



Welfare Benefits Up-rating Act 2013

2013 CHAPTER 16

1 Up-rating of certain social security benefits for tax years 2014-15 and 2015-16

- (1) The Secretary of State must, in each of the tax years ending with 5 April 2014 and 5 April 2015, make an order by statutory instrument increasing each of the relevant sums by 1%.

For the meaning of the “relevant sums” see paragraph 1 of the Schedule.

- (2) An order under this section must be framed so as to bring the variations to which it relates into force—
- (a) in the week beginning with the first Monday in the tax year following that in which the order is made, or
 - (b) on an earlier date in April specified in the order;
- and the provision that may be made under this subsection includes provision bringing the variation in a particular sum into force on different dates for different purposes.
- (3) The Secretary of State may, in providing for an increase under subsection (1), adjust the amount of the increase so as to round any sum up or down to the extent the Secretary of State thinks appropriate.
- (4) After making an order under this section, the Secretary of State must lay before Parliament a copy of a report by the Government Actuary or the Deputy Government Actuary giving that Actuary’s opinion on the likely effect on the National Insurance Fund of the parts of the order that relate to sums payable out of the Fund.
- (5) Subsection (1) does not apply in relation to a tax year if, on the review in that tax year under section 150(1) of the Social Security Administration Act 1992, the Secretary of State determines that the general level of prices in Great Britain has not increased, or has increased by less than 1%, over the period under review.
- (6) Where subsection (1) applies in relation to a tax year, the draft of any up-rating order laid before Parliament by virtue of the review in that tax year under section 150(1) of the Social Security Administration Act 1992 must not include provision increasing any of the relevant sums.

- (7) In this section a reference to the Secretary of State, in relation to the sums mentioned in section 150(1)(i) of the Social Security Administration Act 1992, is a reference to the Treasury.
- (8) A reference in any enactment, other than this Act and sections 189 and 190 of the Social Security Administration Act 1992, to an order under section 150 of that Act includes a reference to an order under this section.
- (9) Nothing in section 166 of the Social Security Administration (Northern Ireland) Act 1992 applies in relation to an order made by the Treasury under section 132 of that Act which corresponds to an order made under this section.

2 Up-rating of tax credits for tax years 2014-15 and 2015-16

- (1) The Treasury must, in each of the tax years ending with 5 April 2014 and 5 April 2015, make an order by statutory instrument increasing each of the relevant amounts by 1%.
For the meaning of the “relevant amounts” see paragraph 2 of the Schedule.
- (2) An order under this section must be framed so that it has effect in relation to awards of tax credits for the tax year following that in which the order is made.
- (3) The Treasury may, in providing for an increase under subsection (1), adjust the amount of the increase so as to round any amount up or down to the extent the Treasury think appropriate.
- (4) Subsection (1) does not apply in relation to a tax year if, on the review in that tax year under section 41 of the Tax Credits Act 2002, the Treasury determine that the general level of prices in the United Kingdom has not increased, or has increased by less than 1%, over the period under review.
- (5) Where subsection (1) applies in relation to a tax year, the Treasury must not exercise any other power to vary any of the relevant amounts if that variation would take effect in relation to awards of tax credits for the tax year following that in which the order is made.

3 Short title, interpretation, commencement and extent

- (1) This Act may be cited as the Welfare Benefits Up-rating Act 2013.
- (2) In this Act “tax year” means a period beginning with 6 April in one year and ending with 5 April in the next.
- (3) This section comes into force on the day on which this Act is passed.
- (4) The other provisions of this Act come into force on such day as the Secretary of State or the Treasury may by order made by statutory instrument appoint; and different days may be appointed for different purposes.
- (5) Section 1(1) to (7) and paragraph 1 of the Schedule extend to England and Wales and Scotland only.
- (6) Section 1(9) extends to Northern Ireland only.
- (7) The other provisions of this Act extend to England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.