

2000 No. 897**SOCIAL SECURITY****The Social Security (Work-focused Interviews)
Regulations 2000***Made - - 28th March 2000**Coming into force 3rd April 2000*

Whereas a draft of this Instrument was laid before Parliament in accordance with section 190(1)(aa)(a) of the Social Security Administration Act 1992 and approved by resolution of each House of Parliament:

Now therefore the Secretary of State for Social Security, in exercise of the powers conferred upon him by sections 2A, 2B(6) and (7), 5(1)(a) and (b), 6(1)(a) and (b), 7A, 189(1), (4) to (7A) and 191 of the Social Security Administration Act 1992(b) and of all other powers enabling him in that behalf, after consultation with the Council on Tribunals in accordance with section 8(1) of the Tribunals and Inquiries Act 1992(c) and in respect of provisions in these Regulations relating to housing benefit and council tax benefit with organisations appearing to him to be representative of the authorities concerned(d), by this Instrument, which contains only regulations made by virtue of or consequential upon sections 57 and 71 of the Welfare Reform and Pensions Act 1999 and which is made before the end of a period of 6 months beginning with the coming into force of those provisions(e), hereby make the following Regulations:

PART I**GENERAL****Citation and commencement**

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Social Security (Work-focused Interviews) Regulations 2000 and shall come into force on 3rd April 2000.

Interpretation

2.—(1) In these Regulations—

In reg. 2, the definitions which are now in small indented text have been revoked as from 30.9.02 except for the purposes of the transitional provisions detailed in reg. 16(2) of S.I. 2002/1703 at page 1.6227.

“the Act” means the Welfare Reform and Pensions Act 1999;

“the 1998 Act” means the Social Security Act 1998(f);

“benefit week” –

(a) 1992 c. 5; paragraph (aa) was inserted in sub-section (1) by the Welfare Reform and Pensions Act 1999 (c. 30), Schedule 12, paragraph 83.

(b) Sections 2A, 2B and 7A were all inserted by the Welfare Reform and Pensions Act 1999, sections 57 and 71 respectively; section 191 is an interpretation provision and is cited because of the meaning ascribed to the word “prescribe”; section 189(7A) was inserted by the Welfare Reform and Pensions Act 1999. Schedule 12, paragraph 82.

(c) 1992 c. 53.

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

(e) See section 173(5)(b) of the Social Security Administration Act 1992.

(f) 1998 c. 14.

Reg. 2

(a) in relation to housing benefit and council tax benefit, means a period of 7 days beginning on a Monday;

(b) in relation to any other specified benefit, means any period of 7 days corresponding to the week in respect of which the relevant social security benefit is due to be paid;

“the designated authority” means any of the following—

(a) the Secretary of State;

(b) a person providing services to the Secretary of State;

(c) a local authority;

(d) a person providing services to, or authorised to exercise any functions of, any such authority;

▶ “the Careers Service” means—

(a) in England and Wales, a person with whom the Secretary of State or, as the case may be, the National Assembly for Wales, have made arrangements under section 10(1) of the Employment and Training Act 1973 or a local education authority to whom a direction has been given by the Secretary of State or the National Assembly for Wales under section 10(2) of that Act;

(b) in Scotland, a person with whom the Scottish Ministers have made arrangements under section 10(1) of the Employment and Training Act 1973 or any education authority to whom a direction has been given by the Scottish Ministers under section 10(2) of that Act;◀

▶ “the Connexions Service” means a person of any description with whom the Secretary of State has made an arrangement under section 114(2)(a) of the Learning and Skills Act 2000 and section 10(1) of the Employment and Training Act 1973 and any person to whom he has given a direction under section 114(2)(b) of the Learning and Skills Act 2000 and section 10(2) of the Employment and Training Act 1973(a);◀

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

“the Claims and Payments Regulations” means the Social Security (Claims and Payments) Regulations 1987**(c)**

“the Housing Benefit Regulations” means the Housing Benefit (General) Regulations 1987**(d)**;

“interview” means a work-focused interview;

▶ “lone parent” means a person who has no partner and who is responsible for, and a member of the same household as, a child;◀

▶ “specified benefit” means income support, housing benefit, council tax benefit, incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance;◀

▶ “specified person” means—

(a) a lone parent, or

(b) a person who claims—

(i) incapacity benefit

(ii) income support where paragraph 7 (persons incapable of work) of Schedule 1B to the Income Support (General) Regulations 1987 applies,

(iii) income support where paragraph 24 or 25 (persons appealing against a decision which embodies a determination that they are not incapable of work) of

Defn. of “the Careers Service” substituted by Sch. 2, para. 2(2) of S.I. 2001/3210 as from 22.10.01.

Defn. of “the Connexions Service” inserted by reg. 6(a) of S.I. 2001/652 as from 1.4.01.

Defns. of “lone parent” & “specified person” inserted & “specified benefit” substituted by reg. 5(2) of S.I. 2005/2727 as from 31.10.05.

(a) 1973 c. 50; section 10 was inserted by section 45 of the Trade Union Reform and Employment Rights Act 1993 (c. 19).

(b) S.I. 1992/1814.

(c) S.I. 1987/1968.

(d) S.I. 1987/1971.

Schedule 1B to the Income Support (General) Regulations 1987 applies, or

(iv) severe disablement allowance;◀

“work-focused interview” has the meaning given in regulation 3.

(2) In these Regulations, a “relevant person” is a person who resides in an area identified in Schedule 1.

(3) For the purposes of these Regulations—

- (a) “remunerative work” has the meaning prescribed in regulation 4 of the Housing Benefit Regulations; and
- (b) “part-time work” means work for which payment is made and which is not remunerative work.

(4) Where a claim for benefit is made by a person (“the appointee”) on behalf of another, references in these Regulations to a person claiming benefit shall be treated as a reference to the person on whose behalf the claim is made and not to the appointee.

(5) These Regulations apply in respect of a specified benefit claimed on or after 3rd April 2000.

(6) In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires, a reference—

- (a) to a numbered section is to the section of the Act bearing that number;
- (b) to a numbered regulation or Schedule is to the regulation in or Schedule to these Regulations bearing that number;
- (c) in a regulation or Schedule to a numbered paragraph is to the paragraph in that regulation or Schedule bearing that number;
- (d) in a paragraph to a lettered or numbered sub-paragraph is to the sub-paragraph in that paragraph bearing that letter or number.

Reg. 3 is revoked by Sch. 1 to S.I. 2002/1703 as from 30.9.02 but remains reproduced here due to the transitional provisions detailed in reg. 16(2) of that S.I. at page 1.6227.

Work-focused interview

3. In these Regulations, a “work-focused interview” means an interview with a relevant person conducted for any or all of the following purposes—

- (a) assessing a person's prospects for existing or future employment (whether paid or voluntary);
- (b) assisting or encouraging a person to enhance his prospects of such employment;
- (c) identifying activities which the person may undertake to strengthen his existing or future prospects of such employment;
- (d) identifying current or future employment or training opportunities suitable to the person's needs; and
- (e) identifying educational opportunities connected with the existing or future employment prospects or needs of the person.

PART II

WORK-FOCUSED INTERVIEWS

4-5. ▶◀

Regs. 6 - 11&12(1) below are revoked by Sch. 1 to S.I. 2002/1703 as from 30.9.02 but remains reproduced here due to the transitional provisions detailed in reg. 16(2) of that S.I. at page 1.6227.

Continuing entitlement dependent upon an interview

6.—(1) A relevant person who has not attained ▶²pensionable age◀ of 60 and who is entitled to a specified benefit shall be required to take part in an interview as a condition of his continuing to be entitled to the full amount of benefit which is payable apart from these Regulations where paragraph (2) applies and—

¹Regs. 4&5 revoked by Sch. 1 of S.I. 2002/1703 as from 30.9.02.

²Words in reg. 6(1) substituted by reg. 3(a) of S.I. 2010/563 as from 6.4.10.

Reg. 6

¹Words inserted & substituted in reg. 6(1) by Sch. 2, para. 2(3)(a) of S.I. 2001/3210 as from 22.10.01.

²Para. (3) of reg. 6 substituted by Sch. 2, para. 2(3)(b) of S.I. 2001/3210 as from 22.10.01.

³Para. 4(a) substituted by reg. 5(a) of S.I. 2000/1926 as from 14.8.00.

⁴Words inserted in reg. 6(4)(a) by Sch. 2, para. 2(3)(c) of S.I. 2001/3210 as from 22.10.01.

⁵In reg. 6(4)(b) words substituted by reg. 5(3) of S.I. 2005/2727 as from 31.10.05.

⁶Para. (4A) inserted in reg. 6 by Sch. 2, para. 2(3)(d) of S.I. 2001/3210 as from 22.10.01.

(a) in the case of a lone parent who ¹resides in an area identified in Schedule 1A and who ⁴is not entitled to either incapacity benefit or severe disablement allowance, ¹paragraph (3) applies⁴; or

(b) in any other case, any of the circumstances specified in paragraph (4) apply ¹or where paragraph (4A) applies⁴.

(2) This paragraph applies in the case of a person who has taken part in a work-focused interview, or who would have taken part in such an interview but for the requirement being waived in accordance with regulation 7 or deferred in accordance with regulation 8.

²(3) A lone parent to whom paragraph (1)(a) applies shall be required to take part in an interview—

(a) after the expiry of six months from the date on which—

(i) he took part in an interview under regulation 4; or

(ii) a determination was made under regulation 7(1) that he was to be treated as having taken part in an interview under regulation 4;

(b) where the lone parent took part, failed to take part or was treated as having taken part, in an interview pursuant to the requirement arising in sub-paragraph (a), after the expiry of six months from the date on which—

(i) he took part in that interview;

(ii) he failed to take part in that interview; or

(iii) a determination was made under regulation 7(1) that he was to be treated as having taken part in that interview; and

(c) where the lone parent took part, failed to take part or was treated as having taken part, in an interview pursuant to the requirement arising in sub-paragraph (b), after the expiry of twelve months from the date on which—

(i) he last took part in an interview;

(ii) he last failed to take part in an interview; or

(iii) a determination was last made under regulation 7(1) that he was to be treated as having taken part in an interview.⁴

(4) The circumstances specified in this paragraph are those where—

³(a) it is determined in accordance with a personal capability assessment that a person is incapable of work ⁴and therefore, continues to be entitled to a specified benefit⁴; ⁴

(b) a person's entitlement to ⁵carer's allowance ceases whilst entitlement to a ⁴specified benefit continues;

(c) a person becomes engaged or ceases to be engaged in part-time work;

(d) a person has been undergoing education or training arranged by a personal adviser and that education or training comes to an end; and

(e) a person who has not attained the age of 18 and who has previously undertaken an interview attains the age of 18.

⁶(4A) A requirement to take part in an interview arises under this paragraph where a person—

(a) resides in an area identified in Schedule 1A; and

(b) has not been required to take part in an interview by virtue of paragraph (4) for at least 36 months.⁴

(5) In this regulation—

Regs. 6-10



▶²“pensionable age”, in the case of a man born before 6th April 1955, means the age when a woman born on the same day as the man would attain pensionable age;◀

personal capability assessment” means an assessment in accordance with regulations made under section 171C of the Contributions and Benefits Act(a).

Waiver

7.—(1) A requirement to take part in an interview imposed by these Regulations shall not apply where the designated authority determines in the case of any particular person making a claim that the interview—

- (a) would not be of assistance to that person, or
- (b) would not be appropriate in the circumstances of that case.

(2) A person in relation to whom the requirement to take part in an interview has been waived shall be treated for the purposes of any claim for or entitlement to a specified benefit as having complied with that requirement.

Deferment of interview

8.—(1) Except in a case to which paragraph (2) refers, a personal adviser shall arrange for an interview to take place as soon as reasonably practicable after the claim is made or the event which under regulation 6(3) or (4) gives rise to the interview occurs.

(2) This paragraph applies where the designated authority determines in the case of any particular person that the requirement to take part in an interview shall not apply at the time the claim is made or the event occurs because an interview would not at that time—

- (a) be of assistance to that person, or
- (b) be appropriate in the circumstances of that case.

(3) A designated authority who determines in accordance with the preceding provisions of this regulation that the requirement to take part in an interview shall not apply shall also determine either when that determination is made or later, the time when the requirement to take part in an interview is to apply in the claimant’s case.

(4) Where an interview has been deferred in accordance with this regulation, then until both—

- (a) a determination has been made that the claimant is to take part in an interview, and
- (b) a determination has been made as to whether the claimant in fact took part in an interview,

he shall be treated for the purposes of any claim for or entitlement to a specified benefit as having complied with any requirement to take part in an interview.

Claims for two or more specified benefits

9. A person who would otherwise be required under these Regulations to take part in interviews relating to more than one specified benefit—

- (a) is only required to take part in one interview; and
- (b) that interview counts for the purposes of all those benefits.

The interview

10.—(1) The relevant person’s personal adviser shall inform the claimant of the place and time of the interview.

¹Defn. of “lone parent” omitted by reg. 5(3) of S.I. 2005/2727 as from 31.10.05.

²Defn. of “pensionable age” inserted by reg. 3(b) of S.I. 2010/563 as from 6.4.10.

(a) Section 171C was inserted by section 61 of the Welfare Reform and Pension Act 1999 (c. 30).

Regs. 10-11

(2) The personal adviser may determine that the interview is to take place in the home of the claimant or elsewhere where it would in the opinion of the personal adviser be unreasonable to expect the claimant to attend the office of a designated authority because his personal circumstances are such that attending the office would cause him undue inconvenience or endanger his health.

Taking part in an interview

11.—(1) The designated authority shall determine whether a person has taken part in an interview.

▶¹(2) A person who has attained the age of 18 shall be regarded as having taken part in his first interview under these Regulations after 30th October 2005 if—

(a) he attends at the place and time notified to him by the personal adviser for the interview;

(b) where he is a specified person, he participates in discussions with the personal adviser in relation to the specified person's employability, including any action the specified person and the personal adviser agree is reasonable and they are willing to take in order to help the specified person enhance his employment prospects;

(c) he participates in discussions with the personal adviser—

(i) in relation to the person's employability or any progress he might have made towards obtaining employment; and

(ii) in order to consider any of the programmes and support available to help the person obtain employment;

(d) he provides answers (where asked) and appropriate information to questions about—

(i) the content of any report made following his personal capability assessment, insofar as that report relates to the person's capabilities and employability; and

(ii) his opinion as to the extent to which his medical condition restricts his ability to obtain employment; and

(e) where he is a specified person, he assists the personal adviser in the completion of an action plan which records the matters discussed in relation to sub-paragraph (b) above.

(2A) A person who has attained the age of 18 shall be regarded as having taken part in any subsequent interview under these Regulations if—

(a) he attends at the place and time notified to him by the personal adviser for the interview;

(b) he participates in discussions with the personal adviser—

(i) in relation to the person's employability or any progress he might have made towards obtaining employment; and

(ii) in order to consider any of the programmes and support available to help the person obtain employment;

(c) where he is a specified person, he participates in discussions with the personal adviser—

(i) about any action the specified person or the personal adviser might have taken as a result of the matters discussed in relation to paragraph (2)(b) above; and

(ii) about how, if at all, the action plan referred to in paragraph (2)(e) above should be amended;

(d) he provides answers (where asked) and appropriate information to questions about—

(i) the content of any report made following his personal capability assessment, insofar as that report relates to the person's capabilities and employability; and

¹Para. (2) of reg. 11 substituted and para. (2A) inserted by reg. 5(4) of S.I. 2005/2727 as from 31.10.05.

Regs. 11-12

(ii) his opinion as to the extent to which his medical condition restricts his ability to obtain employment; and

(e) where he is a specified person, he assists the personal adviser in the completion of any amendment of the action plan referred to in paragraph (2)(e) above in light of the matters discussed in relation to sub-paragraphs (b) and (c) above and the information provided in relation to sub-paragraph (d) above.◀

(3) A person who has not attained the age of 18 shall be regarded as having taken part in an interview if, and only if, he attends an interview with the Careers Service ▶¹or with the Connexions Service◀ at the time and place notified to him by the personal adviser.

¹Words inserted in reg. 11(3) by reg. 6(c) of S.I. 2001/652 as from 1.4.01.

Failure to take part in an interview

12.—(1) A person who—

(a) has been notified of any interview in accordance with these Regulations;

(b) fails to take part in that interview; and

(c) fails to show before the end of 5 working days following the day on which the interview was to take place good cause for his failure to take part in the interview,

shall, subject to paragraph (12), suffer the consequences set out below.

▶²◀

Regs. 12(2)(c)&(3)-(13) & regs. 13-16(2) are revoked by Sch. 1 to S.I. 2002/1703 as from 30.9.02 but remain reproduced here due to the transitional provisions detailed in reg. 16(2) of that S.I. at page 1.6227.

²Para. (2)(a)&(b) of reg. 12 revoked by Sch. 1 to S.I. 2002/1703 as from 30.9.02.

(c) where the claimant has an award of benefit and the requirement for the interview arose under regulation 6, the claimant's benefit shall be reduced as from the first day of the next benefit week following the day the decision was made, by a sum equal (but subject to paragraphs (3) and (4)) to 20 per cent. of the amount applicable on the date the deduction commences in respect of a single claimant for income support aged not less than 25.

(3) Benefit reduced in accordance with paragraph (2)(c) shall not be reduced below—

(a) 50 pence per week in the case of housing benefit; or

(b) 10 pence per week in the case of any other specified benefit.

(4) Where two or more specified benefits are in payment to a claimant, a deduction made in accordance with this regulation shall be applied, except in a case to which paragraph (5) applies, to the specified benefits in the following order of priority—

(a) income support;

(b) incapacity benefit;

(c)-(d)▶³◀

(e) severe disablement allowance;

(f) council tax benefit;

(g) housing benefit.

(5) Where the amount of the reduction is greater than some (but not all) of the specified benefits listed in paragraph (4), the reduction shall be made against the first benefit in that list which is the same as or greater than the amount of the reduction.

(6) For the purpose of determining whether a specified benefit is the same as or greater than the amount of the reduction for the purposes of paragraph (5), the amount set out in paragraph 3(a) or as the case may be (b) shall be added to the amount of the reduction.

³Sub-paras. (c) & (d) in reg. 12(4) omitted by reg. 5(5) of S.I. 2005/2727 as from 31.10.05.

Regs. 12-14

(7) In a case where the whole of the reduction cannot be applied against any one specified benefit because no one benefit is the same as or greater than the amount of the reduction, the reduction shall be applied against the first benefit in payment in the list of priorities at paragraph (4) and so on against each benefit in turn until the whole of the reduction is exhausted or, if this is not possible, the whole of the specified benefits are exhausted, subject in each case to the minimum sums specified in paragraph (3) remaining in payment.

(8) Where the rate of any specified benefit payable to a claimant changes, the rules set out above for a reduction in the benefit payable shall be applied to the new rates and any adjustments to the benefits against which the reductions are made shall take effect from the beginning of the first benefit week to commence for that claimant following the change.

(9) Where a claimant whose benefit has been reduced in accordance with this regulation subsequently takes part in an interview, the reduction shall cease to have effect on the first day of the benefit week in which the requirement to take part in an interview was met.

(10) For the avoidance of doubt, a person who is regarded as not having made a claim for any benefit because he failed to take part in a work-focused interview shall be required to make a new claim in order to establish entitlement to any benefit.

(11) For the purposes of determining the amount of any benefit payable, a claimant shall be treated as receiving the amount of any specified benefit which would have been payable but for a reduction made in accordance with this regulation.

(12) The consequences set out in this regulation shall not apply in the case of a person who brings new facts to the notice of the personal adviser within 1 month of the date on which the decision was notified and—

(a) those facts could not reasonably have been brought to the personal adviser's notice within 5 working days of the day on which the interview was to take place; and

(b) those facts show that he had good cause for his failure to take part in the interview.

(13) In paragraphs (2) and (12), the "decision" means the decision that the person failed without good cause to take part in an interview.

Circumstances where regulation 12 does not apply

13. The consequences of a failure to take part in an interview set out in regulation 12 shall not apply where the person—

(a) ceases to reside in an area specified in Schedule 1; or

(b) attains the age of 60.

Good cause

14. Matters to be taken into account in determining whether a person has shown good cause for his failure to take part in an interview include—

(a) that the person misunderstood the requirement to take part in the interview due to any learning, language or literacy difficulties of the person or any misleading information given to the person by an officer of a designated authority;

(b) that the person was attending a medical or dental appointment, or accompanying a person for whom the claimant has caring responsibilities to such an appointment, and that it would have been unreasonable, in the circumstances, to rearrange the appointment;

(c) that the person had difficulties with his normal mode of transport and that no reasonable alternative was available;

Regs. 14-17

(d) that the established customs and practices of the religion to which the person belongs prevented him attending on that day or at that time;

(e) that the person was attending an interview with an employer with a view to obtaining employment;

(f) that the person was actually pursuing employment opportunities as a self-employed earner;

(g) that the person or a dependant of his or a person for whom he provides care suffered an accident, sudden illness or relapse of ►'a physical or mental health condition;◄

(h) that he was attending the funeral of a close friend or relative on the day fixed for the interview;

(i) that a disability from which the person suffers made it impracticable for him to attend at the time fixed for the interview.

¹Words in reg.14(g) substituted by reg. 5(6) of S.I. 2005/2727 as from 31.10.05.

Appeals

15.— (1) This regulation applies to any relevant decision of a designated authority or any decision under section 10 of the 1998 Act superseding such a decision.

(2) This regulation applies—

(a) whether the decision is as originally made or as revised under section 9 of the 1998 Act; and

(b) as if any decision made, superseded or revised otherwise than by the Secretary of State was a decision made, superseded or revised by him.

(3) In the case of a decision to which this regulation applies, the person in respect of whom the decision was made shall have a right of appeal under section 12 of the 1998 Act to an appeal tribunal.

Consequential changes

16.—(1) Schedule 2, which makes changes to the Housing Benefit Regulations which are consequential upon the making of decisions under these Regulations on the work-focused interview, shall have effect.

(2) Schedule 3, which makes corresponding changes to the Council Tax Benefit Regulations, shall have effect.

(3) Schedule 4, which makes changes relating to the sending and delivering of claims for housing benefit and council tax benefit, shall have effect.

(4) Schedule 5, which makes changes to the Claims and Payments Regulations, shall have effect.

(5) Schedule 6, which makes changes to the procedure relating to decisions and appeals, shall have effect.

[Regulation 17 amends regulation 4A of S.I. 1987/1968 & regulation 6 of S.I. 1999/3108.]

Signed by authority of the Secretary of State for Social Security.

28th March 2000

Angela Eagle
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State,
Department of Social Security

Schs. 1&1A are revoked by Sch. 1 of S.I. 2002/1703 as from 30.9.02 but remain reproduced here due to the transitional provisions detailed in reg. 16(2) of that S.I. at page 1.6227.

SCHEDULE 1

Regulation 2(2)

AREAS IN WHICH “RELEVANT PERSONS” RESIDE

For the purposes of regulation 2(2), the areas are–

- (a) the areas of the local authorities listed below (all of which are within the area of Buckinghamshire County Council)–
- Aylesbury Vale District Council;
 - Chiltern District Council;
 - Wycombe District Council;
 - South Buckinghamshire District Council;
 - Milton Keynes District Council;
- (b) the areas of the local authorities listed below (all of which are within the area of Somerset County Council)–
- Sedgemoor District Council;
 - Taunton District Council;
 - South Somerset District Council;
 - West Somerset District Council;
 - Mendip District Council;
- (c) the area of Warwickshire County Council, except for the areas of the Parish Councils listed below–
- Alcester;
 - Arrow;
 - Aston Cantlow;
 - Bidford on Avon;
 - Bagington;
 - Bubbenhall;
 - Coughton;
 - Earlswood;
 - Exhall;
 - Great Alne;
 - Haselor;
 - Hockley Heath;
 - Kinwarton;
 - Morton Bagot;
 - Oldberrow;
 - Packwood;
 - Portway;
 - Salford Priors;
 - Sambourne;
 - Sperrall;
 - Stoneleigh;
 - Studely;

Sch. 1

Para. (ca) inserted in Sch. 1 by para. 5(b)(i) of Sch. 2 to S.I. 2000/1926 as from 14.8.00.

Weethley;

Wixford;

►(ca) the following postcode districts–

GL15 and GL16

HR2 and HR9

LS1 and LS29

NP1, NP4 to NP11, NP15, NP16, NP18, NP19, NP20, NP25, NP26 and NP44

in so far as they lie within the areas of Leeds City Council, Monmouthshire County Council, Newport County Borough Council or Torfaen County Borough Council◄

(d) the following postcode districts–

►◄, ►BD11 2◄ BD12 0, BD12 8, BD12 9, BD19

CB8 0, CB8 7 to CB8 9, CB9 9, CO10 0, CO10 1, CO10 5, CO10 7 to

CO10 9

►◄

CM0 to CM6, CM8, CM9, CM11 and CM16

CO5 0RX

DE55 1 to DE55 5, DE55 7

E4, E10, E11, E17 and E18

G78 1 to G78 4

►◄

►HD1 to HD9◄

►◄

►HX1 to HX8◄

G1 to IG10

IP1, IP2 0, IP2 9, IP3 0, IP3 8, IP2 4, IP4 5, IP5 1, IP5 3, IP6 0, IP6 8, IP6 9, IP7 5 to IP7

7, IP8 3, IP8 4, IP9 1, IP9 2, IP10 0, IP11 0, IP11 7 to IP11 9, IP12 1 to IP12 3, IP13 0,

IP13 6 to IP13 9, IP14 1 to IP14 6, IP15 5, IP16 4, IP17 1 to IP17 3, IP18 6, IP 19 0, IP19

8, IP19 9, IP27 0, IP27 9, IP28 6 to IP28 8, IP29 4, IP29 5, IP30 0, IP30 9, IP31 1 to IP31

3, IP32 6, IP32 7, IP33 2 and IP33 3

KA28 to KA30

►◄

NG14 7, NG16 5, NG16 6, NG17 to NG22, NG23 5, NG23 6 and NG25

►◄

NR32 3 to NR32 5, NR33 7 to NR33 9, NR34 0 and NR34 7 to NR34 9

OL14

►PA1 to PA27◄

RM6, except for the following parts:

5AA, 5BH, 5HD, 5HB, 5HH, 5HP, 5EP, 5ER, 5EL, 5QT, 6DU, 6DX, 5TJ, 5SB, 6RH,

Postcodes inserted, substituted & omitted in Sch. 1 para. (d) by para. 5(b)(ii)(aa-dd) of S.I. 2000/1926 as from 14.8.00.

Words substituted in Sch. 1, para. (d) by Sch. 2, para. 2(4) of S.I. 2001/3210 as from 22.10.01.

Schs. 1-1A

5RA, 5QX, 6RJ, 6RL and 6RB
 RM8, except for the following parts:
 3UH, 3UL, 3UB, 3UA, 3HX, 3HR, 3HA, 3HB, 3HD, 3JA, 3HU, 3JP,
 3XX, 3YA, 3YB,
 3YH, 3YJ, 3YL, 1UT, 1XA, 1DB, 1DD, 1DH, 1DJ, 1YR, 1YP, 1BX, 1BU,
 1BT, 1BP,
 3RP, 3RR, 3SR, 3UD, 3UX, 1XJ and 1XL
 SS0 to SS6 and SS9
 SS11, but only the following parts:
 7EE, 7PR, 7BS, 7NW, 7NP, 7NS, 7NJ, 7NR, 7NX, 7PD, 7PB, 7PE,
 7PA, 7PT, 7BL, 7JG,
 7HU, 7JE, 7PX, 7HS, 7QH, 7BJ, 7NB, 7ND, 7EY, 7HY, 7HZ, 7JD, 7JF,
 7DP, 7DN, 7JQ,
 7BQ, 7JG, 7BG, 7NA, 7LY, 7LX, 7BH, 7BW, 7EX, 7ET, 7LZ, 7EP, 7BE,
 7LR, 7LP, 7HX,
 7PP, 7PY, 7DX, 7DY, 7HB, 7HA, 7BN, 7ES, 7PU, 7QD, 7QA, 7QB,
 7PZ, 7DW, 7HP,
 7PS, 7QF, 7PN, 7HT, 7QG, 7EU, 7DR, 7DT, 7DA, 7DB, 7NU, 7JB,
 7JA, 7LN, 7LW, 7LS
 and 7BP
 SS12
 WA1 to WA5, WA7, WA8 and WA11 to WA13
 WF3 and WF12 to WF17.

► **SCHEDULE 1A** Regulation 6(1)(a) and (4A)

Sch. 1A inserted by Sch.
 2, para. 2(5) of S.I.
 2001/3210 as from
 22.10.01.

**AREAS IN WHICH PERSONS WHO ARE SUBJECT TO THE REPEAT
 INTERVIEW REQUIREMENT IN REGULATION 69(3) OR (4A)
 RESIDE**

CM1 to CM6.
 HD1 to HD9.
 HX1 to HX8.
 OL14.
 PA11 but only the following parts:
 3QT, 3QX, 3QY, 3QZ, 3RX, 3RZ, 3SD, 3SF, 3SJ, 3SL, 3SQ, 3SW, 3SX,
 3SY,
 PA13 to PA16, PA18 and PA19.
 SS0 to SS6,
 SS11 but only the following parts:
 7BE, 7BG, 7BH, 7BJ, 7BL, 7BN, 7BP, 7BQ, 7BS, 7BW,
 7DA, 7DB, 7DN, 7DP, 7DR, 7DT, 7DW, 7DX, 7DY,
 7EE, 7EP, 7ES, 7ET, 7EU, 7EX, 7EY,
 7HA, 7HB, 7HP, 7HS, 7HT, 7HU, 7HX, 7HY, 7HZ,
 7JA, 7JB, 7JE, 7JF, 7JG, 7JQ,
 7LN, 7LP, 7LR, 7LS, 7LW, 7LX, 7LY, 7LZ,
 7NA, 7NB, 7ND, 7NJ, 7NP, 7NR, 7NS, 7NU, 7NW, 7NX,
 7PA, 7PB, 7PD, 7PE, 7PN, 7PP, 7PR, 7PS, 7PT, 7PU, 7PX, 7PY, 7PZ,
 7QA, 7QB, 7QD, 7QF, 7QG, 7QH.

Schs. 1-6

SS12.

WF12 to WF17.◀

[Schedule 2 makes various amendments to S.I. 1987/1971 Sch. 2 amendments were revoked by Schedule 1 to S.I. 2002/1703 as from 30.9.02 but will remain reproduced in S.I. 1987/1971 due to the transitional provisions in reg. 16(2) of S.I. 2002/1703 at page 1.6227.]

[Schedule 3 makes various amendments to S.I. 1992/1814 Sch. 3 amendments were revoked by Schedule 1 to S.I. 2002/1703 as from 30.9.02 but will remain reproduced in S.I. 1992/1814 due to the transitional provisions in reg. 16(2) of S.I. 2002/1703 at page 1.6227.]

[Schedule 4 makes various amendments to S.I.s 1987/1971 & 1992/1814.]

[Schedule 5 makes various amendments to S.I. 1987/1968.]

[Schedule 6 makes various amendments to S.I.s 1999/991 & 1996/2907. Paras. 2(c)&3(b) of Schedule 6 revoked by Schedule. 1 to S.I. 2002/1703 as from 30.9.02 but will remain reproduced in S.I. 1999/991 due to the transitional provisions in reg. 16(2) of S.I. 2002 1703 at page 1.6227.]

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

The Regulations contained in this Instrument are made either by virtue of, or in consequence of, provisions in the Welfare Reform and Pensions Act 1999 (c. 30) (“the 1999 Act”). This Instrument is made before the expiry of the period of 6 months beginning with the coming into force of those provisions; the regulations in it are therefore exempt from the requirement in section 172(2) of the Social Security Administration Act 1992 (c. 5) to refer proposals to make Regulations to the Social Security Advisory Committee and are made without reference to that Committee.

Part I of these Regulations contains general provisions relating to their citation, commencement and interpretation (regulations 1 to 3 and Schedule 1). They also provide for the Regulations to apply in certain areas of the country only.

Part II relates to the work-focused interview. Regulation 4 specifies those persons claiming social security benefits who are required to take part in a work-focused interview. Regulation 5 specifies a number of exemptions. Regulation 6 specifies circumstances in which a claimant’s continuing entitlement to the full amount of benefit is to be dependent upon his taking part in a work-focused interview.

Regulations 7 and 8 contain provisions as to waiver and deferment. Regulation 9 specifies when a requirement to take part in 2 or more work-focused interviews is satisfied by the person taking part in a single interview. Regulation 10 provides for the claimant to be advised of the time and place of the interview.

Regulation 11 sets out the requirements for taking part in a work-focused interview and regulation 12 details the consequences of a failure to take part in the interview. Regulation 13 specifies circumstances where those consequences do not apply. Regulation 14 specifies the matters to be taken into account in determining whether a person had good cause for his failure to take part in an interview.

Regulation 15 provides a right of appeal against a decision that a person did not take part in a work-focused interview.

Regulation 16 and Schedules 2 to 6 contain amendments consequential upon these changes and regulation 17 contains amendments to the Social Security (Claims and Information) Regulations 1999.

These Regulations do not impose a charge on businesses.