
EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Order.)

Under Article 69 of the Social Security Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 1975 as amended, and as modified by Article 69A of the Order of 1975, the Department of Finance and Personnel is required to provide by Order for increases in the rates of public service pensions.

The increase to be made in the rates of such pensions is the percentage (or in some circumstances a fraction of the percentage) by which the Department of Health and Social Services has, by virtue of the provisions of section 132 of the Social Security Administration (Northern Ireland) Act 1992, increased the sums which are the additional pensions in long-term benefits, namely the additional pension entitlements accruing to employees in respect of their earnings after 5th April 1978.

For pensions which began before 6th April 1998 the increase is 3.2%.

For pensions which began on or after 6th April 1998 the increases are computed under the formula set out in Article 69(1)(b) of the Order of 1975 and are as follows:—

<i>Pensions Beginning</i>	<i>Percentage Increase</i>
6th April 1998 to 27th April 1998	3.20%
28th April 1998 to 27th May 1998	2.93%
28th May 1998 to 27th June 1998	2.67%
28th June 1998 to 27th July 1998	2.40%
28th July 1998 to 27th August 1998	2.13%
28th August 1998 to 27th September 1998	1.87%
28th September 1998 to 27th October 1998	1.60%
28th October 1998 to 27th November 1998	1.33%
28th November 1998 to 27th December 1998	1.07%
28th December 1998 to 27th January 1999	0.80%
28th January 1999 to 27th February 1999	0.53%
28th February 1999 to 27th March 1999	0.27%
28th March 1999 onwards	Nil

A deferred lump sum which begins on or before 27th March 1999 and which becomes payable after 11th April 1999 receives the same percentage increase as a pension which begins on the same date.

Article 4 of the Order provides for increases on certain deferred lump sums which became payable after 5th April 1998 and before 12th April 1999.

This Order also provides that the amount by reference to which any increase in the rate of an official pension is to be calculated shall be reduced by an amount equal to the rate of the guaranteed minimum pension entitlement deriving from the employment which gives rise to the official pension. This is required by Article 69(5) of the Social Security Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 1975 but Article 69A of that Order empowers the Department of Finance and Personnel to direct that in respect of

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specified cases or classes of case either no such reduction shall be made or the reduction shall be less than the rate of the guaranteed minimum pension. Article 69(5ZA) applies Article 69(5) to a widow's or widower's pension.