



## 2000 CHAPTER 4

### PART III SOCIAL SECURITY

#### *Housing benefit*

#### **Discretionary financial assistance with housing**

**60.—**(1) The Department may by regulations make provision conferring a power on relevant authorities to make payments by way of financial assistance (discretionary housing payments) to persons who—

- (a) are entitled to housing benefit [<sup>F1</sup>or universal credit] ; and
- (b) appear to such an authority to require some further financial assistance (in addition to the benefit to which they are entitled) in order to meet housing costs.

(2) Regulations under this section may include provision—

- (a) prescribing the circumstances in which discretionary housing payments may be made under the regulations;
- (b) conferring (subject to any provision made by virtue of paragraph (c) or (d)) a discretion on a relevant authority—
  - (i) as to whether or not to make discretionary housing payments in a particular case; and
  - (ii) as to the amount of the payments and the period for or in respect of which they are made;
- (c) imposing a limit on the amount of the discretionary housing payment that may be made in any particular case;

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*Changes to legislation: Child Support, Pensions and Social Security Act (Northern Ireland) 2000, Section 60 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 20 April 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

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- (d) restricting the period for or in respect of which discretionary housing payments may be made;
  - (e) about the form and manner in which claims for discretionary housing payments are to be made and about the procedure to be followed by relevant authorities in dealing with and disposing of such claims;
  - (f) imposing conditions on persons claiming or receiving discretionary housing payments requiring them to provide a relevant authority with such information as may be prescribed;
  - (g) entitling a relevant authority that is making or has made a discretionary housing payment, in such circumstances as may be prescribed, to cancel the making of further such payments or to recover a payment already made; or
  - (h) requiring or authorising a relevant authority to review decisions made by the authority with respect to the making, cancellation or recovery of discretionary housing payments.
- (3) Regulations under this section shall be subject to negative resolution.
- (4) Article 74(3) to (6) of the 1998 Order (regulations and orders) shall apply to any power to make regulations under this section as it applies to any power to make regulations under that Order.
- (5) Any power to make regulations under this section shall include power to make different provision for different areas or different relevant authorities.
- (6) In this section—
- prescribed means prescribed by or determined in accordance with regulations made by the Department;
  - relevant authority means the Housing Executive or the Department of Finance and Personnel, as the case may be.

**F1** Words in s. 60(1)(a) inserted (10.7.2017) by [The Welfare Reform \(Northern Ireland\) Order 2015 \(S.I. 2015/2006\)](#), art. 2(2), [Sch. 2 para. 44](#); S.R. 2017/118, art. 2

**Changes to legislation:**

Child Support, Pensions and Social Security Act (Northern Ireland) 2000, Section 60 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 20 April 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations.

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**Changes and effects yet to be applied to :**

- s. 60(1) words omitted by [S.I. 2015/2006 \(N.I.\) Sch. 3 para. 12\(a\)](#)
- s. 60(1)(a) words inserted by [S.I. 2015/2006 \(N.I.\) Sch. 4 para. 12](#)
- s. 60(1)(a) words repealed by [S.I. 2015/2006 \(N.I.\) Sch. 12 Pt. 1](#)
- s. 60(1)(b) words substituted by [S.I. 2015/2006 \(N.I.\) Sch. 3 para. 12\(b\)](#)
- s. 60(2) substituted by [S.I. 2015/2006 \(N.I.\) Sch. 3 para. 12\(c\)](#)
- s. 60(5) words omitted by [S.I. 2015/2006 \(N.I.\) Sch. 3 para. 12\(d\)](#)
- s. 60(6) substituted by [S.I. 2015/2006 \(N.I.\) Sch. 3 para. 12\(e\)](#)

**Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:**

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- Sch. 7 para. 1(2)(c) added by [2007 c. 2 \(N.I.\) Sch. 5 para. 6](#)
- Sch. 7 para. 6(5A)-(5C) inserted by [S.I. 2015/2006 \(N.I.\) Sch. 11 para. 10\(3\)](#)