

*These notes refer to the Welfare Reform Act (Northern Ireland) 2010 (c.13)*

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## **EXPLANATORY NOTES**

### **WELFARE REFORM ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2010**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **BACKGROUND AND POLICY OBJECTIVES**

##### **PART 1 - SOCIAL SECURITY**

**Abolition of income support**

**Work for your benefit**

**Supporting parents with younger children into employment-‘Progression to work’**

**Work-related activity for claimants of employment and support allowance**

**Contribution-based jobseeker’s allowance and contributory employment and support allowance**

**Community care grants**

**Benefit fraud**

**Sanctions**

**Miscellaneous provisions**

##### **PART 2 - CHILD MAINTENANCE**

##### **PART 3 - MISCELLANEOUS AND SUPPLEMENTARY**

#### **CONSULTATION**

#### **OVERVIEW**

#### **COMMENTARY ON SECTIONS**

##### **PART 1: SOCIAL SECURITY**

Section 1: Schemes for assisting persons to obtain employment: 'Work for your benefit' schemes etc.

Section 2: Work-related activity: income support claimants and partners of claimants

Section 3: Lone parents

Section 4: Entitlement to jobseeker's allowance without seeking employment etc.

Section 5: Couples where at least one member capable of work

Section 6: Statutory sick pay and employment and support allowance

Section 7: Transitional provision relating to sections 4 to 6

Section 8: Assembly procedure: regulations imposing work-related activity requirements on lone parents with children under 7

Section 9: Abolition of income support

Section 10: Power to direct claimant to undertake specific work-related activity

Section 11: Conditions for contributory jobseeker's allowance

Section 12: Conditions for contributory employment and support allowance

Section 13: Mobility component

Section 14: Maternity allowance and carer's allowance

Section 15: Community care grants relating to specified goods or services

Section 16: Community care grants: reviews and information

Section 17: Regulations relating to information: Assembly control

Section 18: Payments on account

Section 19: Loss of benefit provisions

Section 20: Jobseeker's allowance: sanctions for violent conduct etc. in connection with claim

Section 21: Repeal of sections 53 to 57 of the Child Support, Pensions and Social Security Act (Northern Ireland) 2000

Section 22: Period for which pilot schemes have effect etc.

Section 23: Exemption from jobseeking conditions for victims of domestic violence

Section 24: Good cause for failure to comply with regulations etc.

Section 25: Jobseekers' agreements and action plans: well-being of children

Section 26: Contracting out functions under Jobseekers (Northern Ireland) Order 1995

Section 27: Attendance in connection with jobseeker's allowance: sanctions

Section 28: Social security information and employment or training information

Section 29: Persons under pensionable age to take part in work-focused interviews etc.

Section 30: Minor amendments

## **PART 2: CHILD MAINTENANCE**

Section 31: Payments of child support maintenance

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## **PART 3: MISCELLANEOUS AND SUPPLEMENTARY**

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Section 34: Repeals

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### **PART 1**

**13A: Persons not required to meet the jobseeking conditions**

**13B: Provision which may be made by regulations under Article 13A**

**13C: Action plans in connection with work-focused interviews**

**20A: Requirements imposed on claimants by officers of the Departments etc.**

**20B: Work-related activity: Article 3A(4) claimants**

**20C: Definitions for purposes of Articles 21 and 22A**

**20D: Article 20C: supplemental**

**21: Certain circumstances in which a jobseeker's allowance is not payable**

**22: Exemptions from Article 21**

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Schedule 3 - Loss of benefit provisions: further amendments

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## **HANSARD REPORTS**