

2026 No. 000

HOUSING

**The Housing Benefit (Earned Income Disregards) (Amendment)
Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026**

Made - - - -

Coming into operation

5th October 2026

The Department for Communities(a) makes the following Regulations in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 122(1)(d), 132(3) and (4)(b), 133(1) and 171(1) and (3) of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits (Northern Ireland) Act 1992(b), and now vested in it(c).

Regulation 2 is made with the consent of the Department of Finance(d).

Citation, commencement and interpretation

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Housing Benefit (Earned Income Disregards) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026 and come into operation on 5th October 2026.

(2) The Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954(e) applies to these Regulations as it applies to an Act of the Assembly.

Amendments to the Housing Benefit Regulations

2.—(1) The Housing Benefit Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006(f) are amended in accordance with paragraphs (2) to (4).

(2) In regulation 33 (calculation of net earnings of employed earners), in paragraph (2), after “paragraphs 1 to 14”, insert “and 18”.

(3) In regulation 35 (calculation of net profit of self-employed earners), in paragraph (2), after “paragraphs 1 to 14”, insert “and 18”.

(4) In Schedule 5 (sums to be disregarded in the calculation of earnings), after paragraph 17 insert—

-
- (a) The Department for Social Development was renamed the Department for Communities in accordance with section 1(7) of the Departments Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 (c. 5 (N.I.))
- (b) 1992 c. 7; section 133(1) is cited for the meaning it gives to “prescribed”, section 171(1) was amended by paragraph 5 of Schedule 4 to the Tax Credits Act 2002 (c. 21)
- (c) See Article 8(b) of S.R. 1999 No. 481
- (d) See section 171(6A) of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits (Northern Ireland) Act 1992 as inserted by Article 3(3) of the Social Security (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) Order 1993 (S.I. 1993/1579 (N.I. 8)); see also Article 6(b) of S.R. 1999 No. 481 and section 1(4) of the Departments Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 (c. 5 (N.I.))
- (e) 1954 (c. 33 (N.I.))
- (f) S.R. 2006 No. 405. There are amendments not relevant to this rule.

“18.—(1) In the case of a claimant who is engaged in remunerative work as an employed earner or a self-employed earner, who is resident in specified accommodation or temporary accommodation and who is—

- (a) a single claimant who has not attained the age of 25 years, £61.41;
- (b) a single claimant who has attained the age of 25 years, £77.73;
- (c) a member of a couple, where both members of the couple have not attained the age of 18 years, £97.33;
- (d) a member of a couple, where both members of the couple have not attained the age of 25 years, £61.53;
- (e) a member of a couple, where at least one member of the couple has attained the age of 25 years, £119.70.

(2) In this paragraph—

“specified accommodation” has the meaning given in paragraph 4 of Schedule 1 to the Universal Credit Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016(a);

“temporary accommodation” has the meaning given in paragraph 4A of Schedule 1 to the Universal Credit Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016(b).”

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department for Communities on **** 2026
(L.S.)

David Tarr
A senior officer of the Department for Communities

The Department of Finance hereby consents to regulation 2 of the foregoing regulations.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Finance on **** 2026
(L.S.)

Patrick Neeson
A senior officer of the Department of Finance

(a) S.R. 2016 No. 216.

(b) Paragraph 4A inserted by regulation 6(18)(b) of S.R. 2018 No. 92.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

These Regulations amend the Housing Benefit Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 (S.R. 2006 No. 405) to extend the sums to be disregarded when calculating the earnings of a person claiming housing benefit (“the claimant”).

Regulation 2 amends Schedule 5 (sums to be disregarded in the calculation of earnings) to insert additional sums that are to be disregarded in the calculation of earnings where the claimant is resident in specified accommodation or temporary accommodation (the definition of both types of accommodation are contained in Schedule 1 of the Universal Credit Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016 (S.R. 2016 No. 216)). The sums to be disregarded differ depending on whether the claimant has not attained the age of 18 years, or not attained the age of 25 years old and those who have, and is a single claimant or part of a couple.

These amendments apply to working-age housing benefit only and no changes are made to the Housing Benefit (Persons who have attained the qualifying age for state pension credit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 (S.R. 2006 No. 406).

A full impact assessment has not been produced for these Regulations as no, or no significant, impact on the private, voluntary or public sector is foreseen.