Draft Regulations laid before the Assembly under Article 135(5) of the Welfare Reform (Northern Ireland) Order 2015, for approval by resolution of the Assembly

STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

2026 No. 00

WELFARE REFORM

The Discretionary Support (Amendment) (Fuel as a Grant) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026

Made - - - -	*00 September 2026*
Coming into operation	*00 January 2027*

The Department for Communities(**a**) in exercise of the powers conferred by Article 135 of the Welfare Reform (Northern Ireland) Order 2015(**b**) makes the following Regulations.

In accordance with Article 135(5) of that Order, a draft of these Regulations was laid before, and approved by a resolution of, the Assembly.

Citation and commencement

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Discretionary Support (Amendment) (Fuel as a Grant) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026.

(2) These Regulations come into operation on 00 January 2027.

Amendment to the Discretionary Support Regulations

2. In Schedule 2 (Discretionary support grants – excluded items and services) to the Discretionary Support Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016(**c**) omit paragraph 19.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department for Communities on 00 September 2026

(L.S.)

David Tarr
A senior officer of the
Department for Communities

(**a**) See section 1(7) of the Departments Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 (c. 5 (N.I.)) and S.R. 2016 No. 76
(**b**) S.I. 2015 No. 2006 (N.I. 1)
(**c**) S.R. 2016 No.270

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

These Regulations make provision to allow Discretionary Support in respect of fuel to be paid as a grant. They do so by removing the exclusion from Schedule 2 of the Discretionary Support Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016.

Awards for fuel were previously excluded from being the subject of a grant of Discretionary Support.

Regulation 2 omits paragraph 19 of the Schedule 2. This removes the exclusion and provides that Discretionary Support claims for fuel to heat the home may be considered as a grant award.

An impact assessment has been produced for this Statutory Rule.