 1999/3147 (N.I. 11))
- (2) 1992 c. 7; section 167D was inserted by Article 8(1) of the Social Security (Incapacity for Work) (Northern Ireland) Order 1994 (S.I. 1994/1898 (N.I. 12))
- (3) S.I. 1999/3147 (N.I. 11)
- (4) See Article 8(b) of S.R. 1999 No. 481
- (5) S.R. 1996 No. 198; relevant amending Regulations are S.R. 1996 Nos. 356, and 358, S.R. 1997 Nos. 22, 165, 435 and 541, S.R. 1998 Nos. 2, 182, 198 and 326, S.R. 1999 Nos. 391 and 428 and S.R. 2000 No. 9
- (6) 1954 c. 33 (N.I.)

## **Amendment of the principal Regulations**

- 2.—(1) The principal Regulations shall be amended in accordance with paragraphs (2) to (5).  
(2) After Part I there shall be inserted the following Part—

### **“Part IA**

#### **Joint-Claim Couples**

##### **Prescribed description of a joint-claim couple for the purposes of Article 3(4)**

**3A.**—(1) For the purposes of Article 3(4) of the Order (entitlement), a joint-claim couple shall include any joint-claim couple within the meaning given in Article 3(4) of the Order where at least one member was born after 19th March 1976, unless a member of the couple is treated as responsible for a child or young person under regulation 77(3) (circumstances in which a person is to be treated as responsible or not responsible for another), or the couple has care of a child or young person in one or more of the circumstances mentioned in regulation 78(4)(7) (circumstances in which a person is to be treated as being or not being a member of the household), or a child or young person is living with either member of the couple in the circumstances mentioned in regulation 78(8).

(2) In a case where a person would (but for these Regulations) be a member of more than one joint-claim couple, a joint-claim couple means the couple of which he is a member which that person nominates (or in default of such nomination, which the Department nominates), to the exclusion of any other couple of which he is a member.

##### **Entitlement of a former joint-claim couple to a jobseeker’s allowance**

**3B.**—(1) Where a joint-claim couple cease to be a joint-claim couple because they become, or are treated as, responsible for one or more children—

- (a) any claim made by both members of that couple for a jobseeker’s allowance may be treated as a claim for a jobseeker’s allowance made by either member of that couple;
- (b) any award of a joint-claim jobseeker’s allowance in respect of that couple may be terminated and may be replaced by a replacement award,

where the conditions specified in paragraph (2) have been complied with.

(2) The conditions specified in this paragraph are that a member of the couple—

- (a) provides such evidence as the Department may require confirming that the couple are responsible for one or more children, and
- (b) advises the Department as to which member of the couple is to be the claimant.

(3) The claim by a member of the couple for a jobseeker’s allowance referred to in paragraph (1)(a) shall be treated as made on the date on which he and his partner were treated as having claimed a jobseeker’s allowance as a joint-claim couple as determined in accordance with regulation 6 of the Claims and Payments Regulations(8).

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(7) Regulation 78(4)(a) and (b) was substituted by regulation 8(4)(a) of S.R. 1998 No. 2

(8) Regulation 6 was amended by S.R. 1988 No. 141, S.R. 1989 No. 398, S.R. 1990 No. 137, S.R. 1992 No. 7 and S.R. 1997 No. 156

(4) In this regulation, “replacement award” shall have the meaning ascribed to it by paragraph 9A(9) of Schedule 1 to the Order (continuity of claims and awards: persons ceasing to be a joint-claim couple).

### **Entitlement of a new joint-claim couple to a jobseeker’s allowance**

**3C.**—(1) Paragraph (2) shall apply where a couple become a joint-claim couple because the child, or all the children, for which they were responsible have—

- (a) died;
- (b) ceased to be a child or children for whom they are responsible, or
- (c) reached the age of 16 and are no longer receiving full-time education for the purposes of section 138 of the Benefits Act.

(2) In a case to which this paragraph applies—

- (a) any claim made by either member of that couple for a jobseeker’s allowance may be treated as a claim made by both members of the couple;
- (b) any award of an income-based jobseeker’s allowance, or a replacement award, in respect of either member of that couple may be terminated and may be replaced by a new award in respect of the couple,

where the conditions specified in paragraph (3) have been complied with.

(3) The conditions specified in this paragraph are that the Department—

- (a) has sufficient evidence to decide whether a new award should be made, and
- (b) is informed as to which member of the couple is to be the nominated member for the purposes of Article 5B(10) of the Order (joint-claim couples: the nominated member).

(4) The claim by both members of the joint-claim couple for a jobseeker’s allowance referred to in paragraph (2)(a) shall be treated as made on the date on which the claim by a member of that couple was treated as made in accordance with regulation 6 of the Claims and Payments Regulations.

(5) For the purposes of paragraphs 6 and 7 of Schedule 2 (housing costs), any award of an income-based jobseeker’s allowance which related to the day before the day on which the relevant event specified in paragraph (1) occurred and any new award referred to in paragraph (2)(b) shall be treated as a continuous award of an income-based jobseeker’s allowance.

(6) In this regulation, “new award” shall have the meaning ascribed to it by paragraph 9C(11) of Schedule 1 to the Order (continuity of claims and awards: couple becoming a joint-claim couple).

(7) In this regulation, “replacement award” shall have the meaning ascribed to it by paragraph 9A of Schedule 1 to the Order (continuity of claims and awards: persons ceasing to be a joint-claim couple).

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(9) Paragraph 9A was inserted by paragraph 16(4) of Schedule 7 to the Welfare Reform and Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 1999

(10) Article 5B was inserted by paragraph 5(2) of Schedule 7 to the Welfare Reform and Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 1999

(11) Paragraph 9C was inserted by paragraph 16(4) of Schedule 7 to the Welfare Reform and Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 1999

### **Further circumstances in which a joint-claim couple may be entitled to a joint-claim jobseeker's allowance**

**3D.**—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), a joint-claim couple are entitled to a joint-claim jobseeker's allowance where—

- (a) the members of that couple claim a jobseeker's allowance jointly;
- (b) one member satisfies the conditions set out in Article 3(2)(a) to (c) and (e) to (i) of the Order (entitlement), and
- (c) the other member—
  - (i) does not satisfy the conditions set out in Article 3(2)(a) to (c) of the Order;
  - (ii) satisfies the conditions set out in Article 3(2)(e) and (h) of the Order, and
  - (iii) subject to paragraph (3), is a person to whom any paragraph of Schedule A1(12) applies, and
- (d) the conditions set out in Article 5A(13) of the Order (the conditions for claims by joint-claim couples) are satisfied in relation to the couple.

(2) A member of a joint-claim couple who falls within any paragraph in Schedule A1 for the purposes of this regulation for any day in a benefit week shall fall within that category for the whole of that week.

(3) Subject to paragraph (4), paragraph 2 of Schedule A1 (students) may only apply to a member of a joint-claim couple in respect of one claim for a jobseeker's allowance made jointly by that couple in respect of a jobseeking period applying to the other member of that couple.

(4) Notwithstanding paragraph (3), paragraph 2 of Schedule A1 may apply to a member of a joint-claim couple in respect of a further claim for a jobseeker's allowance made jointly by the couple where the couple's previous entitlement to a joint-claim jobseeker's allowance ceased because one member of the couple—

- (a) was engaged in remunerative work;
- (b) had been summoned to jury service, or
- (c) was within a linked period as prescribed in regulation 48(2)(14) (linking periods).

### **Entitlement of a member of a joint-claim couple to a jobseeker's allowance without a claim being made jointly by the couple**

**3E.**—(1) A member of a joint-claim couple is entitled to a jobseeker's allowance if, without making a claim jointly for that allowance with the other member of the couple—

- (a) he satisfies the conditions set out in Article 3(2)(a) to (c) and (e) to (i) of the Order;
- (b) he satisfies the conditions set out in Article 5 of the Order (the income-based conditions), and
- (c) the other member of that couple fails to meet the conditions of entitlement set out in Article 3(2B)(b)(15) of the Order (entitlement to jobseeker's allowance) and is a person to whom paragraph (2) applies.

(2) This paragraph applies to a member of a joint-claim—

- (a) who has failed to attend at the time and place specified by an employment officer for the purposes of regulation 6 of the Claims and Payments Regulations;

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(12) (b) Schedule A1 is inserted by regulation 2(4) of these Regulations

(13) Article 5A was inserted by paragraph 5(2) of Schedule 7 to the Welfare Reform and Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 1999

(14) Regulation 48(2) was amended by S.R. 1996 No. 503 and S.R. 1997 No. 541

(15) Article 3(2B) was inserted by paragraph 3(3) of Schedule 7 to the Welfare Reform and Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 1999

- (b) in respect of whom it has been determined by the Department that the conditions in Article 3(2)(a) to (c) of the Order have not been satisfied but only for so long as it has been so determined in respect of that member;
- (c) who is temporarily absent from Northern Ireland;
- (d) who is a person from abroad as defined for the purposes of regulation 85 and Schedule 4;
- (e) who is subject to immigration control within the meaning of section 115(9) of the Immigration and Asylum Act(16);
- (f) who is over pensionable age;
- (g) who is engaged, or has agreed to be engaged, in remunerative work for more than 16 hours per week but less than 24 hours per week;
- (h) who has claimed a maternity allowance payable in accordance with section 35 of the Benefits Act or who has claimed statutory maternity pay payable in accordance with Part XII of that Act;
- (i) who is or has been pregnant and to whom sub-paragraph (h) does not apply but only for the period commencing 11 weeks before the expected week of confinement and ending 7 weeks after the date on which the pregnancy ends;
- (j) in respect of whom there is an order under section 155 of the Administration Act(17) (reciprocal agreements with countries outside the United Kingdom) giving effect to a reciprocal agreement which, for the purposes of jobseeker's allowance, has effect as if a payment made by another country is to be treated as a payment of a jobseeker's allowance, or
- (k) who is in receipt of statutory sick pay and who, immediately before he became incapable of work, was engaged in remunerative work for more than 16 hours per week.

**Transitional case couples: prescribed circumstances and period for the purposes of paragraph 8A(2) of Schedule 1 to the Order**

**3F.** A transitional case couple shall be entitled to a joint-claim jobseeker's allowance without having made a claim for it jointly for the period beginning on, and including, the day on which Article 56 of, and Schedule 7 to, the Welfare Reform and Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 1999 comes into operation(18) and ending on the day on which the member of the transitional case couple who was not entitled to an income-based jobseeker's allowance on the coming into operation of that Schedule is required to attend at a place specified by an employment officer in a notification given or sent to that member.

**Supply of information**

**3G.** Where a claim for a jobseeker's allowance has been made jointly by a joint-claim couple, information relating to that claim may be supplied by the Department to either or both members of that couple for any purpose connected with that claim.”

- (3) After Part IX (hardship) there shall be inserted the following Part—

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(16) 1999 c. 33

(17) 1992 c. 8

(18) Article 56 and Schedule 7 comes into operation on 19th March 2001

## “Part IXA

### Hardship for Joint-Claim Couples

#### Meaning of “couple in hardship”

**146A.**—(1) In this Part, a “couple in hardship” means for the purposes of regulation 146C (circumstances in which a joint-claim jobseeker’s allowance is payable where a joint-claim couple is a couple in hardship) a joint-claim couple who are claiming a jobseeker’s allowance jointly, other than a couple which includes a member to whom paragraph (3) or (4) applies where—

- (a) the woman member of the joint-claim couple is pregnant and the Department is satisfied that, unless a joint-claim jobseeker’s allowance is paid, she will suffer hardship;
- (b) one or both members of the couple are members of a polygamous marriage, one member of the marriage is pregnant and the Department is satisfied that, unless a joint-claim jobseeker’s allowance is paid, she will suffer hardship;
- (c) the award of a joint-claim jobseeker’s allowance includes, or would, if a claim for a jobseeker’s allowance from the couple were to succeed, have included in their applicable amount a disability premium and—
  - (i) where the couple have an award, a joint-claim jobseeker’s allowance is not payable either because it is suspended or because Article 22A(19) of the Order (denial or reduction of joint-claim jobseeker’s allowance) applies in the couple’s case, and
  - (ii) the Department is satisfied that, unless a joint-claim jobseeker’s allowance is paid, the member of the couple who would have caused the disability premium to be applicable to the couple would suffer hardship;
- (d) either member of the couple suffers from a chronic medical condition which results in functional capacity being limited or restricted by physical impairment and the Department is satisfied that—
  - (i) the suffering has already lasted or is likely to last, for not less than 26 weeks, and
  - (ii) unless a joint-claim jobseeker’s allowance is paid, the probability is that the health of the person suffering would, within 2 weeks of the Department making its decision, decline further than that of a normally healthy adult and the member of the couple who suffers from that condition would suffer hardship;
- (e) either member of the couple, or where a member of that couple is married to more than one person under a law which permits polygamy, one member of that marriage, devotes a considerable portion of each week to caring for another person who—
  - (i) is in receipt of an attendance allowance or the care component of disability living allowance at one of the two higher rates prescribed under section 72(4) of the Benefits Act (the care component);
  - (ii) has claimed either attendance allowance or disability living allowance, but only for so long as the claim has not been determined, or for 26 weeks from the date of claiming, whichever is the earlier, or
  - (iii) has claimed either attendance allowance or disability living allowance and has an award of either attendance allowance or the care component of disability

living allowance at one of the two higher rates prescribed under section 72(4) of the Benefits Act for a period commencing after the date on which that claim was made,

and the Department is satisfied, after taking account of the factors set out in paragraph (6) in so far as they are appropriate to the particular circumstances of the case, that the person providing the care will not be able to continue doing so unless a joint-claim jobseeker's allowance is paid;

- (f) Article 18 of the Order (severe hardship) applies to either member of the couple by virtue of a direction issued by the Department, except where the member of the joint-claim couple to whom the direction applies does not satisfy the requirements of Article 3(2)(a) to (c) of the Order;
- (g) Article 5A(1)(e)(ii) of the Order<sup>(20)</sup> (member of joint-claim couple under the age of 18) applies to either member of the couple and the Department is satisfied that unless a joint-claim jobseeker's allowance is paid, the couple will suffer hardship, or
- (h) one or both members of the couple is a person—
  - (i) who, pursuant to the Children Order, was being looked after by an authority, as defined in Article 2 of that Order;
  - (ii) with whom the authority had a duty, pursuant to that Order, to take reasonable steps to keep in touch, or
  - (iii) who, pursuant to that Order, qualified for advice or assistance from an authority, but in respect of whom head (i), (ii) or, as the case may be, (iii) had not applied for a period of 3 years or less as at the date on which the requirements of regulation 146F are complied with, and
  - (iv) as at the date on which the requirements of regulation 146F are complied with, that member is, or both of those members are, under the age of 21.

(2) Except in a case to which paragraph (3), (4) or (5) applies, a “couple in hardship” means for the purposes of regulation 146D, a joint-claim couple where the Department is satisfied, after taking account of the factors set out in paragraph (6) in so far as they are appropriate to the particular circumstances of the case, that the couple will suffer hardship unless a joint-claim jobseeker's allowance is paid.

(3) In paragraph (1) and (2), a “couple in hardship” does not include a couple one of whose members is entitled to income support or who falls within a category of persons prescribed for the purposes of section 123(1)(e) of the Benefits Act<sup>(21)</sup> (income support).

(4) Paragraph (1)(e) shall not apply in a case where the person being cared for resides in a residential care or nursing home.

(5) In paragraph (2), a “couple in hardship” does not include a joint-claim couple where Article 22A(2)(b) or (c)<sup>(22)</sup> of the Order (denial or reduction of joint-claim jobseeker's allowance) applies to either or both members by virtue of any act or omission relating to a New Deal option.

(6) Factors which, for the purposes of paragraphs (1) and (2), the Department is to take into account in determining whether a joint-claim couple will suffer hardship are—

- (a) the presence in the joint-claim couple of a person who satisfies the requirements for a disability premium specified in paragraphs 20H (additional conditions for

<sup>(20)</sup> Article 5A was inserted by paragraph 5(2) of Schedule 7 to the Welfare Reform and Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 1999

<sup>(21)</sup> Paragraph 1(e) was inserted by paragraph 13(5) of Schedule 2 to the Jobseekers (Northern Ireland) Order 1995

<sup>(22)</sup> Article 22A was inserted by paragraph 14 of Schedule 7 to the Welfare Reform and Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 1999

higher pensioner and disability premium) and 20I (severe disability premium) of Schedule 1;

- (b) the resources which, without a joint-claim jobseeker's allowance, are likely to be available to the joint-claim couple, the amount by which these resources fall short of the amount applicable in their case in accordance with regulation 146G (applicable amount in hardship cases for joint-claim couples), the amount of any resources which may be available to the joint-claim couple from any person in the couple's household who is not a member of the family and the length of time for which those factors are likely to persist;
- (c) whether there is a substantial risk that essential items, including food, clothing, heating and accommodation, will cease to be available to the joint-claim couple, or will be available at considerably reduced levels, the hardship that will result and the length of time those factors are likely to persist.

### **Period when a joint-claim couple is not in hardship**

**146B.**—(1) A joint-claim couple which is not a couple in hardship by virtue of regulation 146A(5) shall not be a couple in hardship throughout the period beginning on, and including, the day on which a New Deal decision has effect by virtue of regulation 69(23) or, as the case may be, by virtue of regulation 7(8)(24) of the Social Security and Child Support (Decisions and Appeals) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1999(25) in relation to either or both members of that couple and ending—

- (a) on the last day on which a member is required to participate in a New Deal option, or
- (b) on the day which is 14 days after the day on which the New Deal decision had effect,

whichever is the later.

(2) Where a joint-claim couple who are not a couple in hardship by virtue of regulation 146A(5) was a couple in hardship for the purposes of regulation 146D immediately before the commencement of the period referred to in paragraph (1), that couple shall, subject to paragraph (3), again become a couple in hardship for the purposes of regulation 146D on the day following the expiration of that period.

(3) A joint-claim couple to whom paragraph (2) applies shall not again become a couple in hardship for the purposes of regulation 146D if—

- (a) the day following the day the period referred to in paragraph (1) expires is a day within a period in respect of which a subsequent New Deal decision applies by virtue of paragraph (1), or
- (b) on the day following the expiration of the period referred to in paragraph (1), they are not a couple in hardship for the purposes of regulation 146D.

(4) In this regulation, “New Deal decision” means a decision that Article 22A(2)(b) or (c) of the Order (circumstances in which a jobseeker's allowance is not payable) applies to a member of a joint-claim couple by virtue of an act or omission relating to one of the New Deal options.

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(23) Regulation 69 was substituted by regulation 2(3) of S.R. 2000 No. 9

(24) Paragraph (8) was substituted by regulation 3(4) of S.R. 1999 No. 408

(25) S.R. 1999 No. 162



**Circumstances in which a joint-claim jobseeker's allowance is payable where a joint-claim couple is a couple in hardship**

**146C.**—(1) This regulation applies where a joint-claim couple is a couple in hardship within the meaning of regulation 146A(1) and is subject to the provisions of regulations 146E and 146F.

(2) Subject to paragraph (3), a couple in hardship referred to in paragraph (1), other than a couple in hardship where either or both members are persons to whom regulation 46(1) (waiting days) applies, shall be treated as entitled to a joint-claim jobseeker's allowance for the period—

- (a) beginning with, and including, the 4th day of the jobseeking period or, if later, from, and including, the day the couple first becomes a couple in hardship, and
- (b) ending on the day before the claim is determined,

where the sole reason for the claim being determined on that day and not earlier is that a question arises as to whether either or both members satisfy the conditions of entitlement in Article 3(2)(a) to (c) of the Order provided the joint-claim couple satisfy the conditions set out in Article 3(2B)(c) of the Order.

(3) A couple in hardship to whom paragraph (2) applies may be treated as entitled to a joint-claim jobseeker's allowance for a period after the date referred to in that paragraph which is applicable in their case but before the date of the statement referred to in regulation 146E(1) is furnished where the Department is satisfied that that couple suffered hardship because of lack of resources during that period.

(4) A couple in hardship, except where either or both members have been treated as not available for employment in accordance with regulations under Article 8(4) of the Order (availability for employment) shall, subject to the conditions specified in regulation 146E (conditions for hardship payments), be entitled to a joint-claim jobseeker's allowance without both members satisfying the requirements of Article 3(2)(a) to (c) of the Order provided the joint-claim couple satisfy the other conditions of entitlement to that benefit.

(5) A joint-claim jobseeker's allowance shall be payable to a joint-claim couple who are a couple in hardship even though payment to the couple of a joint-claim jobseeker's allowance has been suspended in accordance with regulations made under Article 21 of the 1998 Order (suspension in prescribed circumstances) on the ground that a doubt has arisen as to whether either joint-claimant satisfies the requirements of Article 3(2)(a) to (c) of the Order, but the allowance shall be payable only if and for so long as—

- (a) the joint-claim couple satisfy the other conditions of entitlement to a joint-claim jobseeker's allowance, or
- (b) one member satisfies those conditions and the other member comes within any paragraph in Schedule A1 (categories of members not required to satisfy conditions in Article 3(2B)(b) of the Order).

(6) A joint-claim jobseeker's allowance shall be payable to a couple in hardship even though Article 22A(5)(a) of the Order (denial of joint-claim jobseeker's allowance) prevents payment of a joint-claim jobseeker's allowance to the couple or Article 22A(5)(b) of the Order (reduction of joint-claim jobseeker's allowance) reduces the amount of a joint-claim jobseeker's allowance payable to the couple but the allowance shall be payable only if and for so long as—

- (a) the joint-claim couple satisfy the other conditions of entitlement to a joint-claim jobseeker's allowance, or

- (b) one member satisfies those conditions and the other member comes within any paragraph in Schedule A1 (categories of members not required to satisfy conditions in Article 3(2B)(b) of the Order).

**Further circumstances in which a joint-claim jobseeker's allowance is payable to a couple in hardship**

**146D.**—(1) This regulation applies to a couple in hardship falling within paragraph (2) but not paragraph (1) of regulation 146A and is subject to the provisions of regulations 146E and 146F.

(2) A couple in hardship shall be treated as entitled to a joint-claim jobseeker's allowance for a period commencing on, and including, whichever is the later of—

- (a) the 15th day following the date of claim disregarding any waiting days, or
- (b) the day on which regulation 146E is complied with,

and ending on the day before the claim is determined where the sole reason for the claim being determined on that day and not earlier is that a question arises as to whether either or both members of that couple satisfy the conditions of entitlement in Article 3(2)(a) to (c) of the Order provided the joint-claim couple satisfy the conditions set out in Article 3(2B)(c) of the Order.

(3) A joint-claim jobseeker's allowance shall be payable, subject to paragraph (4), to a couple in hardship even though payment to them of a joint-claim jobseeker's allowance has been suspended in accordance with regulations made under Article 21 of the 1998 Order (suspension and termination of benefit) on the ground that a doubt has arisen as to whether either or both members of that couple satisfy the requirements of Article 3(2)(a) to (c) of the Order but the allowance shall be payable only if and for so long as—

- (a) the joint-claim couple satisfy the other conditions of entitlement to a joint-claim jobseeker's allowance, or
- (b) one member satisfies those conditions and the other member comes within any paragraph in Schedule A1 (categories of members not required to satisfy conditions in Article 3(2B)(b) of the Order).

(4) A joint-claim jobseeker's allowance shall not be payable in respect of the first 14 days of the period of suspension.

(5) A joint-claim jobseeker's allowance shall be payable to a couple in hardship even though Article 22A(5)(a) of the Order (denial or reduction of joint-claim jobseeker's allowance) prevents payment of a joint-claim jobseeker's allowance to them or Article 22A(5)(b) of the Order (reduction of joint-claim jobseeker's allowance) reduces the amount of a joint-claim jobseeker's allowance payable to them but the allowance—

- (a) shall not be payable under this paragraph in respect of the first 14 days of the period to which Article 22A of the Order applies, and
- (b) shall be payable thereafter only where the conditions of entitlement to a joint-claim jobseeker's allowance are satisfied or where one member satisfies those conditions and the other member comes within any paragraph in Schedule A1 (categories of members not required to satisfy conditions in Article 3(2B)(b) of the Order).

**Conditions for hardship payments to a joint-claim couple**

**146E.**—(1) A joint-claim jobseeker's allowance shall not be payable in accordance with regulation 146C or, as the case may be, 146D, except where either member of the joint-claim couple has—

- (a) furnished on a form approved for the purpose by the Department or in such other form as it may in any particular case approve, a statement of the circumstances he relies upon to establish entitlement under regulation 146C or, as the case may be, regulation 146D, and
  - (b) signed the statement.
- (2) The completed and signed form shall be delivered by either member to such office as the Department may specify.

### **Provision of information**

**146F.** For the purposes of Article 22B(5) of, and paragraph 10(3) of Schedule 1 to, the Order, a member of a joint-claim couple shall provide to the Department information as to the circumstances of the alleged hardship of that couple.

### **Applicable amount in hardship cases for joint-claim couples**

**146G.**—(1) The weekly applicable amount of the joint-claim couple to whom a joint-claim jobseeker's allowance is payable in accordance with this Part shall be reduced by a sum equivalent to 40% or, in a case where a member of the joint-claim couple is either pregnant or seriously ill or where a member of the joint-claim couple is a member of a polygamous marriage and one of the members of that marriage is pregnant or seriously ill, 20% of the following amount—

- (a) where one member of the joint-claim couple or of the polygamous marriage is aged not less than 18 but less than 25 and the other member or, in the case of a polygamous marriage, each other member, is a person under 18 to whom Article 5A(1)(e)(ii) of the Order applies or is not subject to a direction under Article 18 of the Order (severe hardship), the amount specified in paragraph 1(1)(d) of Schedule 1,
- (b) where one member of the joint-claim couple or of the polygamous marriage (other than a member of a couple or polygamous marriage to whom sub-paragraph (a) applies) at least one of whom is aged not less than 18, the amount specified in paragraph 1(1)(e) of Schedule 1.

(2) A reduction under paragraph (1) shall, if it is not a multiple of 5p, be rounded to the nearest such multiple or, if it is a multiple of 2.5p but not of 5p, to the next lower multiple of 5p.

### **Payments made on account of suspended benefit**

**146H.**—(1) This regulation applies to a joint-claim couple to whom—

- (a) payments of a joint-claim jobseeker's allowance have been suspended in accordance with regulations made under Article 21 of the 1998 Order,
- (b) a joint-claim jobseeker's allowance is paid under regulation 146C or 146D.

(2) In the case of a joint-claim couple to whom—

- (a) this regulation applies, and
- (b) payments in respect of the benefit suspended fall to be made,

any benefit paid or payable by virtue of regulation 146C(5) or 146D(3) shall be treated as having been paid on account of the suspended benefit and only the balance of the suspended benefit, if any, shall be payable.”.

- (4) Before Schedule 1, there shall be inserted the Schedule at Schedule 1 to these Regulations.
- (5) The principal Regulations shall be further amended in accordance with Schedule 2.

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**Status:** This is the original version (as it was originally made). This item of legislation is currently only available in its original format.

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Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department for Social Development on 17th November 2000.

*John O'Neill*  
Senior Officer of the  
Department for Social Development

SCHEDULE 1

Regulation 2(4)

“SCHEDULE A1

Regulation 3D(1)(c)(iii)

**Categories of Members of a Joint-claim couple who are not required to satisfy the conditions in Article 3(2B)(b) of the Order**

**Interpretation**

1. In this Schedule, “member” means a member of a joint-claim couple.

**Member studying full-time**

- 2.—(1) A member who, at the date of claim—
  - (a) is aged 16 or over but under 19 and is receiving full-time education for the purposes of section 138 of the Benefits Act (meaning of child);
  - (b) is a full-time student;
  - (c) has applied to an educational establishment to commence a full-time course of study commencing from the beginning of the next academic term or, as the case may be, the next academic year after the date of claim and that application has not been rejected, or
  - (d) has been allocated a place on a full-time course of study commencing from the beginning of the next academic term or, as the case may be, the next academic year.
- (2) A member to whom sub-paragraph (1) applies and who has applied to an educational establishment to commence a full-time course of study—
  - (a) within one month of the last day of a previous course of study, or
  - (b) within one month of the day on which the member received examination results relating to a previous course of study,

but this sub-paragraph shall not apply in respect of an application to commence a course of study beyond a first degree course or a comparable course.

- (3) A member to whom any provision of regulation 13(2)(b) to (e) of the Income Support Regulations(26) (persons receiving relevant education who are severely handicapped, orphans and persons estranged from their parents or guardian) applies.

**Member caring for another person**

3. A member (the carer)—
  - (a) who is regularly and substantially engaged in caring for another person if—
    - (i) the person being cared for is in receipt of attendance allowance or the care component of disability living allowance at the highest or middle rate prescribed in accordance with section 72(3) of the Benefits Act (the care component), or
    - (ii) the person being cared for has claimed attendance allowance but only for the period up to the date of determination of that claim, or the period of 26 weeks from the date of that claim, whichever date is the earlier, or
    - (iii) the person being cared for has claimed attendance allowance in accordance with section 65(6)(a) of the Benefits Act (claims in advance of entitlement), an award has been made in respect of that claim under section 65(6)(b) of that Act and, where

(26) Regulation 13 was amended by S.R. 1989 No. 249, S.R. 1991 No. 46 and S.R. 1998

the period for which the award is payable has begun, that person is in receipt of the allowance;

(iv) the person being cared for has claimed entitlement to a disability living allowance but only for the period up to the date of determination of that claim, or the period of 26 weeks from the date of that claim, whichever date is the earlier, or

(v) the person being cared for has claimed entitlement to the care component of a disability living allowance in accordance with regulation 13A(27) of the Claims and Payments Regulations (advance claims and awards), an award at the highest or middle rate has been made in respect of that claim and, where the period for which the award is payable has begun, that person is in receipt of the allowance;

(b) who is engaged in caring for another person and who is both entitled to, and in receipt of, an invalid care allowance.

4. A member to whom paragraph 3 applied, but only for a period of 8 weeks from the date on which that paragraph ceased to apply to him.

5. A member who, had he previously made a claim for, and had been entitled to, a jobseeker's allowance, would have fulfilled the conditions of paragraph 3, but only for a period of 8 weeks from the date on which he ceased to fulfil those conditions.

#### **Member incapable of work**

6. A member who—

(a) is incapable of work in accordance with the provisions of Part XIIA of the Benefits Act(28) and the regulations made thereunder (incapacity for work);

(b) is treated as incapable of work by virtue of regulations made under section 167D of that Act (persons to be treated as incapable or capable of work);

(c) is treated as capable of work by virtue of regulations made under section 167E(1) of that Act (disqualification etc.), or

(d) is entitled to statutory sick pay.

#### **Members in employment living in residential care homes, nursing homes or residential accommodation**

7. A member to whom regulation 53(c) (persons treated as not engaged in remunerative work) applies.

#### **Disabled workers**

8. A member to whom regulation 53(h) (persons treated as not engaged in remunerative work) applies.

#### **Disabled students**

9. A member who is a student and—

(a) if he were a single claimant, his applicable amount would have included the disability premium or severe disability premium, or

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(27) Regulation 13A was added by regulation 7(1) of S.R. 1992 No. 7

(28) Part XIIA, including sections 167D and 167E, of the Benefits Act were inserted by Article 8 of the Social Security (Incapacity for Work) (Northern Ireland) Order 1994 (S.I. 1994/1898 (N.I. 12))

- (b) who has satisfied the provisions of paragraph 6 for a continuous period of not less than 196 days, and for this purpose any 2 or more separate periods separated by a break of not more than 56 days shall be treated as one continuous period.

### **Deaf Students**

10. A member who is a student in respect of whom—
- (a) a supplementary requirement has been determined under paragraph 9 of Schedule 6 to the Students Awards Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1999<sup>(29)</sup> or a payment has been made under Article 50(3) of the Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 1986<sup>(30)</sup>;
  - (b) a grant has been made under regulation 13 of the Education (Student Support) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2000<sup>(31)</sup> or under regulation 13 of the Education (Student Support) Regulations 2000<sup>(32)</sup>;
  - (c) a payment has been made under section 2 of the Education Act 1962<sup>(33)</sup>;
  - (d) a supplementary requirement has been determined under paragraph 9 of Part II of Schedule 2 to the Education (Mandatory Awards) Regulations 1999<sup>(34)</sup>, or
  - (e) an allowance or, as the case may be, bursary has been granted which includes a sum under paragraph (1)(d) of regulation 4 of the Students' Allowances (Scotland) Regulations 1999<sup>(35)</sup> or, as the case may be, under paragraph (1)(d) of regulation 4 of the Education Authority (Bursaries) (Scotland) Regulations 1995, in respect of expenses incurred,

on account of his disability by reason of deafness.

### **Blind members**

11. A member who is registered as blind with a Health and Social Services Board established under Article 16 of the 1972 Order, but a person who has ceased to be registered as blind on regaining his eyesight shall nevertheless be treated as so registered for a period of 28 weeks following the date on which he ceased to be so registered.

### **Pregnancy**

12. A member who is a woman and who is incapable of work by reason of pregnancy.

### **Members aged 60 or over**

13. A member aged not less than 60.

### **Refugees**

14. A member who is a refugee within the definition in Article 1 of the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees done at Geneva on 28th July 1951<sup>(36)</sup> as extended by Article 1(2) of the Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees done at New York on 31st January 1967<sup>(37)</sup> and who—

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<sup>(29)</sup> S.R. 1999 No. 351

<sup>(30)</sup> S.I. 1986/594 (N.I. 3)

<sup>(31)</sup> S.R. 2000 No. 213

<sup>(32)</sup> S.I. 2000/1121

<sup>(33)</sup> 1962 c. 12

<sup>(34)</sup> S.I. 1999/1494

<sup>(35)</sup> S.I. 1999/1131 (s. 91)

<sup>(36)</sup> Cmnd. 9171

<sup>(37)</sup> Cmnd. 3906

- (a) is attending for more than 15 hours a week a course for the purpose of learning English so that he may obtain employment, and
- (b) on the date on which that course commenced, had been in Northern Ireland for not more than 12 months,

but only for a period not exceeding 9 months.

#### **Members required to attend court**

15. A member who is required to attend court as a justice of the peace, a party to any proceedings, a witness or a juror.

#### **Young persons in training**

16. A member who is engaged in training and for this purpose “training” means training for which persons aged less than 18 years are eligible, and for which persons aged 18 years or over and less than 25 years may be eligible, provided in Northern Ireland directly or indirectly by a Training Organisation pursuant to its arrangement with the Department of Higher and Further Education, Training and Employment (whether that arrangement is known as an Operating Agreement or by any other name).

#### **Trade disputes**

17. A member who is or would be prevented from being entitled to a jobseeker’s allowance by virtue of Article 16 of the Order (trade disputes) but only where that Article does not prevent the other member from being so entitled.”.

## SCHEDULE 2

Regulation 2(5)

### **Amendments to the principal Regulations**

1. In regulation 1(2) (interpretation), at the end of the definition of “partner” there shall be added “but in so far as this definition applies to a member of a joint-claim couple, it shall only apply to such a member specified in regulation 3E(2)(38)”.

2. After regulation 23 (attendance) there shall be inserted the following regulation—

#### **“Attendance by members of a joint-claim couple**

23A. Each member of a joint-claim couple shall attend at such place and at such time as an employment officer may specify by a notification which is given or sent to that member and which may be in writing, by telephone or by electronic means.”.

3. In regulation 24 (provision of information and evidence)—

(a) after paragraph (1) there shall be inserted the following paragraph—

“(1A) A member of a joint-claim couple shall provide such information as to the circumstances of each or either member of the couple, the availability for employment of each or either member of the couple and the extent to which each or either member of the couple is actively seeking employment as may be required by the Department in order to determine the entitlement of the couple to a jobseeker’s allowance, whether that allowance is payable to the couple and, if so, in what amount.”;

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(38) Regulation 3E is inserted by regulation 2(2) of these Regulations



- (b) at the end of paragraph (3) there shall be inserted “, and in this paragraph “couple” does not include a joint-claim couple”;
  - (c) after paragraph (3) there shall be inserted the following paragraph—
    - “(3A) Where entitlement to a joint-claim jobseeker’s allowance or whether that allowance is payable and, if so, in what amount, is or may be affected by the circumstances of any member of a polygamous marriage, the Department may require either member of the joint-claim couple to certify in writing that any member of the polygamous marriage confirms the information given about that member’s circumstances.”;
  - (d) after paragraph (5) there shall be inserted the following paragraph—
    - “(5A) A member of a joint-claim couple shall furnish such certificates, documents and other evidence affecting the continuing entitlement of the couple to a jobseeker’s allowance, whether that allowance is payable to the couple and, if so, in what amount as the Department may require.”;
  - (e) in paragraph (7)(a)(39), after “a jobseeker’s allowance” there shall be inserted “or, in the case of a joint-claim couple, the entitlement of the couple to a joint-claim jobseeker’s allowance”;
  - (f) in paragraph (8) after “paragraph (1)” there shall be inserted “, (1A)” and after “regulation 23” there shall be inserted “or 23A”;
  - (g) in paragraph (9) after “(4) or (5)” there shall be inserted “or (5A)”;
  - (h) in paragraph (10) after “regulation 23” there shall be inserted “or 23A”.
4. In regulation 25(1) (entitlement ceasing on a failure to comply)—
- (a) in sub-paragraph (a)(40) for “the claimant” there shall be substituted “a claimant”;
  - (b) in both sub-paragraphs (a) and (b)(41) after “regulation 23” there shall be inserted “or 23A”;
  - (c) in both sub-paragraphs (b) and (c) for “the claimant” there shall be substituted “that claimant”.
5. In regulation 26 (time at which entitlement is to cease)—
- (a) in paragraph (a)(42) for “the claimant” there shall be substituted “that claimant”;
  - (b) after “regulation 23” there shall be inserted “or 23A”.
6. In regulation 27(1) (where entitlement is not to cease)—
- (a) for “the claimant” there shall be substituted “a claimant”;
  - (b) after “regulation 23” there shall be inserted “or 23A”.
7. In regulation 28(1) (matters to be taken into account in determining whether a claimant has good cause for failing to comply with a notice under regulation 23 or 23A), after “regulation 23” in the second place where those words occur there shall be inserted “or 23A”.
8. In regulation 30 (circumstances in which a claimant is to be regarded as having good cause for failing to comply with a notice under regulation 23 or 23A), after “regulation 23” there shall be inserted “or 23A”.

(39) Paragraph (7) was amended by regulation 2(4)(b) of S.R. 2000 No. 37

(40) Sub-paragraph (a) was amended by S.R. 1999 No. 145

(41) Sub-paragraph (b) was amended by S.R. 1999 No. 145

(42) Regulation 26 (a) was amended by regulation 9 of S.R. 1996 No. 358

9. In regulation 34 (jobseeker’s agreement treated as having been made), after paragraph (e)(43) there shall be added the following paragraph—

“(f) if he is temporarily absent from Northern Ireland in the circumstances prescribed in regulation 50(6B)(a) or (c), for the period of any such temporary absence.”

10. In regulation 46(1) (waiting days)—

(a) at the end of sub-paragraph (b) there shall be inserted “, or”;

(b) after sub-paragraph (b) there shall be added the following sub-paragraphs—

“(c) a joint-claim couple are entitled to a joint-claim jobseeker’s allowance in respect of themselves and that paragraph of that Schedule has already applied to one member of that couple in respect of a jobseeking period which is linked to a jobseeking period relating to that member which has commenced by virtue of his having claimed a jobseeker’s allowance as a member of that couple;

(d) a joint-claim couple have claimed a jobseeker’s allowance jointly within 12 weeks of either member of that couple being entitled to a jobseeker’s allowance, income support, incapacity benefit or invalid care allowance;

(e) a member of a joint-claim couple is both in receipt of a training allowance and is the nominated member for the purposes of Article 5B of the Order.”

11. In regulation 47 (jobseeking period), at the end of paragraph (2)(b) there shall be added “or, where the claimant is a member of a joint-claim couple, a jobseeker’s allowance is payable in accordance with Part IXA (hardship)”.

12. In regulation 49 (persons approaching retirement and the jobseeking period)—

(a) at the beginning of paragraph (1) there shall be inserted “Subject to paragraph (5),”;

(b) after paragraph (4) there shall be added the following paragraph—

“(5) This regulation shall not apply in respect of any days in respect of which a joint-claim jobseeker’s allowance has been claimed.”

13. In regulation 50 (persons temporarily absent from Northern Ireland), after paragraph (6) there shall be inserted the following paragraphs—

“(6A) A member of a joint-claim couple shall be treated, for the purposes of the Order, as being in Northern Ireland where he is a member of a transitional case couple as defined for the purposes of paragraph 8A(2) of Schedule 1 to the Order(44), and as at the date on which Schedule 7 to the Welfare Reform and Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 1999 comes into operation—

(a) he is temporarily absent from Northern Ireland, or

(b) he has made definite arrangements to be temporarily absent from Northern Ireland from some future date,

and that member shall be so treated during any such period of temporary absence from Northern Ireland.

(6B) A member of a joint-claim couple shall be treated, for the purposes of the Order, as being in Northern Ireland during any period of temporary absence from Northern Ireland—

(a) not exceeding 4 weeks where he is in Great Britain and the period of absence is unlikely to exceed 52 weeks;

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(43) Paragraph (e) was added by regulation 2 of S.R. 1996 No. 356

(44) Paragraph 8A was inserted by paragraph 16 of Schedule 7 to the Welfare Reform and Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 1999 (S.I. 1999/3147 (N.I. 11))

- (b) not exceeding 4 weeks where he is in receipt of a training allowance during the period of absence and regulation 168 (persons in receipt of a training allowance) applies in his case, or
- (c) not exceeding 7 days where the absence is for the purpose of attending an interview for employment,

where that member is so temporarily absent as at the date of claim by the other member of that couple.”.

14. In regulation 51 (remunerative work), in both paragraph (1)(a) and (2), for “the claimant” there shall be substituted “a claimant”.

15. In regulation 52 (persons treated as engaged in remunerative work)—

- (a) in paragraph (2), after “income-based jobseeker’s allowance” in the first place where those words occur there shall be inserted “but not a joint-claim jobseeker’s allowance”;
- (b) after paragraph (2) there shall be inserted the following paragraph—

“(2A) For the purposes of a joint-claim jobseeker’s allowance, a member of a joint-claim couple shall be treated as engaged in remunerative work where—

- (a) he is or was involved in a trade dispute;
- (b) had the joint-claim couple of which he is a member claimed a jobseeker’s allowance jointly, Article 16 of the Order (trade disputes) would have applied in the case of one or both members of that couple, and
- (c) the joint-claim couple were not entitled to a joint-claim jobseeker’s allowance when that member of the joint-claim couple became involved in the trade dispute,

and shall be so treated for a period of 7 days beginning on the date the stoppage of work commenced at that member’s place of employment or, if there was no stoppage of work, the date on which that member first withdrew his labour in furtherance of the trade dispute.”.

16. After regulation 53(g) (persons treated as not engaged in remunerative work), there shall be inserted the following paragraph—

“(gg) he is—

- (i) a member of a joint-claim couple;
- (ii) involved in a trade dispute, and
- (iii) not a person to whom regulation 52(2A)(45) applies,

and had the joint-claim couple of which he is a member claimed a jobseeker’s allowance jointly, Article 16 of the Order (trade disputes) would have applied in the case of one or both members of that couple;”.

17. In regulation 55(1)(a)(46) (short periods of sickness), after “Article 21(5) or (6)” there shall be inserted “or 22A(2)”.

18. For regulation 58 (young persons to whom Article 5(1)(f)(iii) or 5A(1)(e)(ii) of the Order applies), there shall be substituted the following regulation—

(45) Regulation 52(2A) is inserted by paragraph 15(b) of Schedule 2 to these Regulations

(46) Regulation 55(1) was amended by regulation 17(2) of S.R. 1996 No. 358

**“Young persons to whom Article 5(1)(f)(iii) or 5A(1)(e)(ii) of the Order applies**

58. For the period specified in relation to him, a young person to whom regulation 59, 60 or 61 applies shall be regarded as a person within prescribed circumstances for the purposes of Article 5(1)(f)(iii) or 5A(1)(e)(ii) of the Order (conditions of entitlement for certain persons under the age of 18).”

19. In regulation 61 (other young persons in prescribed circumstances)—

- (a) in paragraph (1)(d) and (e), after “Article 5(1)(f)(ii)” there shall be inserted “or Article 5A(1)(e)(i)”;
- (b) in paragraph (1)(f), after “(6)(c) or (d)” there shall be inserted “or 22A(2)(b), (c), (f) or (g)”;
- (c) in paragraph 2(c), after “regulation 23” there shall be inserted “or 23A”.

20. In regulation 62 (registration), after “Article 5(1)(f)(ii) or (iii)” there shall be inserted “or Article 5A(1)(e)(i) or (ii)”.

21. In regulation 63 (reduced payments under Article 19 of the Order)—

- (a) in paragraph (1)(47)—
  - (i) in sub-paragraph (b)—
    - (aa) after “Article 21(5)(b) or (c)” there shall be inserted “or 22A(2)(b) or (c)”;
    - (bb) after “Article 21(6)(a) or (b)” there shall be inserted “or 22A(2)(d) or (e)”;
  - (ii) in sub-paragraph (c) after “Article 21(5)(b)(i), (ii) or (iv)”, in both places where those words occur, there shall be inserted “or 22A(2)(b)(i), (ii) or (iv)”;
  - (iii) in sub-paragraph (d) after “Article 21(5)(b)(iii)”, in both places where those words occur, there shall be inserted “or 22A(2)(b)(iii)”;
- (b) in paragraph (4) after “Article 21(5)(b)(iii)” there shall be inserted “or 22A(2)(b)(iii)” and after “Article 21(5)(c)” there shall be inserted “or 22A(2)(c)”.

22. In regulation 66(1) (the jobseeker’s agreement) after “Article 21” there shall be inserted “or 22A” and after “Articles 21 and 22” there shall be inserted “or 22A and 22B”.

23. In regulation 67 (sanctions)—

- (a) in paragraph (1)(48)—
  - (i) after “Article 21(5)(b)”, in each place where those words occur, there shall be inserted “or Article 22A(2)(b)”;
  - (ii) in sub-paragraph (b), after “Article 21(5)(b)(i), (ii) or (iv)” there shall be inserted “or Article 22A(2)(b)(i), (ii) or (iv)” and after “Article 21(5)(b)(iii)” there shall be inserted “or Article 22A(2)(b)(iii)”;
- (b) in paragraph (2)—
  - (i) after “Article 21(6)(c) or (d)”, in each place where those words occur, there shall be inserted “or 22A(2)(f) or (g)”;
  - (ii) after “or (6) (c) or (d)” there shall be inserted “or 22A(2)(b) or (c)”;
  - (iii) after “Article 21(6)(a) or (b)” there shall be inserted “or 22A(2)(d) or (e)”;
- (c) in paragraph (3)—
  - (i) after “Article 21(5)(b)(iii)” there shall be inserted “or 22A(2)(b)(iii)”;
  - (ii) after “Article 21(5)(c)” there shall be inserted “or 22A(2)(c)”.

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(47) Paragraph (1) was amended by regulation 5 of S.R. 1997 No. 165

(48) Regulation 67(1) was amended by regulation 13 of S.R. 1996 No. 358

24. In regulation 68(1) and (2)(**49**) (reduced amount of allowance) after “a couple” there shall be inserted “(including a joint-claim couple)” and after “(6)(c) or (d)” there shall be inserted “or within Article 22A(2)(a) to (c), (f) or (g)”.

25. In regulation 69(**50**) (prescribed period for the purposes of Article 21(2) and 22A(3))—

(a) in paragraph (1)—

(i) for “Article 21(2)” there shall be substituted “Articles 21(2) and 22A(3)”;

(ii) after “Article 21(5)”, in each place where those words occur, there shall be inserted “or 22A(2)(a) to (c)”;

(b) in paragraph (2) for “Article 21(2)” there shall be substituted “Articles 21(2) and 22A(3)”;

(c) in paragraph (3) after “Article 21” there shall be inserted “or 22A”;

(d) in paragraph (4)(c) after “Article 21(5) or (6)” there shall be inserted “or 22A(2)”.

26. In regulation 70(**51**) (sanctions of discretionary length)—

(a) after “Article 21(3)” there shall be inserted “or 22A(4)”;

(b) after “Article 21(6)(a)” there shall be inserted “or 22A(2)(d)”.

27. In regulation 72 (good cause for the purposes of Article 21(5)(a) and (6)(c) and (d) and Article 22A(2)(a), (f) and (g) of the Order)—

(a) at the end of paragraph (1) there shall be inserted “and Article 22A (denial or reduction of joint-claim jobseeker’s allowance)”;

(b) in paragraphs (2)(**52**), (4), (5) and (6) after “for the purposes of Article 21(5)(a) and (6)(c) and (d)” there shall be inserted “and Article 22A(2)(a), (f) and (g)”;

(c) in both paragraphs (3A)(**53**) and (5A)(**54**) after “for the purposes of Article 21(6)(c) and (d)”, in each place where those words occur, there shall be inserted “and Article 22A(2)(f) and (g)”;

(d) in paragraph (8) after “for the purposes of Article 21(6)(d)” there shall be inserted “and Article 22A(2)(g)”;

(e) in paragraph (9)(b)(ii) after “Article 21(6)(d)” there shall be inserted “or Article 22A(2)(g)”.

28. In regulation 73 (good cause for the purposes of Article 21(5)(b) and Article 22A(2)(b) of the Order)—

(a) at the end of paragraph (1) there shall be inserted “and Article 22A (denial or reduction of joint-claim jobseeker’s allowance)”;

(b) in paragraphs (2), (2A) and (2B)(**55**) after “for the purposes of Article 21(5)(b)”, in each place where those words occur, there shall be inserted “and Article 22A(2)(b)”;

(c) in paragraph (2A)(b) after “in Article 21(5)(b)” there shall be inserted “or 22A(2)(b)”;

(d) in paragraph (2B)(b) after “for the purposes of Article 21(5)(b)(iii) and (iv)” there shall be inserted “and Article 22A(2)(b)(iii) and (iv)”.

(**49**) Regulation 68 was amended by regulation 6(2) and (3) of S.R. 1997 No. 165 and Article 9(9) of S.R. 1999 No. 428 (C. 32)

(**50**) Regulation 69 was substituted by regulation 2(3) of S.R. 2000 No. 9 and amended by regulation 2(2) of S.R. 2000 No. 197

(**51**) Regulation 70 was amended by regulation 9(3)(d) of S.R. 1999 No. 428 (C. 32)

(**52**) Regulation 72(2) was amended by regulation 6(a) of S.R. 1998 No. 198

(**53**) Paragraph (3A) was inserted by regulation 6(b) of S.R. 1998 No. 198

(**54**) Paragraph (5A) was inserted by regulation 5(4) of S.R. 1997 No. 130

(**55**) Regulation 73(2A) was inserted by regulation 7 of S.R. 1997 No. 541 and regulation 73(2B) was inserted by regulation 7(a) of S.R. 1998 No. 198

29. In regulation 74 (person of prescribed description for the purpose of Article 22(3) and 22B(3) of the Order)—

(a) in paragraph (1)—

(i) after “Article 22(3)” there shall be inserted “and Article 22B(3)”;

(ii) after “Article 21(6)(b) or (d)” there shall be inserted “or 22A(2)(e) or (g)”;

(b) in paragraph (4), after “Article 22(3)” there shall be inserted “and Article 22B(3)”.

30. In regulation 74A(56) (persons in receipt of a training allowance)—

(a) in paragraph (1) after “a claimant” there shall be inserted “other than a member of a joint-claim couple”;

(b) after paragraph (2) there shall be inserted the following paragraphs—

“(3) A joint-claim jobseeker’s allowance shall be payable in respect of a joint-claim couple even though Article 22A of the Order (denial or reduction of joint-claim jobseeker’s allowance) prevents payment of a joint-claim jobseeker’s allowance to the couple where a member of that couple to whom that Article applies is in receipt of a training allowance and is not receiving training falling within regulation 168(2) (persons in receipt of a training allowance) but the jobseeker’s allowance shall be payable only if and for so long as that member satisfies the conditions of entitlement to a joint-claim jobseeker’s allowance other than those which he is not required to meet by virtue of regulation 168.

(4) A joint-claim jobseeker’s allowance which is payable to a couple in accordance with this regulation shall be payable to the couple at the full rate applicable to it.”.

31. After regulation 74A there shall be inserted the following regulation—

**“Reduced allowance where one member of a joint-claim couple is subject to a sanction**

74B.—(1) Where only one member of a joint-claim couple is subject to sanctions for the purposes of Article 22A of the Order (denial or reduction of joint-claim jobseeker’s allowance), the rate of jobseeker’s allowance payable in respect of the couple for the period of those sanctions shall be calculated in accordance with this regulation.

(2) Where paragraph (1) applies, a reduced rate of jobseeker’s allowance shall be payable to the member of the couple who is not subject to sanctions.

(3) That reduced rate shall be—

(a) in any case in which the member of the couple who is not subject to sanctions satisfies the conditions set out in Article 4 of the Order (the contribution-based conditions), a rate equal to the amount calculated in accordance with Article 6(1) of the Order (amount payable by way of a jobseeker’s allowance);

(b) in any case where the couple are a couple in hardship for the purposes of Part IXA, a rate equal to the amount calculated in accordance with regulation 146G;

(c) in any other case, a rate calculated in accordance with Article 6(3A)(57) of the Order (amount payable by way of a jobseeker’s allowance) save that the applicable amount shall be the amount determined by reference to paragraph 1(1) of Schedule 1 which would have been the applicable amount had the member of the couple who is not subject to sanctions been a single claimant.”.

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(56) Regulation 74A was inserted by regulation 6 of S.R. 1996 No. 356

(57) Paragraph (3A) was inserted by paragraph 6(3) of Schedule 7 to the Welfare Reform and Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 1999 (S.I. 1999/3147 (N.I. 11))

32. In regulation 75(**58**) (interpretation)—
- (a) in paragraph (1) after “is not payable)” there shall be inserted “, Article 22A of the Order (denial or reduction of joint-claim jobseeker’s allowance)”;
  - (b) in paragraph (1)(b)(iii) after “(iv) and (c)” there shall be inserted “and Article 22A(2)(b) (iii) and (iv) and Article 22A(2)(c)”;
  - (c) in paragraph (2) after “paragraph (2)” there shall be inserted “and in Article 22A of the Order, except paragraph (3)”;
  - (d) in paragraph (3) after “Article 21(2) of the Order” there shall be inserted “, Article 22A(3) of the Order”;
  - (e) in paragraph (4) after “paragraph (9)” there shall be inserted “in Article 22A of the Order”.
33. In regulation 78 (circumstances in which a person is to be treated as being or not being a member of the household)—
- (a) after paragraph (1) there shall be inserted the following paragraph—

“(1A) Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), the members of a joint-claim couple shall be treated for the purposes of the Order as members of the same household notwithstanding that they are temporarily living away from each other.”;
  - (b) in paragraph (2) for “Paragraph (1)” there shall be substituted “Paragraphs (1) and (1A)”;
  - (c) in paragraph (3)(**59**)—
    - (i) for “Paragraph (1)” there shall be substituted “Paragraphs (1) and (1A)”;
    - (ii) in sub-paragraph (c), for “the claimant” there shall be substituted “a claimant”.
34. For regulation 82 (income-based jobseeker’s allowance) there shall be substituted the following regulation—

**“Income-based jobseeker’s allowance**

82.—(1) Regulations 83 to 86 and 87 apply in the case of an income-based jobseeker’s allowance but not a joint-claim jobseeker’s allowance.

(2) Regulations 86A to 86D only apply in the case of a joint-claim jobseeker’s allowance.”.

35. After regulation 86 there shall be inserted the following regulations—

**“Applicable amounts for joint-claim couples**

86A. Except in the case of a joint-claim couple where regulation 86B(polygamous marriages), 86C (special cases) or 86D (members of joint-claim couples in residential care and nursing homes) or Part X (urgent cases) applies, the applicable amount of a joint-claim couple who are jointly claiming a jobseeker’s allowance shall be the aggregate of such of the following amounts as may apply in their case—

- (a) an amount in respect of the joint-claim couple determined in accordance with paragraph 1(3) of Schedule 1;
- (b) an amount in respect of either or both members of the joint-claim couple determined in accordance with paragraph 3 of Schedule 1 (residential allowance);

(58) Regulation 75 was substituted by regulation 8 of S.R. 1997 No. 541 and amended by regulation 4(2) of S.R. 1998 No. 182 and regulation 8(a), (b) and (c) of S.R. 1998 No. 198

(59) Paragraph (3) was amended by regulation 18 of S.R. 1996 No. 358

- (c) the amount of any premiums which may be applicable to either or both members of the joint-claim couple, determined in accordance with Parts IVA and IVB of Schedule 1 (premiums), and
- (d) any amounts determined in accordance with Schedule 2 (housing costs) which may be applicable to the joint-claim couple in respect of mortgage interest payments or such other housing costs as are prescribed in that Schedule.

**Applicable amounts for joint-claim couples: polygamous marriages**

86B. Except in the case of a joint-claim couple where regulation 86A (applicable amounts for joint-claim couples), 86C (special cases) or 86D (members of joint-claim couples in residential care and nursing homes) or Part X (urgent cases) applies, the applicable amount of a joint-claim couple who are jointly claiming a jobseeker's allowance where either or both members of that couple are members of a polygamous marriage, shall be the aggregate of such of the following amounts as may apply in their case—

- (a) the highest amount applicable to a member of the joint-claim couple and one other member of that marriage determined in accordance with paragraph 1(3) of Schedule 1 as if those members were a couple;
- (b) an amount equal to the difference between the amounts specified in paragraph 1(1)(e) and (3)(e) of Schedule 1 in respect of each of the other members of the polygamous marriage who are members of that household;
- (c) an amount, whether in respect of a member of the joint-claim couple or any member of his household aged 16 or over, determined in accordance with paragraph 3 of Schedule 1 (residential allowance);
- (d) the amount of any premiums which may be applicable to a member of the joint-claim couple determined in accordance with Parts IVA and IVB of Schedule 1 (premiums), and
- (e) any amounts determined in accordance with Schedule 2 (housing costs) which may be applicable to the joint-claim couple in respect of mortgage interest payments or such other housing costs as are prescribed in that Schedule.

**Joint-claim couples: special cases**

86C.—(1) Where a member of a joint-claim couple is a person to whom any paragraph in column (1) of Schedule 4A (applicable amounts in special cases for joint-claim couples) applies, the amount included in the joint-claim couple's weekly applicable amount shall be the amount prescribed in the corresponding paragraph in column (2) of that Schedule.

(2) Except where the amount prescribed in Schedule 4A in respect of a joint-claim couple includes an amount applicable under regulation 86A(c) or 86B(d), a person to whom paragraph (1) applies shall be treated as not falling within the conditions specified in paragraph 20I(60) of Schedule 1 (severe disability premium).

(3) In Schedule 4A, for the purposes of paragraphs 1 and 11 (persons in a residential care or nursing home who become patients), where a person has been a patient for 2 or more distinct periods separated by one or more intervals each not exceeding 28 days, he shall be treated as having been a patient continuously for a period equal in duration to the total of those distinct periods.

(4) Expressions used in this regulation and in Schedule 4A shall have the same meaning as those expressions have for the purposes of regulation 85 (special cases) and Schedule 4

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(60) Paragraph 20I is inserted by paragraph 53(4) of Schedule 2 to these Regulations



(applicable amounts in special cases) save that for the purposes of this regulation and of Schedule 4A, the definition of “person from abroad” in regulation 85(4)(61) shall have effect as if after “a claimant” there were inserted “, other than a member of a joint-claim couple who is not the nominated member for the purposes of Article 5B(62) of the Order (joint-claim couples: the nominated member)”.

**Applicable amount for a joint-claim couple where a member is in a residential care or nursing home**

86D.—(1) Where either or both members of a joint-claim couple have a preserved right and that member or those members live in a residential care or nursing home, the weekly applicable amount of the joint-claim couple shall, except in a case to which regulation 86C (joint-claim couples: special cases) applies, be calculated in accordance with Schedule 3A.

(2) A member of a joint-claim couple has a preserved right for the purposes of this regulation if he satisfies the requirements for a preserved right under regulation 19 of, and Schedule 4 to, the Income Support Regulations.

(3) Expressions used in Schedule 3A shall have the same meaning as those expressions have for the purposes of Schedule 3.

(4) Regulation 86(5) shall have effect for the purposes of this regulation as if for “a person resident in those premises shall be determined under Schedule 4” there were substituted “a joint-claim couple where either or both members of the couple are resident in those premises shall be determined under Schedule 3A.”.

36. In regulation 88(1) (calculation of income and capital of members of a claimant’s family and of a polygamous marriage), for “and to regulation” there shall be substituted “and regulations 88ZA (calculation of income and capital of a joint-claim couple) and”.

37. After regulation 88 there shall be inserted the following regulation—

**“Calculation of income and capital of a joint-claim couple**

88ZA.—(1) Subject to paragraphs (2) and (4), the income and capital of a joint-claim couple shall be calculated by—

- (a) determining the income and capital of each member of that couple in accordance with this Part, and
- (b) aggregating the amount determined in respect of each member in accordance with sub-paragraph (a).

(2) Where—

- (a) a member of a joint-claim couple is aged less than 18;
- (b) the other member is aged over 18, and
- (c) the applicable amount of the couple falls to be determined under paragraph 1(3)(g) or (h) of Schedule 1 (applicable amounts),

the income of the joint-claim couple shall not be aggregated to the extent that the amount specified in paragraph 1(3)(e) of that Schedule exceeds the amount which applies in that case which is specified in paragraph 1(3)(g) or (h) of that Schedule.

(3) Where a member of a joint-claim couple is married polygamously to 2 or more members of his household, the joint-claim couple shall be treated as possessing income and

(61) Regulation 85(4) was amended by regulation 10(3)(a) of S.R. 2000 No. 71

(62) Article 5B was inserted by paragraph 5(2) of Schedule 7 to the Welfare Reform and Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 1999 (S.I. 1999/3147 (N.I. 11))

capital belonging to each such member and the income and capital of that member shall be calculated in accordance with the following provisions of this Part in like manner as for each member of the joint-claim couple.

(4) Regulations 99(2) (calculation of net earnings of employed earners) and 101(2) (calculation of net profit of self-employed earners) in so far as they relate to paragraphs 5, 7, 8 and 11 of Schedule 5 (earnings to be disregarded) shall not apply to a member of a joint-claim couple but there shall instead be disregarded from the net earnings of a member of a joint-claim couple any sum, where applicable, specified in—

- (a) paragraphs 1 to 4 and 13 to 16 of Schedule 5, and
- (b) paragraphs 1 to 6 of Schedule 5A.”.

38. In regulation 93(1) (calculation of income) for “Article 5(1)” there shall be substituted “Articles 5(1) (the income-based conditions) and 5A(1) (the conditions for claims by joint-claim couples)”.

39. In regulation 94(2)(b)(63) (calculation of earnings derived from employed earner’s employment and income other than earnings), after “Schedule 5” there shall be inserted “and Schedule 5A”.

40. In regulation 95(2)(calculation of earnings of self-employed earners), after “Schedule 5” there shall be inserted “and Schedule 5A”.

41. In regulation 102C(64) (calculation of income of participants in the self-employment route of the Employment Option of the New Deal)—

- (a) in paragraph (3)(a), after “or his partner” there shall be inserted, “or, in the case of a joint-claim couple, the participant and the other member of the couple of which the participant is a member,”;
- (b) in paragraph (4), after “Schedule 5” there shall be inserted “or paragraphs 1, 2, 5 and 6 of Schedule 5A”.

42. In regulation 105(10)(a)(ii)(65) (notional income), for “or 84(1)(g)” there shall be substituted “, 84(1)(g), 86A(d) or 86B(e)”.

43. In regulation 107(66) (capital limit), after “15(1)” there shall be inserted “and (2A)”.

44. In regulation 113(3)(a)(ii)(67) (notional capital), for “or 84(1)(g)” there shall be substituted “, 84(1)(g), 86A(d) or 86B(e)”.

45. In regulation 140 (meaning of person in hardship)—

- (a) in paragraph (1)(68), after “applies” there shall be inserted “or a member of a joint-claim couple and regulation 3E does not apply”;
- (b) in paragraph (2)(69), after “applies” there shall be inserted “or where the person in hardship is a member of a joint-claim couple and regulation 3E does not apply”.

46. In regulation 148(1) (applicable amount in urgent cases), after “income-based jobseeker’s allowance” there shall be inserted “but not a joint-claim jobseeker’s allowance”.

47. After regulation 148, there shall be inserted the following regulation—

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(63) Regulation 94(2) was amended by regulation 5(2)(a) of S.R. 1997 No. 22

(64) Regulation 102C was inserted by regulation 4(4) of S.R. 1998 No. 182

(65) Paragraph 10 was amended by regulation 2(1)(a) of S.R. 1998 No. 326 and regulation 2(1)(b) of S.R. 1999 No. 391

(66) Regulation 107 was substituted by regulation 9 of S.R. 1996 No. 356

(67) Regulation 113 was amended by regulation 3(1)(a) of S.R. 1998 No. 326 and regulation 2(1)(b) of S.R. 1999 No. 391

(68) Paragraph (1) was amended by Article 9(5)(i) of S.R. 1999 No. 428 (C.32)

(69) Paragraph (2) was amended by regulation 11(a) of S.R. 1997 No. 541 and regulation 9(5)(i) of S.R. 1999 No. 428 (C.32)

**“Applicable amount in urgent cases: joint-claim couples**

148A.—(1) For the purpose of calculating any entitlement to a joint-claim jobseeker’s allowance under this Part—

- (a) except in a case to which sub-paragraph (b), (c) or (d) applies, a joint-claim couple’s weekly applicable amount shall be the aggregate of—
  - (i) 90 per cent. of the amount applicable (reduced where appropriate in accordance with regulation 146G(70) (applicable amount in hardship cases for joint-claim couples)) in respect of the couple under paragraph 1(3) of Schedule 1 or, as the case may be, the amount applicable in respect of them under regulation 86B (joint-claim couples: polygamous marriages);
  - (ii) the amount, if applicable, specified in Part IVA of Schedule 1 (premiums);
  - (iii) any amounts applicable under regulation 86A(d) or, as the case may be, 86B(e) (housing costs), and
  - (iv) the amount, if applicable, specified in paragraph 3 of Schedule 1;
- (b) where a member of a joint-claim couple is a resident in a residential care home or a nursing home and has a preserved right, the weekly applicable amount of the joint-claim couple shall be the aggregate of—
  - (i) 90 per cent. of the amount of the allowance for personal expenses prescribed in paragraph 11(a) of Schedule 3A (applicable amounts of members in residential care and nursing homes) and where regulation 146G (applicable amount in hardship cases for joint-claim couples) applies, the reference in this head to 90 per cent. of the amount so reduced shall be construed as a reference to 90 per cent. of the relevant amount under that regulation reduced by the percentage specified in paragraph (1) or (2), as the case may be, of that regulation;
  - (ii) the amount in respect of the weekly charge for his accommodation calculated in accordance with regulation 86D and Schedule 3A;
- (c) where a member of a joint-claim couple is in residential accommodation, the weekly applicable amount shall be 98 per cent. of the amount referred to in column (2) of paragraph 9 of Schedule 4A (applicable amounts of joint-claim couples in special cases) which is applicable to the couple;
- (d) except where sub-paragraph (b) or (c) applies, in the case of a member of a joint-claim couple to whom any paragraph of Schedule 4A (applicable amounts of joint-claim couples in special cases) applies, the amount shall be 90 per cent. of the amount applicable in column (2) of that Schedule in respect of the joint-claim couple plus, if applicable—
  - (i) any premium under Part IVA of Schedule 1;
  - (ii) any amounts applicable under regulation 86A(d) or, as the case may be, 86B(e) (housing costs).

(2) Where the calculation of a joint-claim couple’s applicable amount under this regulation results in a fraction of a penny that fraction shall be treated as a penny.”

48. In regulation 150 (amount of a jobseeker’s allowance payable), after paragraph (1) there shall be inserted the following paragraphs—

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(70) Regulation 146G is inserted by regulation 2(3) of these Regulations

“(1A) In relation to a joint-claim couple jointly claiming a joint-claim jobseeker’s allowance, paragraph (1) shall have effect as if the references to the claimant were references to the joint-claim couple.

(1B) Where a joint-claim couple become, or cease to be, a joint-claim couple on any day other than on the first day of a benefit week, the amount payable by way of a joint-claim jobseeker’s allowance in respect of that benefit week shall be calculated by applying the formula in paragraph (1).”.

49. In regulation 151 (amount of a jobseeker’s allowance payable where a person is in a residential care or nursing home)—

- (a) in paragraph (1), after “the claimant” in each place where those words occur there shall be inserted “or, as the case may be, the joint-claim couple”;
- (b) in paragraph (2), after “weekly applicable amount” there shall be inserted “or, as the case may be, the weekly applicable amount of the joint-claim couple”.

50. In regulation 152 (relevant week)—

- (a) in paragraph (1)(c)—
  - (i) after “Article 21” there shall be inserted “or 22A”;
  - (ii) after “that claimant” there shall be inserted “or the joint-claim couple”;
- (b) at the beginning of paragraph (2) there shall be inserted “Except in a case to which paragraph (3) applies,”;
- (c) after paragraph (2) there shall be added the following paragraph—

“(3) Where a joint-claim couple have an award of a joint-claim jobseeker’s allowance and their benefit week changes, for the purpose of calculating the amounts of a joint-claim jobseeker’s allowance payable for the part-week beginning on the day after their last complete benefit week before the change and ending immediately before the change, the relevant week is the period of 7 days beginning on the day after the last complete benefit week.”.

51. In regulation 153 (modification in the calculation of income), for “or regulation 88(4)” there shall be substituted “, regulation 88(4) or 88ZA(3)”.

52. Regulation 155 (modification of Article 17(2) of the Order) shall be renumbered regulation 155(1) and—

- (a) in the renumbered paragraph (1), after “income-based jobseeker’s allowance” in the first place where those words occur, there shall be inserted “but not a joint-claim jobseeker’s allowance”;
- (b) after the renumbered paragraph (1) there shall be added the following paragraph—

“(2) In its application to a joint-claim jobseeker’s allowance payable for a part-week, Article 17(2)(d) of the Order shall have effect subject to the following modification—

“(d) any payment by way of a joint-claim jobseeker’s allowance for that period or any part of it which apart from this paragraph would be made to the nominated member for the purposes of Article 5B of the Order—

- (i) shall not be made, if the amount of joint-claim jobseeker’s allowance which would be payable for less than a week is equal to or less than the proportion of the prescribed sum appropriate to the number of days in the part-week;
- (ii) shall be at a rate equal to the difference between the amount which would be payable for a period of less than a week and the prescribed sum where that amount would be more than the prescribed sum.”.

53.—(1) Schedule 1 (applicable amounts) shall be amended in accordance with paragraphs (2) to (4).

(2) In paragraph 1, for “and 84(1)” there shall be substituted “, 84(1), 86A and 86B”.

(3) In paragraph 3(1), for “and 84(1)(d)” there shall be substituted “, 84(1)(d), 86A(b) and 86B(c)”.

(4) After Part IV there shall be inserted the following Parts—

## “Part IVA

### Premiums for Joint-Claim Couples

20A. Except as provided in paragraph 20B, the weekly premium specified in Part IVB shall, for the purposes of regulations 86A(c) and 86B(d), be applicable to a joint-claim couple where either or both members of a joint-claim couple satisfies the condition specified in paragraphs 20E to 20J in respect of that premium.

20B. Subject to paragraph 20C, where a member of a joint-claim couple satisfies the conditions in respect of more than one premium in this Part, only one premium shall be applicable to the joint-claim couple in respect of that member and, if they are different amounts, the higher or highest amount shall apply.

20C.—(1) The severe disability premium to which paragraph 20I applies may be applicable in addition to any other premium which may apply under this Part.

(2) The carer premium to which paragraph 20J applies may be applicable in addition to any other premium which may apply under this Part.

20D.—(1) Subject to sub-paragraph (2), for the purposes of this Part, once a premium is applicable to a joint-claim couple under this Part, a person shall be treated as being in receipt of any benefit—

- (a) in the case of a benefit to which the Social Security (Overlapping Benefits) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1979(71) applies, for any period during which, apart from the provisions of those Regulations, he would be in receipt of that benefit, and
- (b) for any period spent by a person in undertaking a course of training or instruction provided or arranged by the Department of Higher and Further Education, Training and Employment under sections 2 and 3 of the Disabled Persons (Employment) Act (Northern Ireland) 1945(72) or section 1(1) of the Employment and Training Act (Northern Ireland) 1950(73) or for any period during which he is in receipt of a training allowance.

(2) For the purposes of the carer premium under paragraph 20J, a person shall be treated as being in receipt of invalid care allowance by virtue of sub-paragraph (1)(a) only if and for so long as the person in respect of whose care the allowance has been claimed remains in receipt of attendance allowance, or the care component of disability living allowance at the highest or middle rate prescribed in accordance with section 72(3) of the Benefits Act.

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(71) S.R. 1979 No. 242

(72) 1945 c. 6 (N.I.); sections 2 and 3 were amended by section 1 of the Disabled Persons (Employment) Act (Northern Ireland) 1960 (c. 4 (N.I.)) and Schedule 18 to the Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 (S.I. 1986/594 (N.I. 3))

(73) 1950 c. 29 (N.I.); section 1 was amended by Article 3 of the Employment and Training (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) Order 1988 (S.I. 1988/1087 (N.I. 10))

### **Pensioner premium where one member of a joint-claim couple has attained the age of 60**

20E. The condition is that one member of a joint-claim couple has attained the age of 60 but not the age of 75.

### **Higher Pensioner Premium**

20F.—(1) The condition is that one member of a joint-claim couple—

- (a) has attained the age of 60 but not the age of 80, and either the additional conditions specified in paragraph 20H are satisfied in respect of him, or
- (b) has attained the age of 60 and—
  - (i) was entitled to or was treated as entitled to either income support or an income-based jobseeker's allowance and the disability premium was or, as the case may be, would have been applicable to him in respect of a benefit week within 8 weeks of his 60th birthday and he has, subject to sub-paragraph (2), remained continuously entitled to one of those benefits since attaining that age, or
  - (ii) was a member of a joint-claim couple who had been entitled to, or who had been treated as entitled to, a joint-claim jobseeker's allowance and the disability premium was or, as the case may be, would have been applicable to that couple in respect of a benefit week within 8 weeks of the 60th birthday of either member of that couple and the couple have, subject to that sub-paragraph (2), remained continuously entitled to a joint-claim jobseeker's allowance since that member attained that age.

(2) For the purpose of this paragraph and paragraph 20H—

- (a) once the higher pensioner premium is applicable to a joint-claim couple, if that member then ceases, for a period of 8 weeks or less, to be entitled or treated as entitled to either income support or income-based jobseeker's allowance or that couple cease to be entitled to or treated as entitled to a joint-claim jobseeker's allowance, he shall or, as the case may be, that couple shall, on becoming re-entitled to any of those benefits, thereafter be treated as having been continuously entitled thereto;
- (b) in so far as sub-paragraph (1)(b)(i) or (ii) is concerned, if a member of a joint-claim couple ceases to be entitled or treated as entitled to either income support or an income-based jobseeker's allowance or that couple cease to be entitled to or treated as entitled to a joint-claim jobseeker's allowance for a period not exceeding 8 weeks which includes the 60th birthday of either member of that couple, he shall or, as the case may be, the couple shall, on becoming re-entitled to either of those benefits, thereafter be treated as having been continuously entitled thereto.

(3) In this paragraph, where a member of a joint-claim couple is a welfare to work beneficiary, sub-paragraphs (1)(b)(i) and (2)(b) shall apply to him as if for "8 weeks" there were substituted "52 weeks".

### **Disability Premium**

20G. The condition is that a member of a joint-claim couple has not attained the age of 60 and satisfies any one of the additional conditions specified in paragraph 20H.

### **Additional Conditions for Higher Pensioner and Disability Premium**

20H.—(1) The additional conditions specified in this paragraph are that a member of a joint-claim couple—

- (a) is in receipt of either disabled person's tax credit or mobility supplement;
- (b) is in receipt of severe disablement allowance;
- (c) is in receipt of attendance allowance or disability living allowance or is a person whose disability living allowance is payable, in whole or in part, to another in accordance with regulation 43 of the Claims and Payments Regulations (payment of disability living allowance on behalf of a beneficiary);
- (d) is in receipt of long-term incapacity benefit or is a person to whom section 30B(4) of the Benefits Act(74) (long term rate of incapacity benefit payable to those who are terminally ill) applies;
- (e) has been entitled to statutory sick pay, has been incapable of work or has been treated as incapable of work for a continuous period of not less than—
  - (i) 196 days in the case of a member of a joint-claim couple who is terminally ill within the meaning of section 30B(4) of the Benefits Act, or
  - (ii) 364 days in any other case,

and for these purposes, any 2 or more periods of entitlement or incapacity separated by a break of not more than 56 days shall be treated as one continuous period;

- (f) has an invalid carriage or other vehicle provided to him by the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety under Article 30(1) of the 1972 Order or provided by the Secretary of State under section 5(2)(a) of, and Schedule 2 to, the National Health Service Act 1977(75) or under section 46 of the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978(76) or receives payments by way of grant from the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety under Article 30(3) of the 1972 Order;
  - (g) is a person who is entitled to the mobility component of disability living allowance but to whom the component is not payable in accordance with regulation 41 of the Claims and Payments Regulations(77) (cases where the mobility component of disability living allowance not payable);
  - (h) was either—
    - (i) in receipt of long term incapacity benefit under section 30A(5)(78) of the Benefits Act immediately before attaining pensionable age and he is still alive, or
    - (ii) entitled to attendance allowance or disability living allowance but payment of that benefit was suspended in accordance with regulations under section 113(2) of the Benefits Act (general provisions as to disqualification and suspension) or otherwise abated as a consequence of either member of the joint-claim couple becoming a patient within the meaning of regulation 85(4) (special cases), and in either case the higher pensioner premium or disability premium had been applicable to the joint-claim couple, or
- (i) is registered as blind in a register maintained by or on behalf of a Health and Social Services Board established under Article 16 of the 1972 Order.

(74) Section 30B was inserted by Article 4(1) of the Social Security (Incapacity for Work) (Northern Ireland) Order 1994 (S.I. 1994/1898 (N.I. 12))

(75) 1977 c. 49

(76) 1978 c. 29

(77) Regulation 41 was amended by regulation 20 of S.R. 1992 No. 7

(78) Section 30A was inserted by Article 3(1) of the Social Security (Incapacity for Work) (Northern Ireland) Order 1994

(2) In the case of a member of a joint-claim couple who is a welfare to work beneficiary, the reference in sub-paragraph (1)(e) to a period of 56 days shall be treated as a reference to a period of 52 weeks.

(3) For the purposes of sub-paragraph (1)(i), a person who has ceased to be registered as blind on regaining his eyesight shall nevertheless be treated as blind and as satisfying the additional condition set out in that sub-paragraph for a period of 28 weeks following the date on which he ceased to be so registered.

### **Severe Disability Premium**

20I.—(1) The condition is that —

- (a) a member of a joint-claim couple is in receipt of attendance allowance or the care component of disability living allowance at the highest or middle rate prescribed in accordance with section 72(3) of the Benefits Act (the “qualifying benefit”);
- (b) the other member is also in receipt of such an allowance, or if he is a member of a polygamous marriage, all the partners of that marriage are in receipt of a qualifying benefit;
- (c) subject to sub-paragraph (3), there is no non-dependant aged 18 or over normally residing with the joint-claim couple or with whom they are normally residing, and
- (d) either—
  - (i) no person is entitled to, and in receipt of, an invalid care allowance under section 70 of the Benefits Act in respect of caring for either member of the couple or all the members of the polygamous marriage, or
  - (ii) a person is engaged in caring for one member (but not both members) of the couple, or one or more but not all members of the polygamous marriage, and in consequence is entitled to an invalid care allowance under section 70 of the Benefits Act.

(2) Where the other member does not satisfy the condition in sub-paragraph (1)(b), and that member is blind or treated as blind within the meaning of paragraph 20H(1)(i) and (2), that member shall be treated for the purposes of sub-paragraph (1) as if he were not a member of the couple.

(3) The following persons shall not be regarded as non-dependant for the purposes of sub-paragraph (1)(c)—

- (a) a person in receipt of attendance allowance or the care component of disability living allowance at the highest or middle rate prescribed in accordance with section 72(3) of the Benefits Act;
- (b) subject to sub-paragraph (5), a person who joins the joint-claim couple’s household for the first time in order to care for a member of a joint-claim couple and immediately before so joining, that member satisfied the condition in sub-paragraph (1),
- (c) a person who is blind or treated as blind within the meaning of paragraph 20H(1)(i) and (2).

(4) For the purposes of sub-paragraph (1), a member of a joint-claim couple shall be treated

- (a) as being in receipt of attendance allowance, or the care component of disability living allowance at the highest or middle rate prescribed in accordance with section 72(3) of the Benefits Act if he would, but for his being a patient for a period exceeding 28 days, be so in receipt;



(b) as being entitled to and in receipt of an invalid care allowance if he would, but for the person for whom he was caring being a patient in hospital for a period exceeding 28 days, be so entitled and in receipt.

(5) Sub-paragraph (3)(b) shall apply only for the first 12 weeks following the date on which the person to whom that provision applies first joins the joint-claim couple's household.

(6) For the purposes of sub-paragraph (1)(d), no account shall be taken of an award of invalid care allowance to the extent that payment of such an award is back-dated for a period before the date on which the award is made.

### **Carer Premium**

20J.—(1) Subject to sub-paragraphs (3) and (4), the condition is that either or both members of a joint-claim couple are entitled to and in receipt of an invalid care allowance under section 70 of the Benefits Act.

(2) Either or both members, as the case may be, shall be treated for the purposes of sub-paragraph (1) as being entitled to an invalid care allowance where—

- (a) they would be in receipt of such an allowance but for any provision of the Social Security (Overlapping Benefits) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1979(79);
- (b) the claim for that allowance was made on or after 1st October 1990, and
- (c) the person or persons in respect of whose care the allowance has been claimed remains or remain in receipt of attendance allowance or the care component of disability living allowance at the highest or middle rate prescribed in accordance with section 72(3) of the Benefits Act.

(3) Where a carer premium is awarded but the member of the joint-claim couple in respect of whom it has been awarded ceases to be entitled to an invalid care allowance, the condition for the award of the premium shall be treated as satisfied for a period of 8 weeks from the date on which—

- (a) where sub-paragraph (2) applies, the person in respect of whose care the invalid care allowance has been claimed ceased to be in receipt of the allowances referred to in head (c) of that sub-paragraph;
- (b) in any other case, that member ceased to be entitled to an invalid care allowance.

(4) Where a member of a joint-claim couple who has been entitled to an invalid care allowance ceases to be entitled to that allowance and makes a claim for a jobseeker's allowance jointly with the other member of that couple, the condition for the award of the carer premium shall be treated as satisfied for a period of 8 weeks from the date on which—

- (a) where sub-paragraph (2) applies, the person in respect of whose care the invalid care allowance has been claimed ceased to be in receipt of the allowances referred to in head (c) of that sub-paragraph;
- (b) in any other case, that member was last entitled to an invalid care allowance.

### **Member of a joint-claim couple in receipt of concessionary payments**

20K. For the purpose of determining whether a premium is applicable to a joint-claim couple under paragraphs 20H to 20J, any concessionary payment made to compensate a person for the non-payment of any benefit mentioned in those paragraphs shall be treated as if it were a payment of that benefit.

### Person in receipt of benefit

20L. For the purposes of this Part, a member of a joint-claim couple shall be regarded as being in receipt of any benefit if, and only if, it is paid in respect of him and shall be so regarded only for any period in respect of which that benefit is paid.

## Part IVB

### Weekly Amounts of Premiums Specified in Part IVA

<i>Premium</i>	<i>Amount</i>
20M. —	(1) £40·00.
(1) Pensioner premium where one member of a joint-claim couple is aged over 60 and the condition in paragraph 20E is satisfied.	
(2) Higher Pensioner Premium where one member of a joint-claim couple satisfies the condition in paragraph 20F.	(2) £43·40.
(3) Disability Premium where one member of a joint-claim couple satisfies the condition in paragraph 20G.	(3) £31·75.
(4) Severe Disability Premium where one member of a joint-claim couple satisfies the condition in paragraph 20I(1)—	(i) £40·20.
(i) if there is someone in receipt of an invalid care allowance or if either member satisfies that condition only by virtue of paragraph 20I(3);	
(ii) if no-one is in receipt of such an allowance.	(ii) £80·40.
(5) Carer Premium.	(5) £14·15 in respect of each person who satisfied the condition specified in paragraph 20J.”

54.—(1) Schedule 2 (housing costs) shall be amended in accordance with sub-paragraphs (2) to (8).

(2) In paragraph 1A(80) (previous entitlement to income support), after sub-paragraph (1) there shall be inserted the following sub-paragraph—

“(1A) Where either member of a joint-claim couple was in receipt of or treated as being in receipt of income support not more than 12 weeks before the couple becomes entitled to a joint-claim jobseeker’s allowance, or, where either member is a person to whom paragraph 13(2) or (10) (linking rules) refers, not more than 26 weeks before becoming so entitled and—

(a) the applicable amount for income support included an amount in respect of housing costs under paragraph 15 or 16 of Schedule 3 to the Income Support Regulations (loans on residential property and for repairs and improvements to the dwelling occupied as the home), and

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(80) Paragraph 1A was inserted by regulation 5(2) of S.R. 1997 No. 435

- (b) the circumstances affecting the calculation of those housing costs remain unchanged since the last calculation of those costs, the applicable amount in respect of housing costs for joint-claim jobseeker's allowance shall be the applicable amount in respect of those costs current when entitlement to income support was last determined.”.
- (3) In paragraph 2(1) (circumstances in which a person is liable to meet housing costs), in both heads (a) and (c), after “or his partner” there shall be inserted “or, where that person is a member of a joint-claim couple, the other member of that couple,”.
- (4) In paragraph 4 (housing costs not met)—
- (a) for “the claimant” wherever those words occur, there shall be substituted “a claimant”;
- (b) in sub-paragraph (2)(c), for head (ii) there shall be substituted the following head—
- “(ii) who becomes, or whose partner becomes or, where that person is a member of a joint-claim couple, that couple become, entitled to a jobseeker's allowance after 6th October 1996 and that entitlement is within 26 weeks of an earlier entitlement to income support for the claimant or his partner or, as the case may be, either member of the joint-claim couple.”;
- (c) in sub-paragraph (4A)(81)—
- (i) for “or his partner”, wherever those words occur, there shall be substituted “, his partner or, where that person is a member of a joint-claim couple, the other member of that couple”;
- (ii) in head (b), for “or in Article 5(1)(a)” there shall be substituted “, 5(1)(a) or 5A(1)(a)”;
- (d) in sub-paragraph (7)(b), after “most favourable to him” there shall be inserted “or, as the case may be, to the joint-claim couple of which he is a member”;
- (e) in sub-paragraph (8)(ii), for “or 84(1)(g)” there shall be substituted “, 84(1)(g), 86A(d) or 86B(e)”.
- (5) In paragraph 6 (existing housing costs) after sub-paragraph (3)(82) there shall be added the following sub-paragraph—
- “(4) Where either member of a joint-claim couple ceases to be in receipt of or treated as being in receipt of income support and that couple then become entitled to a joint-claim jobseeker's allowance in a case to which paragraph 1A(1A) applies, the eligible capital for the time being owing shall be recalculated on each anniversary of the date on which the housing costs were first met for whichever of the benefits concerned either member of the couple was first entitled to.”.
- (6) After paragraph 7(2A)(83) (new housing costs) there shall be inserted the following sub-paragraph—
- “(2B) Where either member of a joint-claim couple ceases to be in receipt of or treated as being in receipt of income support and that couple then become entitled to a joint-claim jobseeker's allowance in a case to which paragraph 1A(1A) applies, the eligible capital for the time being owing shall be recalculated on each anniversary of the date on which the housing costs were first met for whichever of the benefits concerned either member of the couple was first entitled to.”.
- (7) In paragraph 8(1)(a) (general exclusions from paragraphs 6 and 7), after “or his partner” there shall be inserted “or either member of a joint-claim couple”.

(81) Sub-paragraph (4A) was inserted by regulation 13(2) of [S.R. 1997 No. 541](#)

(82) Sub-paragraph (3) was added by regulation 5(4) of [S.R. 1997 No. 435](#)

(83) Sub-paragraph (2A) was inserted by regulation 5(6) of [S.R. 1997 No. 435](#)

- (8) In paragraph 13 (linking rule)—
- (a) in sub-paragraph (1), for “sub-paragraph (2)” there shall be substituted “sub-paragraphs (2) and (2A)”;
  - (b) after sub-paragraph (1)(d), there shall be inserted the following sub-paragraph—
    - “(dd) where the applicable amount of a member of a joint-claim couple was determined in accordance with paragraph 1(1) (single claimant) or (2) (lone parent) of Schedule 1 (applicable amounts) in respect of a past period, provided that the claim was made within 12 weeks of the joint-claimant becoming a member of the joint-claim couple, the joint-claim couple shall be treated as having been in receipt of a jobseeker’s allowance for the same period as that member of the joint-claim couple had been treated, for the purposes of this Schedule, as having been;”;
  - (c) after sub-paragraph (2) there shall be inserted the following sub-paragraphs—
    - “(2A) Where a joint-claim jobseeker’s allowance is payable to one member of a joint-claim couple in accordance with Article 5B of the Order (joint-claim couples: the nominated member), both members of the couple shall be treated as receiving, or having received, a jobseeker’s allowance for the purpose of this paragraph.
    - (2B) Where both joint-claimants claiming a jobseeker’s allowance in respect of themselves have not been in receipt of a jobseeker’s allowance for a period before they became a joint-claim couple, sub-paragraph (1) shall have effect in respect of that couple in relation to the period which is most favourable to the couple for the purposes of this Schedule.”;
  - (d) in sub-paragraph (3)(84), after “or his partner”, in both places where those words occur, there shall be inserted “or, where a claimant is a member of a joint-claim couple, the other member of that couple”;
  - (e) in sub-paragraph (3A)(85)—
    - (i) after “or his partner”, wherever those words occur, there shall be inserted “or, where a claimant is a member of a joint-claim couple, the other member of that couple”;
    - (ii) in head (b), for “or Article 5(1)(a)” there shall be substituted “, 5(1)(a) or 5A(1)(a)”.
55. After Schedule 3 there shall be inserted the following Schedule—

“SCHEDULE 3A

Regulation 86D

**Applicable Amount of a Joint-claim Couple Where  
a Member is in a Residential Care or Nursing Home**

1. In this Schedule, “relevant member” means a member of a joint-claim couple to whom regulation 86D applies.
2. The weekly applicable amount of a joint-claim couple where one member of that couple is a relevant member shall be the aggregate of—
  - (a) the weekly applicable amount which is applicable to a member of the couple who is not a relevant member calculated in accordance with regulation 83(a), (c) or (e) (applicable amounts) as if that member was a single claimant;
  - (b) subject to paragraph 4, the weekly charge for the accommodation, including all meals and services, provided for the relevant member increased, where appropriate,

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(84) Sub-paragraph (3) was substituted by regulation 7(2) of [S.R. 1997 No. 165](#)

(85) Sub-paragraph (3A) was inserted by regulation 13(3)(b) of [S.R. 1997 No. 541](#)

in accordance with paragraph 3 but, except in a case to which paragraph 10 applies, subject to the maximum determined in accordance with paragraph 5;

- (c) a weekly amount for personal expenses for the relevant member determined in accordance with paragraph 11, and
- (d) where the relevant member is only temporarily in such accommodation any amount applicable under regulation 86A(d) or 86B(e) (housing costs) in respect of the dwelling normally occupied as the home.

3.—(1) Where, in addition to the weekly charge for accommodation, a separate charge is made for the provision of heating, attention in connection with bodily functions, supervision, extra baths, laundry or a special diet needed for a medical reason, the weekly charge for the purpose of paragraph 2(a) shall be increased by the amount of that charge.

(2) Where the weekly charge for the accommodation does not include the provision of all meals, it shall for the purpose of paragraph 2(a), be increased in respect of the relevant member by the following amount—

- (a) if the meals can be purchased within the residential care or nursing home, the amount equal to the actual cost of the meals, calculated on a weekly basis, or
- (b) if the meals cannot be so purchased, the amount calculated on a weekly basis—
  - (i) for breakfast, at a daily rate of £1·10 ;
  - (ii) for a midday meal, at a daily rate of £1·55, and
  - (iii) for an evening meal, at a daily rate of £1·55,

except that, if some or all of the meals are normally provided free of charge or at a reduced rate, the amount shall be reduced to take account of the lower charge or reduction.

4. Where any part of the weekly charge for the accommodation is met by housing benefit, an amount equal to the part so met shall be deducted from the amount calculated in accordance with paragraph 2(b).

5. Subject to paragraph 9, the maximum referred to in paragraph 2(b) shall be in respect of each relevant member, the appropriate amount in respect of him specified in or determined in accordance with paragraphs 6 to 9.

#### **Residential care homes**

6. Subject to paragraphs 8 and 9, where the accommodation provided for the relevant member is a residential care home for persons in need of personal care by virtue of—

- (a) past or present mental disorder but excluding mental handicap, the appropriate amount shall be £234·00 per week;
- (b) past or present drug or alcohol dependence, the appropriate amount shall be £234·00 per week;
- (c) mental handicap, the appropriate amount shall be £266·00 per week;
- (d) physical disablement, the appropriate amount shall be £303·00 per week;
- (e) any condition not falling within sub-paragraphs (a) to (d), the appropriate amount shall be £221·00 per week.

### **Nursing homes**

7. Subject to paragraphs 8 and 9, where the accommodation provided for the relevant member is a nursing home for persons in need of personal care by virtue of—

- (a) past or present mental disorder but excluding mental handicap, the appropriate amount shall be £331·00 per week;
- (b) mental handicap, the appropriate amount shall be £337·00 per week;
- (c) past or present drug or alcohol dependence, the appropriate amount shall be £331·00 per week;
- (d) physical disablement, the appropriate amount shall be £373·00 per week;
- (e) terminal illness, the appropriate amount shall be £330·00 per week;
- (f) any condition not falling within sub-paragraphs (a) to (e), the appropriate amount shall be £330·00 per week.

8. The appropriate amount applicable to a relevant member in a residential care home or nursing home shall, subject to paragraph 9, be determined—

- (a) where the home is a residential care home registered under Part II of the Registered Homes Order, by reference to the particulars recorded in the register kept by the relevant Health and Social Services Board for the purposes of that Order, or
- (b) where the home is a residential care home not so registered or a nursing home, by reference to the type of care which, taking into account the facilities and accommodation provided, the home is providing to the relevant member.

9.—(1) Where more than one amount would otherwise be applicable, in accordance with paragraph 8, to a relevant member in a residential care home or a nursing home, the appropriate amount in any case shall be determined in accordance with sub-paragraphs (2) to (4).

(2) Where the home is a residential care home registered under Part II of the Registered Homes Order and where the personal care that the relevant member is receiving corresponds to the care received by a category of residents for whom the register indicates that the home provides accommodation, the appropriate amount shall be the amount, in paragraph 6, as is consistent with that personal care.

(3) Where the home is a residential care home which is so registered but where the personal care that the relevant member is receiving does not correspond to the care received by a category of residents for whom the register indicates that the home provides accommodation, the appropriate amount shall be the lesser or least amount, in paragraph 6, as is consistent with those categories.

(4) In any case not falling within sub-paragraph (2) or (3), the appropriate amount shall be whichever amount of the amounts applicable in accordance with paragraph 6, 7 or 8 is, having regard to the types of personal care that the home provides, most consistent with the personal care being received by the relevant member in that accommodation.

### **Circumstances in which the maximum is not to apply**

10.—(1) Where a relevant member who satisfied the conditions in sub-paragraph (2) has been able to meet the charges referred to in paragraphs 2 and 3 without recourse to a jobseeker's allowance, income support or supplementary benefit, the maximum determined in accordance with paragraph 5 shall not apply for the period of 13 weeks or, if alternative accommodation is found earlier, such lesser period following the date of claim except to the extent that the claimant is able to meet out of income disregarded for the purposes of Part VIII (income and capital) the balance of the actual charge over the maximum.

- (2) The conditions for the purposes of sub-paragraph (1) are that—

- (a) the relevant member has lived in the same accommodation for more than 12 months;
  - (b) he was able to afford the charges in respect of that accommodation when he took up residence;
  - (c) having regard to the availability of suitable alternative accommodation and to the circumstances mentioned in paragraph 12(5)(b) of Schedule 2 (housing costs), it is reasonable that the maximum should not apply in order to allow him time to find alternative accommodation;
  - (d) he is not a person who is being accommodated—
    - (i) by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive under Part II of the Housing (Northern Ireland) Order 1988<sup>(86)</sup>, or
    - (ii) by an authority, as defined in Article 2 of the Children Order, under Article 21 of that Order (provision of accommodation for children: general), and
  - (e) he is seeking alternative accommodation and intends to leave his present accommodation once alternative accommodation is found.
- (3) Where—
- (a) the relevant member was a resident in a residential care home or nursing home immediately before 29th April 1985 and has continued after that date to be resident in the same accommodation, apart from any period of temporary absence;
  - (b) immediately before that date, the actual charge for the relevant member's accommodation was being met either wholly or partly out of his resources, or, wholly or partly out of other resources which can no longer be made available for this purpose;
  - (c) since that date, the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety has not at any time accepted responsibility for the making of arrangements for the provision of such accommodation for the relevant member, and
  - (d) the Department is satisfied that, unless this provision applies in the relevant member's case, the joint-claim couple of which he is a member will suffer exceptional hardship,
- the maximum amount shall be the rate specified in sub-paragraph (4) if that rate exceeds the maximum which, but for this sub-paragraph, would be determined under paragraph 5.
- (4) For the purposes of sub-paragraph (3) the rate is either—
- (a) the actual weekly charge for the accommodation immediately before 29th April 1985 plus £10, or
  - (b) the aggregate of the following amounts—
    - (i) the amount estimated under regulation 9(6) of the Supplementary Benefit (Requirements) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1983<sup>(87)</sup> as then in operation as the reasonable weekly charge for the area immediately before that date;
    - (ii) £26·15, and
    - (iii) if the relevant member was entitled at that date to attendance allowance under section 35 of the Social Security (Northern Ireland) Act 1975<sup>(88)</sup> at the higher rate £28·60 or, as the case may be, at the lower rate, £19·10,whichever is the lower amount.

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<sup>(86)</sup> S.I. 1988/1990 (N.I. 23)

<sup>(87)</sup> S.R. 1983 No. 61; relevant amending Regulations are S.R. 1986 No. 240

<sup>(88)</sup> 1975 c. 15

### Personal allowances

11. The allowance for personal expenses for the relevant member referred to in paragraph 2(b) shall be—

- (a) for the relevant member £15.45;
- (b) for the other member of the joint-claim couple, £15.45;
- (c) for a young person aged 18, £15.00;
- (d) for a young person aged under 18 but over 16, £10.40.”.

56. In Schedule 4 (applicable amounts in special cases)—

(a) paragraph 10 (couples where one member is absent from the United Kingdom) shall be renumbered paragraph 10(1) and after the renumbered paragraph 10(1) there shall be inserted—

(i) the following sub-paragraph in column (1)—

“(2) A claimant who is a member of a joint-claim couple and whose partner is temporarily absent from the United Kingdom—

- (a) in the circumstances prescribed in regulation 50(6A);
- (b) in any other circumstances.”;

(ii) the following sub-paragraph in column (2)—

“(2) For the first 4 weeks of that absence, the amount applicable to them as a couple under regulation 83 or 86 and thereafter the amount applicable to the claimant in Northern Ireland under regulation 83 or 86 as if the claimant were a single claimant;

- (b) the amount which would be applicable to the claimant under regulation 83 or 86 if that claimant was a single claimant for the period commencing on, and including, the date of claim and ending on the day after the day on which the partner returns to the United Kingdom.”;

(b) after paragraph 17 there shall be added—

(i) the following paragraph in column (1)—

**“Joint-claim couples where a claim is made other than jointly by both members**

17A. A joint-claim couple and one member—

- (a) is a person to whom regulation 3E(2)(a)(89) applies;
- (b) is a person to whom regulation 3E(2)(b) applies.”;

(ii) the following paragraph in column (2)—

“(a) the amount which would be applicable to the claimant under regulation 83 (applicable amounts) or 86 (applicable amounts for persons in residential care and nursing homes) if that claimant was a single claimant for the period commencing on, and including, the day on which the member of the couple who is not the claimant fails to attend at the time and place specified by an employment officer for the purposes of regulation 6 of the Claims and Payments Regulations and ending on the day on which that member does so attend;

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(89) Regulation 3E is inserted by regulation 2(2) of these Regulations



(b) the amount which would be applicable to the claimant under regulation 83 or 86 if that claimant was a single claimant.”.

57. After Schedule 4 there shall be inserted the following Schedule—

“SCHEDULE 4A

Regulation 86C

Applicable Amounts of Joint-Claim Couples in Special Cases

<i>Column (1)</i>	<i>Column (2)</i>
<b>Patients</b>	(a) The applicable amount under regulation 86A (applicable amounts for joint-claim couples) reduced by £13·50;
1. Subject to paragraphs 9 and 11, a joint-claim couple where one member—	(b) The applicable amount under regulation 86B (polygamous marriages) reduced by £13·50 in respect of each member of the polygamous marriage who is a patient.
(a) has been a patient for more than 6 weeks;	
(b) is a member of a polygamous marriage and another member of that marriage who is not a joint-claimant has been a patient for more than 6 weeks.	
<b>Joint-claim couple without accommodation</b>	2. The amount applicable to the couple under regulation 86A(a) (personal allowance) only.
2. A joint-claim couple who are without accommodation.	
<b>Members of Religious Orders</b>	3. Nil.
3. A joint-claim couple who are both members of, and fully maintained, by a religious order.	
<b>Specified cases of temporarily separated joint-claim couples</b>	4. Either—
4. A joint-claim couple who are temporarily separated where—	(a) the amount applicable to the joint-claim couple under regulation 86A, or
(a) one member is—	(b) the aggregate of the applicable amounts of both claimants assessed under the provisions of these Regulations as if each of them were a single claimant,
(i) not a patient but is resident in a nursing home;	whichever is the greater.
(ii) resident in a residential care home;	
(iii) resident in premises used for the rehabilitation of alcoholics or drug addicts;	
(iv) participating in arrangements for training made under sections 2 and 3 of the Disabled Persons (Employment) Act (Northern	

<i>Column (1)</i>	<i>Column (2)</i>
<p>Ireland) 1945<sup>(90)</sup> or arranged under section 1(1) of the Employment and Training Act (Northern Ireland) 1950<sup>(91)</sup>, where the course requires him to live away from the dwelling occupied as the home, or</p> <p>(v) in a probation hostel or other establishment for use in connection with the supervision and assistance of offenders, provided and maintained, or under arrangements entered into, by the Probation Board for Northern Ireland with the approval of the Secretary of State, and</p> <p>(b) the other member is—</p> <p style="padding-left: 2em;">(i) living in the dwelling occupied as the home;</p> <p style="padding-left: 2em;">(ii) a patient;</p> <p style="padding-left: 2em;">(iii) in residential accommodation, or</p> <p style="padding-left: 2em;">(iv) resident in a residential care home or nursing home.</p> <p><b>Polygamous marriages where one or more members are temporarily separated</b></p> <p>5. A joint-claim couple where one member is a member of a polygamous marriage and is temporarily separated from a partner of his, where one of them is living in the home while the other member is—</p> <p style="padding-left: 2em;">(a) not a patient but is resident in a nursing home;</p> <p style="padding-left: 2em;">(b) resident in a residential care home;</p> <p style="padding-left: 2em;">(c) resident in premises used for the rehabilitation of alcoholics or drug addicts;</p> <p style="padding-left: 2em;">(d) attending a course of training or instruction provided or approved by the Department of Higher and</p>	<p>5. Either—</p> <p style="padding-left: 2em;">(a) the amount applicable to the joint-claim couple under regulation 86B, or</p> <p style="padding-left: 2em;">(b) the aggregate of the amount applicable for the joint-claim couple in respect of the members of the polygamous marriage who remain in the home under regulation 86B and the amount applicable in respect of those members not in the home</p>

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<sup>(90)</sup> 1945 c. 6 (N.I.); sections 2 and 3 were amended by section 1 of the Disabled Persons (Employment) Act (Northern Ireland) 1960 (c. 4 (N.I.)) and Schedule 18 to the Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 (S.I. 1986/594 (N. I. 3))

<sup>(91)</sup> 1950 c. 29 (N.I.); section 1 was amended by Article 3 of the Employment and Training (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) Order 1988 (S.I. 1988/1087 (N.I. 10))

<i>Column (1)</i>	<i>Column (2)</i>
<p>Further Education, Training and Employment where the course requires him to live away from home, or</p> <p>(e) in a probation hostel or other establishment for use in connection with the supervision and assistance of offenders, provided and maintained, or under arrangements entered into, by the Probation Board for Northern Ireland with the approval of the Secretary of State.</p> <p><b>Joint-claim couples and members of polygamous marriages where one member is or all are temporarily in accommodation provided by a Health and Social Services Board or an HSS trust</b></p> <p>6. —</p> <p>(1) A joint-claim couple where one member is temporarily separated from the other member where one of them is living in the home while the other is in accommodation provided by a Health and Social Services Board or an HSS trust of a kind specified in the definition of residential accommodation in regulation 85 (special cases).</p> <p>(2) A joint-claim couple where one member is a member of a polygamous marriage and is temporarily separated from a partner of his where one is, or some are, living in the home while one is, or some are, in accommodation referred to in sub-paragraph (1).</p> <p>(3) A joint-claim couple where both members or all the members of a polygamous marriage of which a member of the joint-claim couple is a member, are in accommodation referred to in sub-paragraph (1).</p> <p><b>Joint-claim couples where one member is absent from the United Kingdom</b></p> <p>7. A joint-claim couple where one member is temporarily absent from the United Kingdom</p> <p>—</p>	<p>calculated as if each of them were a single claimant, whichever is the greater.</p> <p>6. —</p> <p>(1) The aggregate of the amount applicable for the claimant who remains in the home calculated as if he were a single claimant under regulation 83, 85 or 86 and in respect of the other joint-claimant £67·50 of which £15·45 is for personal expenses.</p> <p>(2) The aggregate of the amount applicable for the members of the polygamous marriage who remain in the home under regulation 86B(92) (applicable amounts for joint-claim couples: polygamous marriages), and in respect of each member not in the home, £67·50 of which £15·45 is for personal expenses.</p> <p>(3) For each member of that couple or marriage £67·50 of which £15·45 is for personal expenses plus, if appropriate, the amount applicable under regulation 84A(d) and 84B(e).</p> <p>7.</p>

(92) Regulation 86B is inserted by paragraph 35 of Schedule 2 to these Regulations

<i>Column (1)</i>	<i>Column (2)</i>
<p>(a) in the circumstances prescribed in regulation 50(6B);</p> <p>(b) in any other circumstances.</p> <p><b>Polygamous marriages where any member of the marriage is abroad</b></p> <p>8. A joint-claim couple where one member is a member of a polygamous marriage and—</p> <p>(a) he, the other member or one of his partners is;</p> <p>(b) he, the other member and one or more of his partners are, or</p> <p>(c) the other member and one or more of his partners or 2 or more of his partners are,</p> <p>temporarily absent from the United Kingdom.</p> <p><b>Members of joint-claim couples in residential accommodation</b></p> <p>9. —</p> <p>(1) Subject to sub-paragraph (2), a joint-claim couple where one member is in or only temporarily absent from residential accommodation.</p> <p>9. —</p> <p>(1) £67·50 of which £15·45 is for personal expenses.</p> <p>(2) A joint-claim couple where either member is a member of a polygamous marriage and one or more members of that marriage are in or only temporarily absent from residential accommodation.</p> <p><b>Members of joint-claim couples temporarily absent from a hostel, residential care or nursing home</b></p> <p>10. A joint-claim couple where a member is temporarily absent from accommodation</p>	<p>(a) the amount applicable to them as a couple under regulation 86A or 86D for the relevant period prescribed in regulation 50(6B);</p> <p>(b) for the first 4 weeks of that absence, the amount applicable to them as a couple under regulation 86A or 86D, as the case may be, and thereafter the amount applicable to the claimant in Northern Ireland under regulation 83 or 86, as the case may be, as if that claimant were a single claimant.</p> <p>8. For the first 4 weeks of that absence, the amount applicable to the joint-claim couple under regulations 86B to 86D, as the case may be, and thereafter, if the joint-claim couple are in Northern Ireland the amount applicable to them under regulations 86B to 86D, as the case may be, as if any member of the polyamorous marriage not in the United Kingdom were not a member of the marriage.</p> <p>(2) The amount specified in sub-paragraph (1) of this column multiplied by the number of members of the polygamous marriage in or only temporarily absent from that accommodation.</p> <p>10. The amount otherwise applicable to the joint-claim couple under these Regulations may be increased to take account of the retaining fee by an amount not exceeding 80 per cent. of the applicable amount referred</p>

<i>Column (1)</i>	<i>Column (2)</i>
for which he is liable to pay a retaining fee, and, but for his temporary absence from that accommodation, his applicable amount would be calculated in accordance with regulation 86D (applicable amounts for joint-claim couples where a member is in a residential care or nursing home), and	to in paragraph 1(1)(a) of Schedule 3A (applicable amounts of joint-claim couples where a member is in a residential care or nursing home) and any such increase shall not be for a continuous period of more than 52 weeks.
(a) he is a person in accommodation provided by a Health and Social Services Board or an HSS trust of a kind specified in the definition of residential accommodation in regulation 85(4) (special cases) and paragraph 9 does not apply to him by reason only that his stay in that accommodation has not become other than temporary, or	
(b) he is a person to whom paragraph 1 (patients) applies.	
<b>Members of joint-claim couples in residential care or nursing homes who become patients</b>	11.
11. A joint-claim couple to whom regulation 86D (applicable amounts for joint-claim couples where a member is in a residential care or nursing home) applies immediately before either member became a patient where—	
(a) that member has been a patient for not more than 2 weeks and—	(a)
(i) continues to be liable to meet the weekly charge for the accommodation without reduction in respect of himself;	(i) the amount which would be applicable under regulation 86D as if the claimant or the member of the family who is a patient were resident in the accommodation to which regulation 86D applies;
(ii) continues to be liable to meet the weekly charge for the accommodation but at a reduced rate; or	(ii) the amount which would be applicable under regulation 86D having taken into account the reduced charge, as if the claimant or the member of the family who is a patient were resident in the accommodation to which regulation 86D applies;
(b) that member is one member of a polygamous marriage and one or more other members of that marriage (other than the other member of the	(b) where that member of that marriage remains in the accommodation, the amount applicable to the joint-claim couple as if regulation 86B having taken

<i>Column (1)</i>	<i>Column (2)</i>
joint-claim couple) has been a patient for a period of more than 6 weeks.	into account any reduction in charge, continued to apply to that couple except that in respect of the member of the polygamous marriage who has been a patient for more than 6 weeks, no amount shall be applicable in respect of the couple under paragraph 3(2) of Schedule 3A and for the amount in respect of the allowance for personal expenses prescribed by paragraph 11 of Schedule 3A there shall be substituted the amount of £16·90.

### **Rounding of Fractions**

12. Where any calculation under this Schedule or as a result of a joint-claim jobseeker's allowance being awarded for a period of less than one complete benefit week results in a fraction of a penny that fraction shall be treated as a penny.”

58. After Schedule 5 there shall be inserted the following Schedule—

“SCHEDULE 5A

Regulation 88ZA(4)

### **Sums to be Disregarded in the Calculation of Earnings of Members of Joint-Claim Couples**

1.—(1) In a case to which this paragraph applies, £15; but notwithstanding regulation 88ZA (calculation of income and capital of members of a joint-claim couple), if this paragraph applies to one member of a joint-claim couple it shall not apply to the other member except where, and to the extent that, the earnings of the member which are to be disregarded under this paragraph are less than £15.

(2) This paragraph applies where the joint-claim couple's applicable amount includes, or, but for one member being an in-patient or in accommodation in a residential care home or nursing home or in residential accommodation would include, an amount by way of a disability premium under Schedule 1 (applicable amounts).

(3) This paragraph applies where—

(a) the joint-claim couple's applicable amount would include—

- (i) an amount by way of the disability premium under Schedule 1 but for the higher pensioner premium under that Schedule being applicable, or
- (ii) had a member of that couple not been an in-patient or in accommodation in a residential care home, nursing home or in residential accommodation, the higher pensioner premium under that Schedule and had that been the case, the joint-claim couple would also satisfy the condition in head (i), and

(b) either member is under the age of 60 and at least one is engaged in part-time employment.

(4) This paragraph applies where—

(a) the joint-claim couple's applicable amount includes, or but for a member being an in-patient or in accommodation in a residential care home or nursing home or in residential

accommodation would include, an amount by way of the higher pensioner premium under Schedule 1;

- (b) either member has attained the age of 60;
  - (c) immediately before attaining that age either or, as the case may be, both members were engaged in part-time employment and the joint-claimant was entitled by virtue of sub-paragraph (2) or (3) to a disregard of £15, and
  - (d) either or, as the case may be, both members have continued in part-time employment.
- (5) For the purposes of this paragraph—
- (a) except where head (b) or (c) applies, no account shall be taken of any period not exceeding 8 consecutive weeks occurring—
    - (i) on or after the date on which either member attained the age of 60 during which either member was, or both members were, not engaged in part-time employment or either member was, or both members were, not entitled to a jobseeker's allowance or income support, or
    - (ii) immediately after the date on which either member ceased to participate in arrangements for training provided under sections 2 and 3 of the Disabled Persons (Employment) Act (Northern Ireland) 1945<sup>(93)</sup> or arranged under section 1(1) of the Employment and Training Act (Northern Ireland) 1950<sup>(94)</sup>;
  - (b) in a case where either or both members have ceased to be entitled to a jobseeker's allowance or income support because either member becomes engaged in remunerative work, no account shall be taken of any period during which either or both members were not entitled to a jobseeker's allowance or income support, not exceeding the permitted period, occurring on or after the date on which either member attained the age of 60;
  - (c) no account shall be taken of any period occurring on or after the date on which either member attained the age of 60 during which either or both members were not entitled to a jobseeker's allowance or income support because either or both members were participating in arrangements for training provided under sections 2 and 3 of the Disabled Persons (Employment) Act (Northern Ireland) 1945 or arranged under section 1(1) of the Employment and Training Act (Northern Ireland) 1950.

2.—(1) In a case where paragraph 1 does not apply to a member of a joint-claim couple and subject to sub-paragraph (2), where the joint-claim couple's applicable amount includes an amount by way of the carer premium under Schedule 1 (applicable amounts), £15 of the earnings of the person who is, or at any time in the preceding 8 weeks was, in receipt of an invalid care allowance or treated in accordance with paragraph 20J(2) of that Schedule as being in receipt of an invalid care allowance.

(2) Where the carer premium is awarded in respect of a joint-claim couple, the earnings of each member shall for the purposes of this paragraph be aggregated but the amount to be disregarded in accordance with sub-paragraph (1) shall not exceed £15 of the aggregated amount.

3.—(1) In a case to which neither paragraph 1 nor 2 applies to a member of a joint-claim couple ("the first member"), £15 of earnings derived from one or more employments to which paragraph 9 of Schedule 5 applies but, notwithstanding regulation 88ZA (calculation of income and capital of a joint-claim couple), if this paragraph applies to one member of a joint-claim couple it shall not apply to the other member except to the extent specified in sub-paragraph (2).

(93) 1945 c. 6 (N.I.); sections 2 and 3 were amended by section 1 of the Disabled Persons (Employment) Act (Northern Ireland) 1960 (c. 4 (N.I.)) and Schedule 18 to the Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 (S.I. 1986/594 (N.I. 3))

(94) 1950 c. 29 (N.I.); section 1 was amended by Article 3 of the Employment and Training (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) Order 1988 (S.I. 1988/1087 (N.I. 10))

- (2) If the other member is engaged in employment—
- (a) specified in sub-paragraph (1), so much of his earnings as would not in aggregate with the amount of the first member's earnings disregarded under this paragraph exceed £15;
  - (b) other than one specified in sub-paragraph (1), so much of his earnings from that employment up to £5 as would not in aggregate with the first member's earnings disregarded under this paragraph exceed £15.

4. Where a member of a joint-claim couple is engaged in one or more employments specified in paragraph 3(1) but his earnings derived from such employments are less than £15 in any week and he is also engaged in any other part-time employment, so much of his earnings from that other employment up to £5 as would not in aggregate with the amount of his earnings disregarded under paragraph 3 exceed £15.

5. In the case of a member of a joint-claim couple who—
- (a) has been engaged in employment as—
    - (i) a member of any territorial or reserve force prescribed in Part I of Schedule 3 to the Social Security (Contributions) Regulations 1979(95), or
    - (ii) a person in the army whose service is restricted to part-time service in Northern Ireland pursuant to section 1 of the Army Act 1992, Regulations made under section 2 of the Armed Forces Act 1966, or the terms of his commission, and
  - (b) by reason of that employment, the joint-claim couple have failed to satisfy any of the conditions of entitlement to a joint-claim jobseeker's allowance, other than the condition in Article 5A(1)(a) of the Order (income not in excess of applicable amount),

any earnings from that employment paid in respect of the period in which the joint-claim couple were not entitled to a joint-claim jobseeker's allowance.

6.—(1) In a case where none of paragraphs 1 to 5 apply, £10 but, notwithstanding regulation 88ZA (calculation of income and capital of joint-claim couples), if this paragraph applies to one member of a joint-claim couple, it shall not apply to the other member except where, and to the extent that, the earnings of the member which are to be disregarded under this sub-paragraph are less than £10.

(2) In a case to which one or more of paragraphs 1 to 5 apply and the total amount disregarded under those paragraphs is less than £10, so much of the earnings of the member of a joint-claim couple as would not in aggregate with the amount disregarded under paragraphs 1 to 5 exceed £10.

7. In this Schedule, "part-time employment" and "permitted period" shall bear the meanings prescribed respectively in paragraphs 20 and 21 of Schedule 5."

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## EXPLANATORY NOTE

*(This note is not part of the Regulations.)*

These Regulations amend the Jobseeker's Allowance Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1996 ("the principal Regulations") to provide the mechanism whereby certain couples of a description

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(95) S.I. 1979/591; relevant amending Regulations are S.I. 1990/1975 and S.I. 1994/1553



prescribed in new regulation 3A of the principal Regulations (“joint-claim couples”) (inserted by regulation 2(2)) shall only be entitled to a jobseeker’s allowance if they make a claim for it jointly and both members comply with the conditions for entitlement to that benefit. Regulation 2(2) also provides for continuity of claims and awards when a joint-claim couple cease to be, or become, such a couple (new regulations 3B and 3C) and where a joint-claim couple may still be entitled to a jobseeker’s allowance, even though they have not made a joint claim (new regulation 3E). New regulation 3F makes provision for transitional case couples and new regulation 3G provides that information about the joint claim may be supplied to both members of the joint-claim couple.

New regulation 3D of, and Schedule A1 to, the principal Regulations (inserted by regulation 2(2) and (4) and Schedule 1) provide that an award of joint-claim jobseeker’s allowance can be made, even though one member of the couple does not fulfil certain conditions of entitlement and comes within a category prescribed in Schedule A1.

Regulation 2(3) inserts a new Part IXA into the principal Regulations which prescribes circumstances when a joint-claim couple claiming a jobseeker’s allowance jointly are to be considered to be a couple in hardship for the purpose of the principal Regulations and therefore, a reduced rate of jobseeker’s allowance is payable to the couple in circumstances where it would not otherwise be payable.

Regulation 2(5) and Schedule 2 make other amendments to the principal Regulations. In particular, they—

- (a) modify the definition of “partner” for the purposes of the principal Regulations to exclude most members of joint-claim couples (paragraph 1);
- (b) prescribe a reduced amount of jobseeker’s allowance where one member of a joint-claim couple is subject to sanctions (paragraph 31);
- (c) provide methods for determining the applicable amounts of joint-claim couples (paragraphs 34, 47 and 53 to 55 and 57);
- (d) prescribe a special applicable amount for a claimant who is a member of a joint-claim couple who does not make a joint claim in certain circumstances (paragraph 56(b));
- (e) prescribe methods for calculating the income and capital of joint-claim couples (paragraphs 35 to 44 and 58);
- (f) adapt the requirements for attendance of joint-claim couples (paragraphs 2 to 8);
- (g) prescribe special arrangements and applicable amounts where one member of a joint-claim couple is temporarily absent from Northern Ireland on the date of claim (paragraphs 9, 13 and 56(a));
- (h) revise the rules on waiting days (paragraph 10), jobseeking periods (paragraph 11), being in Northern Ireland (paragraph 13), remunerative work (paragraphs 14 to 16), young persons (paragraphs 18 to 24) and on sanctions (paragraphs 25 to 30).

The remaining paragraphs of Schedule 2 make minor consequential amendments.

These Regulations do not impose any charge on business.

These Regulations make in relation to Northern Ireland only provision corresponding to provision contained in Regulations made by the Secretary of State for Social Security 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.