

2004 No. 14

SOCIAL SECURITY

**The Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit (Abolition of Benefit
Periods) Amendment Regulations 2004**

<i>Made</i> - - - -	<i>7th January 2004</i>
<i>Laid before Parliament</i>	<i>12th January 2004</i>
<i>Coming into force</i> - -	<i>5th April 2004</i>

ARRANGEMENT OF REGULATIONS

PART 1

General

1. Citation, commencement and interpretation

PART 2

Amendment of Housing Benefit Regulations and Council Tax Benefit Regulations

2. Amendment of regulation 2 of the Housing Benefit Regulations and regulation 2 of the Council Tax Benefit Regulations
3. Amendment of regulation 7 of the Housing Benefit Regulations
4. Amendment of regulation 11 of the Housing Benefit Regulations
5. Amendment of regulation 12A of the Housing Benefit Regulations
6. Amendment of regulation 21 of the Housing Benefit Regulations and regulation 13 of the Council Tax Benefit Regulations
7. Amendment of regulation 21A of the Housing Benefit Regulations and regulation 13A of the Council Tax Benefit Regulations
8. Amendment of regulation 22 of the Housing Benefit Regulations and regulation 14 of the Council Tax Benefit Regulations
9. Amendment of regulation 23 of the Housing Benefit Regulations and regulation 15 of the Council Tax Benefit Regulations
10. Amendment of regulation 24 of the Housing Benefit Regulations and regulation 16 of the Council Tax Benefit Regulations
11. Extended payments
12. Date on which an award of benefit is to end
13. Benefit period
14. Change of circumstances
15. Time claims are made or treated as made
16. Amendment of regulation 70 of the Housing Benefit Regulations
17. Amendment of regulation 76 of the Housing Benefit Regulations and regulation 66 of the Council Tax Benefit Regulations

18. Amendment of regulation 104 of the Housing Benefit Regulations and regulation 90 of the Council Tax Benefit Regulations
19. Amendment of regulation 95 of the Council Tax Benefit Regulations
20. Amendment of Schedule 1A to the Housing Benefit Regulations
21. Amendment of Schedule 2 to the Housing Benefit Regulations and Schedule 1 to the Council Tax Benefit Regulations
22. Amendment of Schedule 5 to the Housing Benefit Regulations and Schedule 5 to the Council Tax Benefit Regulations
23. Amendment of Schedule 5A to the Housing Benefit Regulations and Schedule 5A to the Council Tax Benefit Regulations
24. Amendment of Schedule 6 to the Housing Benefit Regulations and Schedule 6 to the Council Tax Benefit Regulations
25. Minor and consequential amendments

PART 3

Transitional and Saving Provisions

26. Transitional provision
27. Transitional provision for rent officer referrals
28. Saving provision for extended payments

PART 4

Amendment of Other Provisions

29. Amendment of regulation 5 of the Housing Benefit (Supply of Information) Regulations 1988
30. Amendment of regulation 10 of the Housing Benefit (General) Amendment Regulations 1995
31. Amendment of regulation 4 of the Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit (General) Amendment Regulations 1997
32. Amendment of the Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit (State Pension Credit) Regulations 2003
33. Amendment of the Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit (State Pension Credit) (Abolition of Benefit Periods) Amendment Regulations 2003
34. Amendment of regulations 7 and 8 of the Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit (Decisions and Appeals) Regulations 2001
35. Amendment of the Social Security (Back to Work Bonus and Lone Parent Run-on) (Amendment and Revocation) Regulations 2003

PART 5

Local Housing Allowance

36. Amendment of the Housing Benefit (General) (Local Housing Allowance) Amendment Regulations 2003 and the Housing Benefit Regulations

SCHEDULE

Provisions conferring powers exercised in making these Regulations

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, in exercise of the powers conferred upon him by the provisions specified in the Schedule to these Regulations and of all other powers enabling him in that behalf, after consultation with organisations appearing to him to be representative of the authorities concerned(a), and after agreement by the Social Security Advisory Committee that proposals in respect of these Regulations should not be referred to it(b) hereby makes the following Regulations:—

PART 1

General

Citation, commencement and interpretation

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit (Abolition of Benefit Periods) Amendment Regulations 2004 and shall come into force on 5th April 2004.

(2) In these Regulations—

“the Act” means the Child Support, Pensions and Social Security Act 2000(c);

“appropriate relevant authority” has the same meaning as in paragraph 4 of Schedule 7 to the Act;

“benefit period” has the same meaning as in regulation 66 of the Housing Benefit Regulations and regulation 57 of the Council Tax Benefit Regulations as the case may be, as in force immediately before 5th April 2004;

“the Council Tax Benefit Regulations” means the Council Tax Benefit (General) Regulations 1992(d);

“Housing Act functions” has the same meaning as in regulation 2(1) of the Housing Benefit Regulations;

“relevant authority” has the same meaning as in regulation 2(1) of the Housing Benefit Regulations;

“the Housing Benefit Regulations” means the Housing Benefit (General) Regulations 1987(e).

PART 2

Amendment of Housing Benefit Regulations and Council Tax Benefit Regulations

Amendment of regulation 2 of the Housing Benefit Regulations and regulation 2 of the Council Tax Benefit Regulations

2. In regulation 2(1) of the Housing Benefit Regulations (interpretation) and regulation 2(1) of the Council Tax Benefit Regulations (interpretation) the definition of “benefit period” shall be omitted.

Amendment of regulation 7 of the Housing Benefit Regulations

3. In regulation 7(10)(f) of the Housing Benefit Regulations (circumstances in which a person is to be treated as not liable to make payments in respect of a dwelling) the words from “except” to the end of the paragraph shall be omitted.

(a) See section 176(1)(b) of the Social Security Administration Act 1992.

(b) See section 173(1)(b) of the Social Security Administration Act 1992.

(c) 2000 c.19.

(d) S.I. 1992/1814.

(e) S.I.1987/1971.

(f) Relevant amending instrument is S.I. 2003/1338.

Amendment of regulation 11 of the Housing Benefit Regulations

- 4.** In regulation 11(6)(a) of the Housing Benefit Regulations (maximum rent)—
- (a) in sub-paragraph (b) for the words “benefit period” there shall be substituted “award of housing benefit”; and
 - (b) for the words after sub-paragraph (b) there shall be substituted—
 - “then—
 - (i) the maximum rent shall not be reduced, where the sum is not less than the maximum rent, during a period ending on the effective date of a decision adopting a determination of a rent officer where that determination was made in exercise of the Housing Act functions pursuant to an application by the authority under regulation 12A(1)(c), (d) or (e); and
 - (ii) the maximum rent shall be reduced to an amount equal to that sum, where that sum is less than the maximum rent during a period ending on the effective date of a decision adopting a determination of a rent officer where that determination was made in exercise of the Housing Act functions pursuant to an application by the authority under regulation 12A(1)(c), (d) or (e).”.

Amendment of regulation 12A of the Housing Benefit Regulations

- 5.** In regulation 12A(b) of the Housing Benefit Regulations (requirement to refer to rent officers)—
- (a) in paragraph (1)—
 - (i) the words “it has received” shall be omitted;
 - (ii) at the beginning of sub-paragraphs (a), (aa), (b) and (c) the words “it has received” shall be inserted; and
 - (iii) after sub-paragraph (c), there shall be inserted the following sub-paragraphs—
 - “(d) 52 weeks have elapsed since it last made an application under sub-paragraph (a), (aa) or (b) above in relation to the claim or award in question; or
 - (e) 52 weeks have elapsed since—
 - (i) an application was made under sub-paragraph (d) above; or
 - (ii) an application was made under this sub-paragraph, whichever last occurred.”;
 - (b) in paragraph (3)—
 - (i) the words “the appropriate local authority receiving” shall be omitted;
 - (ii) at the beginning of sub-paragraphs (a), (aa) and (b) the words “the relevant authority receiving” shall be inserted; and
 - (iii) after sub-paragraph (b), there shall be inserted—
 - “or
 - (c) the day on which the period mentioned in paragraph (1)(d) or (e) elapsed.”.

(a) Relevant amending instrument is S.I. 2003/1338.

(b) Regulation 12A was inserted by S.I. 1990/546; relevant amending instruments are S.I. 1993/317, 1995/1644 and 2868, 1996/965, 1999/2401 and 2734, 2000/4, 2001/1324, 1605 and 2333 and 2003/48, 1338 and 2399.

Amendment of regulation 21 of the Housing Benefit Regulations and regulation 13 of the Council Tax Benefit Regulations

6. In regulation 21(1)(a)(a) of the Housing Benefit Regulations and regulation 13(1)(a)(b) of the Council Tax Benefit Regulations (calculation of income on a weekly basis) the words “over the benefit period” shall be omitted.

Amendment of regulation 21A of the Housing Benefit Regulations and regulation 13A of the Council Tax Benefit Regulations

7. In regulation 21A(3)(c) of the Housing Benefit Regulations and regulation 13A(3)(d) of the Council Tax Benefit Regulations (treatment of childcare charges) the words “over the benefit period” shall be omitted.

Amendment of regulation 22 of the Housing Benefit Regulations and regulation 14 of the Council Tax Benefit Regulations

8.—(1) In regulation 22(e) of the Housing Benefit Regulations (average weekly earnings of employed earners)—

- (a) in paragraph (1)(b) the words “over the benefit period” shall be omitted; and
- (b) for paragraph (3) there shall be substituted—

“Where the amount of a claimant’s earnings changes during an award the relevant authority shall estimate his average weekly earnings by reference to his likely earnings from the employment over such period as is appropriate in order that his average weekly earnings may be estimated accurately but the length of the period shall not in any case exceed 52 weeks.”.

(2) In regulation 14(f) of the Council Tax Benefit Regulations (average weekly earnings of employed earners)—

- (a) in paragraph (1)(b) the words “over the benefit period” shall be omitted; and
- (b) for paragraph (3) there shall be substituted—

“Where the amount of a claimant’s earnings changes during an award the relevant authority shall estimate his average weekly earnings by reference to his likely earnings from the employment over such period as is appropriate in order that his average weekly earnings may be estimated accurately but the length of the period shall not in any case exceed a year.”.

Amendment of regulation 23 of the Housing Benefit Regulations and regulation 15 of the Council Tax Benefit Regulations

9. In regulation 23(1)(g) of the Housing Benefit Regulations and regulation 15(1)(h) of the Council Tax Benefit Regulations (average weekly earnings of self-employed earners) the words “over the benefit period” shall be omitted.

(a) Relevant amending instruments are S.I. 1990/546, 1991/1599 and 1994/1924.
(b) Relevant amending instrument is S.I. 1994/1924.
(c) Regulation 21A was inserted by S.I. 1994/1924.
(d) Regulation 13A was inserted by S.I. 2001/1924.
(e) Relevant amending instrument is S.I. 2001/1603.
(f) Relevant amending instrument is S.I. 2001/1603.
(g) Relevant amending instrument is S.I.1993/2118.
(h) Relevant amending instrument is S.I.1993/2118.

Amendment of regulation 24 of the Housing Benefit Regulations and regulation 16 of the Council Tax Benefit Regulations

10. In regulation 24(1)(a) of the Housing Benefit Regulations and regulation 16(1) of the Council Tax Benefit Regulations (average weekly income other than earnings) the words “over the benefit period” shall be omitted.

Extended payments

11.—(1) Subject to regulation 28 (saving provision for extended payments), for regulation 62A(b) of the Housing Benefit Regulations (extended payments) there shall be substituted—

“**62A.—**(1) Subject to paragraphs (7) and (8) paragraph (2) shall apply where—

- (a) a person ceases to be entitled to housing benefit—
 - (i) in accordance with regulation 65A(1) (date on which housing benefit is to end); and
 - (ii) the conditions referred to in paragraphs 2 and 3 of Schedule 5A are satisfied in his case; or
- (b) a person ceases to be entitled to housing benefit because he has vacated the dwelling which he occupied as his home and the day on which he did so was either in the week in which he took up employment as an employed or self-employed earner, or in the preceding week, and—
 - (i) he ceased to be entitled to income support or an income-based jobseeker’s allowance by reason of taking up employment as an employed or self-employed earner; and
 - (ii) the conditions referred to in paragraphs 2 and 3 of Schedule 5A are satisfied in his case.

(2) A person to whom paragraph (1) applies shall be treated as having made a claim under this regulation and his housing benefit shall be determined in accordance with Part II of Schedule 5A and any award so determined shall be referred to in these Regulations as an “extended payment”.

(3) For the purposes of any payment pursuant to this regulation—

- (a) except in a case to which paragraph 8(b) of Schedule 5A applies, the maximum housing benefit of any person mentioned in paragraph (1) shall be that which was applicable to him in the last benefit week of the award of housing benefit which has ceased as mentioned in paragraph (1);
- (b) the maximum housing benefit of any person to whom paragraph 8(b) of Schedule 5A applies shall be determined in accordance with paragraph 9 of that Schedule; and
- (c) any person who meets the requirements of paragraph (1) shall be treated as possessing no income or capital.

(4) Regulations 71, 72 and 73 (claims, evidence and information) shall not apply to a claim pursuant to this regulation and, subject to regulation 69(8)(c), Part IX (calculation of weekly amounts and changes of circumstances) shall not apply to any payment under it.

(5) In paragraph (1)(a) and (b), references to a “person” include references to a person’s partner.

(6) Subject to paragraph (8), in a case where a payment has been made under this regulation—

- (a) the beneficiary shall be treated for the purposes of these Regulations and of the Housing Benefit (General) Amendment Regulations 1995(d) as though he were entitled to and in receipt of housing benefit—
 - (i) during the 4 weeks immediately following the last day of his entitlement to housing benefit; or

(a) Relevant amending instrument is S.I. 1989/416.

(b) Regulation 62A was inserted by S.I. 1996/194; relevant amending instruments are S.I. 1999/2556, 2001/537 and 1605 and 2003/1338.

(c) Relevant amending instruments are S.I.1994/578 and 1996/194.

(d) S.I.1995/1644.

- (ii) until the date on which his liability for rent ends, whichever occurs first; and
- (b) any claim for housing benefit made by the beneficiary within the period which under sub-paragraph (a) applies in his case or the 4 weeks thereafter shall be treated as having been made in respect of a period beginning immediately after the end of his previous award of housing benefit.

(7) This regulation shall not apply to a claimant where, on the day before his entitlement to income support ceased, regulation 6(5) of the Income Support (General) Regulations 1987(a) (remunerative work: housing costs) applied to him.

(8) Until 25th October 2004 this regulation shall have effect subject to the following provisions of this paragraph—

- (a) the following shall be inserted after sub-paragraph (b) of paragraph (1)—

“; or

- (c) a person ceases to be entitled to housing benefit—

- (i) in accordance with regulation 65A(2) (date on which housing benefit is to end) and the condition referred to in paragraph 3A of Schedule 5A is satisfied in his case; or

- (ii) because he has vacated the dwelling which he occupied as his home and the day on which he did so was either in the week in which he took up employment as an employed or self-employed earner or in the preceding week or during the period specified in regulation 6(3) of the Income Support (General) Regulations 1987 and—

- (aa) he is a person to whom regulation 6(2) of those Regulations applies; and

- (bb) he has ceased to be entitled to income support or an income-based jobseeker’s allowance by reason of taking up employment as an employed or self-employed earner; and

- (cc) the condition referred to in paragraph 3A of Schedule 5A is satisfied in his case.”;

- (b) the words “paragraphs (8) and (9),” shall be substituted for the words “paragraph (8)” in paragraph (6); and

- (c) the following paragraph shall be inserted after this paragraph—

“(9) Where the beneficiary is a person to whom regulation 6(2) of the Income Support (General) Regulations 1987 applies (persons not treated as engaged in remunerative work) and a payment is made under this regulation, he shall be treated for the purposes of these Regulations and of the Housing Benefit (General) Amendment Regulations 1995 as though he were entitled to and in receipt of housing benefit—

- (a) during the period beginning on the day immediately following the last day of his entitlement to housing benefit and ending on the last day of the benefit week which includes the day—

- (i) which is 4 weeks after the day on which that person was first engaged in the work referred to in regulation 6(2)(a) of those Regulations; or

- (ii) on which that person’s liability for rent ends, whichever occurs first; and

- (b) any claim for housing benefit made by the beneficiary within the period which under sub-paragraph (a) applies in his case or the 4 weeks thereafter shall be treated as having been made in respect of a period beginning immediately after the end of his previous award of housing benefit.”.

(2) Subject to regulation 28 (saving provision for extended payments), for regulation 53A(b) of the Council Tax Benefit Regulations (extended payments) there shall be substituted—

(a) S.I.1987/1967. Relevant amending instruments are S.I. 1999/2556, 2001/488 and 2003/1589.

(b) Regulations 53A was inserted by S.I. 1996/194; relevant amending instruments are S.I. 1999/2556, 2001/537 and 1605 and 2003/1338.

“53A.—(1) Subject to paragraphs (7) and (8), paragraph (2) shall apply where—

- (a) a person ceases to be entitled to council tax benefit—
 - (i) in accordance with regulation 56A(1) (date on which council tax benefit is to end); and
 - (ii) the conditions in paragraphs 2 and 3 of Schedule 5A are satisfied in his case; or
- (b) a person ceases to be entitled to council tax benefit because he has vacated the dwelling of which he was a resident and the day on which he did so was either in the week in which he took up employment as an employed or self-employed earner, or in the preceding week, and—
 - (i) he ceased to be entitled to income support or an income-based jobseeker’s allowance by reason of taking up employment as an employed or self-employed earner; and
 - (ii) the conditions in paragraphs 2 and 3 of Schedule 5A are satisfied in his case.

(2) A person to whom paragraph (1) applies shall be treated as having made a claim under this regulation and his council tax benefit shall be determined in accordance with Part II of Schedule 5A and any award so determined shall be referred to in these Regulations as an “extended payment”.

(3) For the purposes of any payment pursuant to this regulation—

- (a) except in a case to which paragraph 5 of Schedule 5A applies, the maximum council tax benefit of any person mentioned in paragraph (1) shall be determined in accordance with paragraph 4 of Schedule 5A;
- (b) the maximum council tax benefit of any person to whom paragraph 5 of Schedule 5A applies shall be determined in accordance with paragraph 6(a) of Schedule 5A; and
- (c) any person who meets the requirements of paragraph (1) shall be treated as possessing no income and no capital.

(4) Regulations 61, 62 and 63 (claims, evidence and information) shall not apply to a claim pursuant to this regulation and, subject to regulation 51(6)(a) (maximum council tax benefit), Part VII (benefit periods, changes of circumstances and increases for exceptional circumstances) shall not apply to any payment under it.

(5) In paragraph (1)(a) and (b), references to a “person” include references to a person’s partner.

(6) Subject to paragraph (8), in a case where a payment has been made under this regulation—

- (a) the beneficiary shall be treated for the purposes of these Regulations as though he were entitled to and in receipt of council tax benefit—
 - (i) during the 4 weeks immediately following the last day of his entitlement to council tax benefit; or
 - (ii) until the date on which his liability for council tax ends, whichever occurs first; and
- (b) any claim for council tax benefit made by the beneficiary within the period which under sub-paragraph (a) applies in his case or the 4 weeks thereafter shall be treated as having been made in respect of a period beginning immediately after the end of his previous award of council tax benefit.

(7) This regulation shall not apply to a claimant where, on the day before his entitlement to income support ceased, regulation 6(5) of the Income Support (General) Regulations 1987 (remunerative work: housing costs) applied to him.

(8) Until 25th October 2004 this regulation shall have effect subject to the following provisions of this paragraph—

- (a) the following shall be inserted after sub-paragraph (1)(b)—
 - “; or
- (c) a person ceases to be entitled to council tax benefit—

(a) Paragraph (6) of regulation 51 was inserted by S.I.1996/194.

- (i) in accordance with regulation 56A(2) (date on which council tax benefit is to end) and—
 - (aa) he is a person to whom regulation 6(2) of the Income Support (General) Regulations 1987 applies (persons not treated as engaged in remunerative work); and
 - (bb) the condition referred to in paragraph 3A of Schedule 5A is satisfied in his case; or
- (ii) because he has vacated the dwelling of which he was a resident and the day on which he did so was either in the week in which he took up employment as an employed or self-employed earner or in the preceding week or during the period specified in regulation 6(3) of the Income Support (General) Regulations 1987 (persons not treated as engaged in remunerative work) and—
 - (aa) he is a person to whom regulation 6(2) of those Regulations applies; and
 - (bb) he has ceased to be entitled to income support or an income-based jobseeker’s allowance by reason of taking up employment as an employed or self-employed earner; and
 - (cc) the condition in paragraph 3A of Schedule 5A is satisfied in his case.”;
- (b) the words “paragraphs (8) and (9),” shall be substituted for the words “paragraph (8)” in paragraph (6); and
- (c) the following paragraph shall be inserted after this paragraph—

“(9) Where the beneficiary is a person to whom regulation 6(2) of the Income Support (General) Regulations 1987 applies (persons not treated as engaged in remunerative work) and a payment is made under this regulation, he shall be treated for the purposes of these Regulations as though he were entitled to and in receipt of council tax benefit—

 - (a) during the period beginning on the day immediately following the last day of his entitlement to council tax benefit and ending on the last day of the benefit week which includes the day—
 - (i) which is 4 weeks after the day on which that person was first engaged in the work referred to in regulation 6(2)(a) of those Regulations; or
 - (ii) on which that person’s liability for council tax ends, whichever occurs first; and
 - (b) any claim for council tax benefit made by the beneficiary within the period which under sub-paragraph (a) applies in his case or the 4 weeks thereafter shall be treated as having been made in respect of a period beginning immediately after the end of his previous award of council tax benefit.”.

Date on which an award of benefit is to end

12.—(1) After regulation 65 of the Housing Benefit Regulations (date on which entitlement is to commence) there shall be inserted—

“Date on which housing benefit is to end

65A.—(1) Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), a claimant’s entitlement to housing benefit shall cease at the end of the benefit week in which entitlement to income support or income-based jobseeker’s allowance ceases where—

- (a) the claimant or his partner was entitled to and in receipt of income support or an income-based jobseeker’s allowance or that claimant and his partner were entitled to and in receipt of a joint-claim jobseeker’s allowance and that entitlement has ceased;
- (b) that entitlement to income support or income-based jobseeker’s allowance has ceased by reason of the claimant or his partner—
 - (i) commencing employment as an employed or self-employed earner; or
 - (ii) increasing their earnings from such employment; or

- (iii) increasing the number of hours worked in such employment;
- (c) the claimant had been entitled to and in receipt of income support or jobseeker's allowance for a continuous period of at least 26 weeks before the day on which his entitlement to income support or income-based jobseeker's allowance ceased, and for the purposes of this sub-paragraph—
 - (i) a claimant satisfies the conditions of this sub-paragraph if he has been entitled to and in receipt of a combination of income support and a jobseeker's allowance for at least 26 weeks;
 - (ii) the claimant shall be treated as having been entitled to and in receipt of income support or a jobseeker's allowance during any period of less than 5 weeks in respect of which he was not entitled to either of those because, as a consequence of his participation in an employment zone programme, he was engaged in remunerative work;
 - (iii) references to the claimant include references to his partner;
 - (iv) a reference to the claimant being entitled to and in receipt of a jobseeker's allowance shall include a reference to the claimant and his partner being entitled to and in receipt of a joint-claim jobseeker's allowance; and
- (d) that work, increase in earnings or, as the case may be, increase in hours is expected to last at least 5 weeks or more.

(2) In the case of a claimant to whom regulation 6(2) of the Income Support (General) Regulations 1987 applies (persons not treated as engaged in remunerative work), entitlement to housing benefit shall cease where—

- (a) the claimant was entitled to and in receipt of income support or an income-based jobseeker's allowance and that entitlement ceases;
- (b) the entitlement to income support or income-based jobseeker's allowance ceases by reason of the claimant commencing employment as an employed or self-employed earner; and
- (c) that work is expected to last 5 weeks or more,

and that entitlement shall cease at the end of the benefit week in which entitlement to income support or income-based jobseeker's allowance ceases.

(3) Paragraph (2) shall be omitted with effect from 25th October 2004.”.

(2) After regulation 56 of the Council Tax Benefit Regulations there shall be inserted—

“Date on which council tax benefit is to end

56A.—(1) Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), a claimant's entitlement to council tax benefit shall cease at the end of the benefit week in which entitlement to income support or income-based jobseeker's allowance ceases where—

- (a) the claimant or his partner was entitled to and in receipt of income support or an income-based jobseeker's allowance or that claimant and his partner were entitled to and in receipt of a joint-claim jobseeker's allowance and that entitlement has ceased;
- (b) that entitlement to income support or income-based jobseeker's allowance has ceased by reason of the claimant or his partner—
 - (i) commencing employment as an employed or self-employed earner; or
 - (ii) increasing their earnings from such employment; or
 - (iii) increasing the number of hours worked in such employment;
- (c) the claimant had been entitled to and in receipt of income support or jobseeker's allowance for a continuous period of at least 26 weeks before the day on which his entitlement to income support or income-based jobseeker's allowance ceased and for the purposes of this sub-paragraph—

- (i) a claimant satisfies the conditions of this sub-paragraph if he has been entitled to and in receipt of a combination of income support and a jobseeker's allowance for at least 26 weeks;
 - (ii) the claimant shall be treated as having been entitled to and in receipt of income support or a jobseeker's allowance during any period of less than 5 weeks in respect of which he was not entitled to either of those because, as a consequence of his participation in an employment zone programme, he was engaged in remunerative work;
 - (iii) references to the claimant include references to his partner;
 - (iv) a reference to the claimant being entitled to and in receipt of a jobseeker's allowance shall include a reference to the claimant and his partner being entitled to and in receipt of a joint-claim jobseeker's allowance; and
- (d) that work, increase in earnings or, as the case may be, increase in hours is expected to last at least 5 weeks or more.

(2) In the case of a claimant to whom regulation 6(2) of the Income Support (General) Regulations 1987 applies (persons not treated as engaged in remunerative work), entitlement to council tax benefit shall cease where—

- (a) the claimant was entitled to and in receipt of income support or an income-based jobseeker's allowance and that entitlement ceases;
- (b) the entitlement to income support or income-based jobseeker's allowance ceases by reason of the claimant commencing employment as an employed or self-employed earner; and
- (c) that work is expected to last 5 weeks or more,

and that entitlement shall cease at the end of the benefit week in which entitlement to income support or income-based jobseeker's allowance ceases.

(3) Paragraph (2) shall be omitted with effect from 25th October 2004.”.

Benefit period

13.—(1) Regulations 66 (benefit period)(a) and 67 (date on which benefit period is to end)(b) of the Housing Benefit Regulations are hereby revoked.

(2) Regulations 57(c) (benefit period) and 58(d) (date on which benefit period is to end) of the Council Tax Benefit Regulations are hereby revoked.

Change of circumstances

14. In regulation 68(e) of the Housing Benefit Regulations (date on which change of circumstances is to take effect)—

- (a) in paragraph (1) the words “regulation 8(3) (eligible housing costs) or” shall be omitted;
- (b) at the beginning of paragraphs (2), (3) and (4) there shall be inserted the words “Subject to paragraphs (13) and (14),”; and
- (c) after paragraph (12) the following paragraphs shall be added—
“(13) Paragraph (14) applies where—

- (a) Relevant amending instruments are S.I. 1988/1971, 1989/1322, 1996/1510, 2000/4 and 2001/1605. Regulation 66 was disapplied, in relation to those who have attained the qualifying age for state pension credit, by S.I. 2003/325.
- (b) Relevant amending instruments are S.I. 1990/546, 1995/560, 1996/1510 and 2001/1605. Regulation 67 was disapplied, in relation to those who have attained the qualifying age for state pension credit, by S.I. 2003/325.
- (c) Relevant amending instruments are S.I. 1996/1510 and 2001/1605. Regulation 57 was disapplied, in relation to those who have attained the qualifying age for state pension credit, by S.I. 2003/325.
- (d) Relevant amending instruments are S.I. 1995/560 and 1996/1510. Regulation 58 was disapplied, in relation to those who have attained the qualifying age for state pension credit, by S.I. 2003/325.
- (e) Relevant amending instruments are S.I. 1990/546, 1992/432, 1994/578, 1995/511, 1996/1510, 1999/2734, 2000/897, 2001/1605 and 2003/308, 325, 1338 and 2275.

- (a) a change of circumstances would, but for that paragraph, take effect in accordance with paragraph (2), (3)(a)(i) or (b) or (4) on a day that is not the first day of a benefit week; and
- (b) the effect of that change of circumstances is to end entitlement to housing benefit.

(14) In a case to which this paragraph applies, the change of circumstances shall take effect from the first day of the benefit week following the day on which the change of circumstances actually occurred.”.

Time claims are made or treated as made

15.—(1) Subject to regulation 26 (transitional provision), in the Housing Benefit Regulations—

- (a) in regulation 65(1)(a), the words “regulation 72(12) to (14) (renewal claims) and” shall be omitted; and
- (b) in regulation 72, paragraphs (12) to (14A)(b) (time and manner in which claims are to be made) shall be omitted.

(2) Subject to regulation 26 (transitional provision), in the Council Tax Benefit Regulations—

- (a) in regulation 56(1) (date on which entitlement is to begin) the words “and to regulation 62(13) to (15) (renewal claims)” shall be omitted; and
- (b) in regulation 62, paragraphs (13) to (15A)(c) (time and manner in which claims are to be made) shall be omitted.

Amendment of regulation 70 of the Housing Benefit Regulations

16. In regulation 70 of the Housing Benefit Regulations (rent free periods) for the words “benefit period” in each case where they occur there shall be substituted “rent free period”.

Amendment of regulation 76 of the Housing Benefit Regulations and regulation 66 of the Council Tax Benefit Regulations

17.—(1) In regulation 76(d) of the Housing Benefit Regulations (who is to make a decision)—

- (a) paragraph (2)(d) shall be omitted;
- (b) in paragraph (4)(a) for “62A(1B)” there shall be substituted “62A(2)”; and
- (c) subject to sub-paragraph (d), in paragraph (5) for “62A(1A)(b)” there shall be substituted “paragraph 3A of Schedule 5A”; and
- (d) in paragraph (4) the words “and subject to paragraph (5)” and paragraph (5) shall be omitted with effect from 25th October 2004.

(2) In regulation 66(e) of the Council Tax Benefit Regulations (who is to make a decision)—

- (a) paragraph (2)(d) shall be omitted;
- (b) in paragraph (4)(a) for “53A(1B)” there shall be substituted “53A(2)”; and
- (c) subject to sub-paragraph (d), in paragraph (5)(b) “53A(1A)(b)” there shall be substituted the words “paragraph 3A of Schedule 5A”;
- (d) in paragraph (4) the words “and subject to paragraph (5)” and paragraph (5) shall be omitted with effect from 25th October 2004.

(a) Regulation 65(1) was amended by S.I.1990/671.

(b) Paragraph 14A was inserted by S.I. 1999/2556; relevant amending instruments are S.I. 1991/235, 1996/1510, 1999/2556, 2001/537 and 1605.

(c) Paragraph 15A was inserted by S.I.1999/2556; relevant amending instruments are S.I.1996/462 and 1510, 1999/2556, 2001/537 and 1605.

(d) Relevant amending instruments are S.I.1996/194, 1999/2556, 2001/537 and 1605 and 2003/1338.

(e) Relevant amending instruments are S.I. 1996/194 and 1510, 2001/537 and 1605 and 2003/1338.

Amendment of regulation 104 of the Housing Benefit Regulations and regulation 90 of the Council Tax Benefit Regulations

18. Paragraph (2) of regulation 104(a) of the Housing Benefit Regulations and paragraph (2) of regulation 90(b) of the Council Tax Benefit Regulations (sums to be deducted in calculating recoverable excess benefit) shall be omitted.

Amendment of regulation 95 of the Council Tax Benefit Regulations

19. In regulation 95(c) of the Council Tax Benefit Regulations (information to be supplied by an authority to another authority)—

- (a) in paragraph (3)—
 - (i) in sub-paragraph (a)(i) for the words “Part I” there shall be substituted the words “paragraph 2”;
 - (ii) in sub-paragraph (a)(ii) for the words “the requirements specified at paragraph 3(3)” there shall be substituted the words “the matters notified pursuant to regulation 53A and paragraph 3”;
 - (iii) subject to head (v), in sub-paragraph (aa) for the words “regulation 53(1A)(b)” there shall be substituted the words “paragraph 3A of Schedule 5A”;
 - (iv) for sub-paragraph (b)(iv) there shall be substituted—
 - “the date on which his entitlement to council tax benefit ceased”;
 - (v) sub-paragraph (aa) shall be omitted with effect from 25th October 2004; and
- (b) in paragraph (4) the words “the relevant benefit period” shall be omitted.

Amendment of Schedule 1A to the Housing Benefit Regulations

20. In Schedule 1A(d) to the Housing Benefit Regulations (excluded tenancies)—

- (a) for paragraph 2(2) there shall be substituted—
 - “(2) For the purposes of any claim, notification, request or application under regulation 12A(1) (“the later application”), a tenancy shall not be an excluded tenancy by virtue of sub-paragraph (1) by reference to a rent officer’s determination made in consequence of an earlier claim, notification, request or application (“the earlier application”) where—
 - (a) the earlier and later applications were made in respect of the same claimant or different claimants; and
 - (b) the earlier application was made more than 52 weeks before the later application was made.”; and
- (b) paragraphs 2(2A) and (3)(d) and 4 shall be omitted.

Amendment of Schedule 2 to the Housing Benefit Regulations and Schedule 1 to the Council Tax Benefit Regulations

21. Paragraph 8A(4)(e) of Schedule 2 to the Housing Benefit Regulations and paragraph 8A(4)(f) of Schedule 1 to the Council Tax Benefit Regulations (bereavement premium) shall be omitted.

(a) Regulation 104(2) was amended by S.I. 2003/1338.

(b) Regulation 90(2) was amended by S.I. 2003/1338.

(c) Relevant amending instruments are S.I. 1999/2556 and 2001/537.

(d) Schedule 1A was inserted by S.I. 1990/546; relevant amending instruments are S.I. 1991/235, 1992/432, 1993/317 and 1249, 1995/560 and 2868, 1996/965, 1997/852, 1998/563, 2001/487, 1324 and 1605, 2002/2322 and 2003/1338.

(e) Paragraph 8A was inserted by S.I. 2000/2239.

(f) Paragraph 8A was inserted by S.I. 2000/2239.

Amendment of Schedule 5 to the Housing Benefit Regulations and Schedule 5 to the Council Tax Benefit Regulations

22.—(1) For paragraph 8(3)(a) of Schedule 5 to the Housing Benefit Regulations there shall be substituted—

“For the purposes of sub-paragraph (2), “award of housing benefit” means—

- (a) the award in which the relevant sum is first received (or the first part thereof where it is paid in more than one instalment); and
- (b) where that award is followed by one or more further awards which, or each of which, begins immediately after the end of the previous award, such further award provided that for that further award the claimant—
 - (i) is the person who received the relevant sum; or
 - (ii) is the partner of the person who received the relevant sum, or was that person’s partner at the date of his death.”.

(2) For paragraph 8(3)(b) of Schedule 5 to the Council Tax Benefit Regulations there shall be substituted—

“For the purposes of sub-paragraph (2), “award of council tax benefit” means—

- (a) the award in which the relevant sum is first received (or the first part thereof where it is paid in more than one instalment); and
- (b) where that award is followed by one or more further awards which, or each of which, begins immediately after the end of the previous award, such further award provided that for that further award the claimant—
 - (i) is the person who received the relevant sum; or
 - (ii) is the partner of the person who received the relevant sum, or was that person’s partner at the date of his death.”.

Amendment of Schedule 5A to the Housing Benefit Regulations and Schedule 5A to the Council Tax Benefit Regulations

23.—(1) In Schedule 5A(c) to the Housing Benefit Regulations (extended payments of housing benefit)—

- (a) paragraph 1 shall be omitted;
- (b) the following paragraph shall be inserted before paragraph 2—

“**1A.** Until 25th October 2004 this Schedule shall have effect subject to the following provisions of this paragraph—

- (a) after paragraph 3 there shall be inserted—

“**3A.** The condition referred to in regulation 62A(1)(c) is that the Secretary of State has certified to the relevant authority—

- (a) that regulation 6(2) of the Income Support (General) Regulations 1987 applies to the claimant;
- (b) the date on which the claimant was first engaged in the work referred to in regulation 6(2)(a) of those Regulations; and
- (c) the date on which his entitlement to income support or an income-based jobseeker’s allowance ceased or is expected to cease.”;

(a) Sub-paragraph (2) was inserted by S.I.2002/2380.

(b) Sub-paragraph (2) was inserted by S.I. 2002/2380.

(c) Schedule 5A was inserted by S.I. 1996/194; relevant amending instruments are S.I. 1996/1510, 1999/2556, 2000/724, 2001/537 and 1605 and 2002/1397.

- (b) in sub-paragraph (4) of paragraph 4 for “62A(5)(a)” there shall be substituted “62A(6) or (9), as the case may be,”; and
- (c) in paragraph 8(b) for “62A(5)(a)” there shall be substituted “62A(6) or (9), as the case may be.”;”;
- (c) in paragraph 2(e)—
 - (i) head (i) shall be omitted;
 - (ii) for head (ii) there shall be substituted—
 - “a claimant satisfies the conditions of this sub-paragraph if he has been entitled to and in receipt of a combination of income support and a jobseeker’s allowance for at least 26 weeks and for the purposes of this sub-paragraph, a reference to the claimant being entitled to and in receipt of a jobseeker’s allowance shall include a reference to the claimant and his partner being entitled to and in receipt of a joint-claim jobseeker’s allowance;”;
- (d) in paragraph 3—
 - (i) after sub-paragraph (a)(ii) there shall be inserted—
 - “or
 - (iii) has commenced, or is about to commence, an increased number of hours of work,”;
 - and
 - (ii) in sub-paragraph (b) after “in sub-paragraph (a)(ii)” there shall be inserted “, or first commences the increased number of hours of work referred to in sub-paragraph (a)(iii)”;
- (e) in paragraph 4—
 - (i) in sub-paragraph (1) for the words “the termination of the relevant benefit period” there shall be substituted “he ceased to be entitled to housing benefit”; and
 - (ii) in sub-paragraph (2) the words “in the relevant benefit period” shall be omitted;
 - (iii) in sub-paragraph (3)—
 - (aa) for the words “the termination of the relevant benefit period” in the first place that they occur there shall be substituted “he ceased to be entitled to housing benefit”;
 - (bb) for the words “the termination of the relevant benefit period” in the second place that they occur there shall be substituted “he cased to be entitled to housing benefit”;
 - (iv) in sub-paragraph (4) for “62A(5)(a)” there shall be substituted “62A(6)”;
- (f) in paragraph 6(1)—
 - (i) for the words “the ending of the relevant benefit period” there shall be substituted “the mover ceasing to be entitled to housing benefit”; and
 - (ii) for the words “the termination of the relevant benefit period” there shall be substituted “he ceased to be entitled to housing benefit”;
- (g) in paragraph 8(b) for “62A(5)(a)” there shall be substituted “62A(6)”;
- (h) in paragraph 12(1)—
 - (i) the following definitions shall be omitted—
 - (aa) “the last day”;
 - (bb) “the relevant benefit period”; and
 - (ii) for the definition of “second dwelling” there shall be substituted—
 - ““second dwelling” means the dwelling to which a person has moved or is about to move which he is or will be occupying as his new home, and where the liability to make payments of rent in respect of his dwelling follows on immediately from the liability to make payments in respect of rent of his previous dwelling;”;
- (i) in paragraph 12(1) in the definition of the word “claimant” the words “, subject to sub-paragraph (2),” and paragraph 12(2) shall be omitted with effect from 25th October 2004.

(2) In Schedule 5A(a) to the Council Tax Benefit Regulations (extended payment of council tax benefit)—

- (a) paragraph 1 shall be omitted;
- (b) the following paragraph shall be inserted before paragraph 2—

“1A. Until 25th October 2004 this Schedule shall have effect subject to the following provisions of this paragraph—

- (a) after paragraph 3 there shall be inserted—

“3A. The condition referred to in regulation 53A(1)(c) is that the Secretary of State has certified to the relevant authority—

- (a) that regulation 6(2) of the Income Support (General) Regulations 1987 applies to the claimant;
- (b) the date on which the claimant was first engaged in the work referred to in regulation 6(2)(a) of those Regulations; and
- (c) the date on which his entitlement to income support or an income-based jobseeker’s allowance ceased or is expected to cease.”; and

- (b) in paragraphs 6 and 7 for “53A(5)(a)” in both places that it occurs there shall be substituted “53A(6) or (9), as the case may be.”;

- (c) in paragraph 2(e)—

- (i) head (i) shall be omitted;
- (ii) for head (ii) there shall be substituted—

“a claimant satisfies the conditions of this sub-paragraph if he has been entitled to and in receipt of a combination of income support and a jobseeker’s allowance for at least 26 weeks and for the purposes of this sub-paragraph, a reference to the claimant being entitled to and in receipt of a jobseeker’s allowance shall include a reference to the claimant and his partner being entitled to and in receipt of a joint-claim jobseeker’s allowance.”;

- (d) in paragraph 3—

- (i) after sub-paragraph (a)(ii) there shall be inserted—

“or

- (iii) has commenced, or is about to commence, an increased number of hours of work.”; and

- (ii) in sub-paragraph (b) after “in sub-paragraph (a)(ii)” there shall be inserted “, or first commences the increased number of hours of work referred to in sub-paragraph (a)(iii)”;

- (e) in paragraph 4 for the words “the termination of the relevant benefit period” substitute “he ceased to be entitled to council tax benefit”;

- (f) in paragraphs 6 and 7 for “53A(5)(a)” in both places that it occurs there shall be substituted “53A(6)”;

- (g) in paragraph 8(1)—

- (i) the following definitions shall be omitted—

- (aa) “the last day”;
- (bb) “the relevant benefit period”;

- (ii) for the definition of “second dwelling” there shall be substituted—

““second dwelling” means the dwelling to which a person has moved, or is about to move, in which he is, or will be, resident and in respect of which he is or will be liable to pay council tax” ; and

(a) Schedule 5A was inserted by S.I. 1996/194; relevant amending instruments are S.I. 1996/1510, 1999/2556, 2000/724, 2001/537 and 1605.

- (h) in paragraph 8(1) the words “, subject to sub-paragraph (2),” in the definition of “claimant”, and paragraph 8(2) shall be omitted with effect from 25th October 2004.

Amendment of Schedule 6 to the Housing Benefit Regulations and Schedule 6 to the Council Tax Benefit Regulations

24.—(1) In Schedule 6 to the Housing Benefit Regulations (matters to be included in the decision notice)—

- (a) paragraph 9(h)(a) shall be omitted; and
- (b) in paragraph 14(1)(e) the words “in each benefit period” to the end of the sub-paragraph shall be omitted.

(2) In Schedule 6 to the Council Tax Benefit Regulations (matters to be included in the decision notice)—

- (a) paragraph 9(e)(b) shall be omitted;
- (b) paragraph 13(e) shall be omitted; and
- (c) in paragraph 16(e) the words “in each benefit period” to the end of the sub-paragraph shall be omitted.

Minor and consequential amendments

25.—(1) In the provisions specified in paragraph (2), for the words “benefit period” wherever they occur, there shall be substituted the words “award of housing benefit”, preceded, where appropriate, by “an” instead of “a”.

(2) The provisions referred to in paragraph (1) are the following regulations in the Housing Benefit Regulations—

- (a) regulation 11(9) and (10)(c) (maximum rent); and
- (b) regulation 75(1)(d) (duty to notify change of circumstances).

(3) In regulation 65(1)(e) of the Council Tax Benefit Regulations (duty to notify a change of circumstances) for the words “benefit period” there shall be substituted the words “award of council tax benefit”.

PART 3

Transitional and Saving Provisions

Transitional provision

26.—(1) Paragraphs (2) and (3) apply in the case of a claimant whose or whose partner’s benefit period ends before 5th April 2004.

(2) Where paragraph (1) applies, regulation 72(13) and (14) of the Housing Benefit Regulations and regulation 62(14) and (15) of the Council Tax Benefit Regulations shall continue to have effect until 3rd May 2004.

(3) Where paragraph (1) applies and either—

- (a) a claimant makes a claim for a further grant of—
 - (i) housing benefit in accordance with regulation 72(13) of the Housing Benefit Regulations; or

(a) Relevant amending instruments are S.I. 1989/416, 1990/546, 1996/1510, 2001/1605 and 2003/325 and 1338.

(b) Relevant amending instruments are S.I. 1989/416, 1990/546, 1996/1510, 2001/1605 and 2003/325 and 1338.

(c) Regulation 11(9) was amended by S.I. 2001/1605.

(d) Relevant amending instruments are S.I. 1999/3108 and 2001/1605.

(e) Relevant amending instruments are S.I. 1999/3108 and 2001/1605.

- (ii) council tax benefit in accordance with regulation 62(14) of the Council Tax Benefit Regulations,
after 5th April 2004 but no later than 4 weeks after the end of the benefit period; or
- (b) a relevant authority invites that claimant to make a claim for a further grant of—
 - (i) housing benefit in accordance with regulation 72(14) of the Housing Benefit Regulations; or
 - (ii) council tax benefit in accordance with regulation 62(15) of the Council Tax Benefit Regulations,
and following that invitation, a claim is received from that claimant after 5th April 2004 but no later than 4 weeks after the end of the benefit period,

that claim shall be treated as having been made immediately after the end of the benefit period.

Transitional provision for rent officer referrals

27.—(1) If, on 5th April 2004, more than 52 weeks have elapsed since the relevant authority last made an application in relation to a claimant's, or his partner's, claim for or award of, housing benefit for a determination in accordance with regulation 12A(1) of the Housing Benefit Regulations (requirement to refer to rent officers), the relevant authority shall apply to a rent officer for a determination to be made in pursuance of the Housing Act functions as soon as is practicable after 5th April 2004.

(2) Any application made under paragraph (1) above shall be subject to regulation 12A(1A) and (7A) of the Housing Benefit Regulations.

(3) An appropriate relevant authority may make a decision under paragraph 4 of Schedule 7 to the Act in a case to which paragraph (1) applies.

(4) Where an appropriate relevant authority makes a decision under paragraph (3), which adopts the determination made in consequence of the application made under paragraph (1), the decision shall take effect—

- (a) in a case where the amount of the determination has increased or remains unchanged, on 5th April 2004; or
- (b) in a case where the amount of the determination has decreased, the first day of the benefit week following the date on which that determination was received by a relevant authority.

Saving provision for extended payments

28.—(1) Paragraph (2) shall apply where a person or his partner is—

- (a) treated as having made a claim under regulation 62A of the Housing Benefit Regulations (extended payments) before 5th April 2004; or
- (b) in receipt of an extended payment under that regulation on 5th April 2004.

(2) Where paragraph (1) applies—

- (a) subject to sub-paragraph (b), regulation 62A and Schedule 5A shall apply to him as in force immediately before 5th April 2004;
- (b) sub-paragraphs (a) and (b) of paragraph (5) of regulation 62A shall have effect as if after the word “beneficiary” in each place where it occurs there were inserted the words “or his partner”; and
- (c) sub-paragraph (b) of paragraph (5) of regulation 62A shall have effect as if for the words “deemed to be” until the end of that sub-paragraph there were substituted the words “treated as having been made in respect of a period beginning immediately after the end of the benefit period”.

(3) Paragraph (4) shall apply where a person or his partner is—

- (a) treated as having made a claim under regulation 53A of the Council Tax Benefit Regulations (extended payments) before 5th April 2004; or
- (b) in receipt of an extended payment under that regulation on 5th April 2004.

(4) Where paragraph (3) applies—

- (a) subject to sub-paragraph (b), regulation 53A and Schedule 5A shall apply to him as in force immediately before 5th April 2004;
- (b) sub-paragraphs (a) and (b) of paragraph (5) of regulation 53A shall have effect as if after the word “beneficiary” in each place where it occurs there were inserted the words “or his partner”; and
- (c) sub-paragraph (b) of paragraph (5) of regulation 53A shall have effect as if for the words “deemed to be” until the end of that sub-paragraph there were substituted the words “treated as having been made in respect of a period beginning immediately after the end of the benefit period”.

PART 4

Amendment of Other Provisions

Amendment of regulation 5 of the Housing Benefit (Supply of Information) Regulations 1988

29. In regulation 5(a) of the Housing Benefit (Supply of Information) Regulations 1988 (information to be supplied by an authority to another authority)—

- (a) In paragraph (3)—
 - (i) in sub-paragraph (a)(i) for the words “Part I” there shall be substituted the words “paragraph 2”;
 - (ii) in sub-paragraph (a)(ii) for the words “the requirements specified at paragraph 3(3)” there shall be substituted the words “the matters notified pursuant to regulation 62A and paragraph 3”;
 - (iii) subject to head (v), in sub-paragraph (aa) for the words “regulation 62A(1A)(b) of” there shall be substituted “paragraph 3A of Schedule 5A to”;
 - (iv) for sub-paragraph (b)(iv) there shall be substituted—
 - “the date on which his entitlement to housing benefit ceased”; and
 - (v) sub-paragraph (aa) shall be omitted with effect from 25th October 2004; and
- (b) in paragraph (4) the words “the relevant benefit period” shall be omitted.

Amendment of regulation 10 of the Housing Benefit (General) Amendment Regulations 1995

30. In regulation 10(1)(b) of the Housing Benefit (General) Amendment Regulations 1995 (saving provision) after the words “1st January 1996” there shall be added the words “but as if any references to a benefit period were references to an award of housing benefit”.

Amendment of regulation 4 of the Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit (General) Amendment Regulations 1997

31. In regulation 4 of the Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit (General) Amendment Regulations 1997(c) (savings)—

- (a) in paragraph (2A) the words “makes a further claim for housing benefit under regulation 72(12) to (14) of the principal Regulations, where he” shall be omitted; and
- (b) in paragraph (2B) after the words “principal Regulations” there shall be inserted “as in force immediately before 5th April 2004”.

(a) S.I. 1998/662. Regulation 5 was added by S.I. 1996/194; relevant amending instruments are S.I. 1999/2556 and 2001/537.
 (b) S.I. 1995/1644. Relevant amending instruments are S.I. 1996/462 and 2432, 1998/563 and 2231, 1999/2734 and 2003/1338.
 (c) S.I. 1997/852. Relevant amending instruments are S.I. 1997/1975, 1998/2231 and 2003/1338.

Amendment of the Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit (State Pension Credit) Regulations 2003

32. Regulations 9(b) and 18(b) of the Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit (State Pension Credit) Regulations 2003(a) (provisions which do not apply) are hereby revoked.

Amendment of the Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit (State Pension Credit) (Abolition of Benefit Periods) Amendment Regulations 2003

33. In the Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit (State Pension Credit) (Abolition of Benefit Periods) Amendment Regulations 2003(b), Part 3 (transitory provisions), Part 4 (consequential and transitional provisions), except for regulations 7 and 13(1)(a) and (2), and Part 5 (application and amendment of other provisions) are hereby revoked.

Amendment of regulations 7 and 8 of the Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit (Decisions and Appeals) Regulations 2001

34.—(1) In regulation 7 of the Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit (Decisions and Appeals) Regulations 2001(c) (decisions superseding earlier decisions) after paragraph (2) there shall be inserted the following paragraph—

“(2ZA) An appropriate relevant authority may, upon its own initiative, make a decision under paragraph 4 of Schedule 7 to the Act in any case to which regulation 12A(1)(d) or (e) of the Housing Benefit Regulations (requirement to refer to rent officers) applies.”.

(2) In regulation 8 of the Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit (Decisions and Appeals) Regulations 2001(d) (date from which a decision superseding an earlier decision takes effect) after paragraph (6) there shall be inserted the following paragraphs—

“(6A) Except in a case where entitlement to housing benefit ceases, where a rent officer has made a determination in exercise of the Housing Act functions pursuant to an application by a relevant authority under regulation 12A(1)(d) or (e) of the Housing Benefit Regulations, any decision to which regulation 7(2ZA) applies which adopts that determination shall take effect from—

- (a) in a case where the amount of the rent officer’s determination has increased or remains unchanged, and—
 - (i) rent is payable weekly or in multiples of weeks, the first day of the benefit week in which the day following the last day of the period mentioned in regulation 12A(1)(d) or (e) of the Housing Benefit Regulations occurs;
 - (ii) rent is payable other than in accordance with head (i), the first day following the last day of the period mentioned in regulation 12A(1)(d) or (e) of the Housing Benefit Regulations;
- (b) in a case where the amount of the rent officer’s determination has decreased, the first day of the benefit week following the date on which that determination was received by a relevant authority;

(6B) For the purposes of paragraph (6A) “Housing Act functions” has the same meaning as in regulation 2(1) of the Housing Benefit Regulations.”.

Amendment of the Social Security (Back to Work Bonus and Lone Parent Run-on) (Amendment and Revocation) Regulations 2003

35.—(1) Regulations 3, 4 and 7 of the Social Security (Back to Work Bonus and Lone Parent Run-on) (Amendment and Revocation) Regulations 2003(e) are hereby revoked.

(a) S.I. 2003/325.

(b) S.I. 2003/1338.

(c) S.I. 2001/1002, the relevant amending instrument is S.I. 2003/1338.

(d) S.I. 2001/1002, the relevant amending instrument is S.I. 2003/1338.

(e) S.I. 2003/1589.

PART 5

Local Housing Allowance

Amendment of the Housing Benefit (General) (Local Housing Allowance) Amendment Regulations 2003 and the Housing Benefit Regulations

36.—(1) Regulation 14 of the Housing Benefit (General) (Local Housing Allowance) Amendment Regulations 2003(a) is hereby revoked.

(2) In relation to the area of a relevant authority specified in Schedule 1 to the Housing Benefit (General) (Local Housing Allowance) Amendment Regulations 2003 the Housing Benefit Regulations shall have effect subject to the following modifications and amendments—

- (a) in regulation 2(1) in the definition of “relevant date”—
 - (i) in sub-paragraph (b) after the words “or relevant information relates” substitute “,” for “; or”;
 - (ii) in sub-paragraph (c) after “regulation 11A(1)(b)(iii) or (iv) relates;” insert “or”; and
 - (iii) after sub-paragraph (c) insert the following sub-paragraph—

“(d) the date on which the period mentioned in regulation 12A(1)(d) or (e) has elapsed.”.
- (b) in regulation 10(3B) after “11A(1)(a) or (b)(i), (ii) or (iii)” insert “or (c)”;
- (c) in regulation 11A(1) after sub-paragraph (b) insert the following sub-paragraph—

“(c) a pathfinder authority is required to apply to a rent officer for a determination in accordance with regulation 12A(1)(d) or (e).”; and
- (d) in regulation 12A after paragraph (2B) insert the following paragraph—

“(2C) An application shall not be required in accordance with paragraph (1)(d) or (e) unless—
 - (a) it is a case to which regulation 11A(2) applies; and
 - (b) a referral would fall to be made were the relevant authority not a pathfinder authority.”.

Signed by authority of the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions.

Chris Pond

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State,
Department for Work and Pensions

7th January 2004

(a) S.I. 2003/2399.

SCHEDULE

Provisions conferring powers exercised in making these Regulations

<i>Column (1)</i> <i>Short title</i>	<i>Column 2</i> <i>Provision</i>	<i>Column (3)</i> <i>Relevant amendments</i>
Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992 (a)		
	Section 123(1)(d) and (e)	Local Government Finance Act 1992 (b) , Schedule 9, paragraph 1(1)
	Section 130(2) and (4)	Local Government Finance Act 1992, Schedule 9, paragraph 3, Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994 (c) , Schedule 13, paragraph 174, Local Government Act 2000 (d) , section 96
	Section 131(10)	Local Government Finance Act 1992, Schedule 9, paragraph 4
	Section 135(1)	
	Section 136(3), (4) and (5)	
	Section 136A	State Pension Credit Act 2002 (e) , Schedule 2, paragraphs 1 and 3
	Section 137(1) and (2)(i)	
	Section 175(3), (4), (5) and (6)	Local Government Finance Act 1992, Schedule 9, paragraph 10, Social Security Incapacity for Work Act 1994 (f) , Schedule 1, paragraph 36, Social Security Contributions (Transfer of Functions, etc.) Act 1999 (g) , Schedule 3, paragraph 29
Social Security Administration Act 1992 (h)		
	Section 5(1)(a), (b), (d), (e), (h), (i), (j) and (k)	Social Security Act 1998 (i) , Schedule 7, paragraph 79(1)
	Section 6(1)(a), (b), (d), (e), (h), (i), (k) and (l)	Local Government Finance Act 1992, Schedule 9, paragraph 12(1)(a) and (b) and Schedule 14

(a) 1992 c.4; section 137(1) is cited because of the meaning ascribed to the word “prescribed”.

(b) 1992 c.14.

(c) 1994 c.39.

(d) 2000 c.22.

(e) 2002 c.16.

(f) 1994 c.18.

(g) 1999 c.2.

(h) 1992 c.5; section 191 is cited because of the meaning ascribed to the word “prescribe”.

(i) 1998 c.14; section 84 is cited because of the meaning ascribed to the word “prescribe”.

	Section 75(2) and (4)	
	Section 76(1) and (2)	Local Government Finance Act 1992, Schedule 9, paragraph 15 and Schedule 14, Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994 Schedule 13, paragraph 175(3)
	Section 128A	Jobseekers Act 1995(a), section 28(2)
	Section 189(4), (5) and (7)	Social Security Act 1998, Schedule 7, paragraph 109
	Section 191	
Housing Act 1996(b)		
	Section 122(3) and (5)	
Social Security Act 1998		
	Section 34(1) to (3)	State Pension Credit Act 2002, Schedule 2, paragraphs 40, 41
	Section 79(4) and (6)	
	Section 84	
Child Support, Pensions and Social Security Act 2000(c)		
	Schedule 7, paragraph 4(4) and (6)	
	Schedule 7, paragraph 23(1)	

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

These Regulations amend the Housing Benefit (General) Regulations 1987 (S.I. 1987/1971) (“the Housing Benefit Regulations”) and the Council Tax Benefit (General) Regulations 1992 (S.I. 1992/1814) (“the Council Tax Benefit Regulations”), the Housing Benefit (Supply of Information) Regulations 1988 (S.I. 1988/662), the Housing Benefit (General) Amendment Regulations 1995 (S.I. 1995/1644), the Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit (General) Amendment Regulations 1997 (S.I. 1997/852), the Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit (Decisions and Appeals) Regulations 2001 (S.I. 2001/1002), the Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit (State Pension Credit) Regulations 2003 (S.I. 2003/325), the Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit (State Pension Credit) (Abolition of Benefit Periods) Amendment Regulations 2003 (S.I. 2003/1338) and the Social Security (Back to Work Bonus and Lone Parent Run-on) (Amendment and Revocation) Regulations 2003 (S.I. 2003/1589).

These Regulations abolish benefit periods in housing benefit and council tax benefit.

Part 2 (regulations 2 to 25) contains amendments to the Housing Benefit Regulations and Council Tax Benefit Regulations. Regulations 2 to 4, 6 to 10, 15 to 22 and 24 and 25 amend provisions in the Housing Benefit Regulations and Council Tax Benefit Regulations, omitting references to benefit periods and making consequential changes. Regulation 5 amends regulation 12A of the Housing Benefit Regulations to prescribe further circumstances in which a relevant authority must apply to a rent officer for a determination. Regulation 11 amends the provisions in the Housing Benefit Regulations and Council Tax

(a) 1995 c. 18.

(b) 1996 c. 52.

(c) 2000 c. 19; paragraph 23(1) of Schedule 7 is cited because of the meaning ascribed to the word “prescribed”.

Benefit Regulations relating to extended payments. Regulation 12 inserts new provisions in the Housing Benefit Regulations and Council Tax Benefit Regulations making provision for a circumstance in which entitlement to benefit ceases. Regulation 13 revokes provisions in the Housing Benefit Regulations and Council Tax Benefit Regulations that relate to the setting and ending of benefit periods. Regulation 14 amends regulation 68 of the Housing Benefit Regulations to specify the date a change of circumstances will take effect where entitlement to housing benefit ends and makes a minor amendment to regulation 59 of the Council Tax Benefit Regulations to reflect the modifications made by the Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit (State Pension Credit) Regulations 2003. This regulation also makes changes consequent upon the introduction of the continuing payment provisions in regulation 12. Regulation 23 amends Schedule 5A to the Housing Benefit Regulations and Schedule 5A to the Council Tax Benefit Regulations consequential upon the changes made by regulation 11 to the extended payment provisions.

Part 3 (regulations 26 to 28) contains transitional and saving provisions. Regulation 26 contains transitional provisions for renewal claims for housing benefit and council tax benefit. Regulation 27 contains transitional provisions for rent officer referrals. Regulation 28 saves regulation 62A of, and Schedule 5A to the Housing Benefit Regulations and regulation 53A of, and Schedule 5A to the Council Tax Benefit Regulations for claimants who are treated as having claimed an extended payment or are in receipt of an extended payment on the date that these Regulations come into force.

Part 4 (regulations 29 to 34) amends other Regulations. Regulation 29 amends provisions in the Housing Benefit (Supply of Information) Regulations 1988 consequential upon the abolition of benefit periods. Regulation 30 amends regulation 10 of the Housing Benefit (General) Amendment Regulations 1995, substituting for references to benefit periods references to awards of housing benefit. Regulation 31 amends regulation 4 of the Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit (General) Amendment Regulations 1997 making changes consequential upon the abolition of benefit periods. Regulation 32 revokes regulations 9(b) and 18(b) of the Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit (State Pension Credit) Regulations 2003. Regulation 33 revokes Parts 3, 4 and 5 (with listed exceptions) of the Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit (State Pension Credit) (Abolition of Benefit Periods) Amendment Regulations 2003. Regulation 34 amends regulations 7 and 8 of the Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit (Decisions and Appeals) Regulations 2001 to provide new effective dates for cases where a decision is superseded for a change of circumstances and that change is brought about because a rent officer's determination applied for by a relevant authority pursuant to regulation 12A (1)(d) or (e) is adopted in the decision. Regulation 35 revokes regulations 3, 4 and 7 of the Social Security (Back to Work Bonus and Lone Parent Run-on) (Amendment and Revocation) Regulations 2003.

Part 5 (regulation 36) revokes regulation 14 of the Housing Benefit (General) (Local Housing Allowance) Amendment Regulations 2003 which made modifications and amendments in relation to relevant dates for persons living in the area of a relevant authority specified in Schedule 1 to the Housing Benefit (General) (Local Housing Allowance) Amendment Regulations 2003 who had reached the qualifying age for state pension credit. It also amends the Housing Benefit Regulations to make such modifications and amendments for all cases to which the new arrangements apply for determining eligible housing costs for the purposes of claims to housing benefit made by persons living in those areas.

A full regulatory impact assessment has not been produced for this instrument as it has no impact on the costs of business.

£4.00

© Crown copyright 2004

Printed and published in the UK by The Stationery Office Limited
under the authority and superintendence of Carol Tullo, Controller of Her Majesty's
Stationery Office and Queen's Printer of Acts of Parliament.
E0016 01/2004 140016T 19585

ISBN 0-11-048424-X



9 780110 484242