



Social Security Act 1998

1998 CHAPTER 14

PART I

DECISIONS AND APPEALS

CHAPTER I

GENERAL

Decisions

1 Transfer of functions to Secretary of State

The following functions are hereby transferred to the Secretary of State, namely—

- (a) the functions of adjudication officers appointed under section 38 of the Social Security Administration Act 1992 (“the Administration Act”);
- (b) the functions of social fund officers appointed under section 64 of that Act; and
- (c) the functions of child support officers appointed under section 13 of the Child Support Act 1991 (“the Child Support Act”).

2 Use of computers

- (1) Any decision, determination or assessment falling to be made or certificate falling to be issued by the Secretary of State under or by virtue of a relevant enactment, or in relation to a war pension, may be made or issued not only by an officer of his acting under his authority but also—
 - (a) by a computer for whose operation such an officer is responsible; and
 - (b) in the case of a decision, determination or assessment that may be made or a certificate that may be issued by a person providing services to the Secretary of State, by a computer for whose operation such a person is responsible.

Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).

- (2) In this section “relevant enactment” means any enactment contained in—
- (a) Chapter II of this Part;
 - (b) the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992 (“the Contributions and Benefits Act”);
 - (c) the Administration Act;
 - (d) the Child Support Act;
 - (e) the Social Security (Incapacity for Work) Act 1994;
 - (f) the Jobseekers Act 1995 (“the Jobseekers Act”);
 - (g) the Child Support Act 1995; or
 - (h) the Social Security (Recovery of Benefits) Act 1997.
- (3) In this section and section 3 below “war pension” has the same meaning as in section 25 of the Social Security Act 1989 (establishment and functions of war pensions committees).

3 Use of information

- (1) Subsection (2) below applies to information relating to social security, child support or war pensions which is held—
- (a) by the Secretary of State or the Northern Ireland Department; or
 - (b) by a person providing services to the Secretary of State or the Northern Ireland Department in connection with the provision of those services.
- (2) Information to which this subsection applies—
- (a) may be used for the purposes of, or for any purposes connected with, the exercise of functions in relation to social security, child support or war pensions; and
 - (b) may be supplied to, or to a person providing services to, the Secretary of State or the Northern Ireland Department for use for those purposes.
- (3) The following sections, namely—
- (a) section 122C of the Administration Act (supply of information to authorities administering benefit); and
 - (b) section 122D of that Act (supply of information by authorities administering benefit),
- shall each have effect as if the reference in subsection (1) to social security included references to child support and war pensions.
- (4) In this section “the Northern Ireland Department” means the Department of Health and Social Services for Northern Ireland.