

2000 No. 724

SOCIAL SECURITY

**The Social Security Amendment (Employment Zones)
Regulations 2000**

<i>Made</i> - - - -	<i>13th March 2000</i>
<i>Laid before Parliament</i>	<i>13th March 2000</i>
<i>Coming into force</i>	<i>3rd April 2000</i>

The Secretary of State for Social Security, in exercise of the powers conferred upon him by sections 123(1)(a), (d) and (e), 135(1), 136(3) and (5)(a), (b) and (c) and 137(1) of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992 (a) and sections 4(5), 12(4)(a), (b) and (c), 21, 35(1) and 36(1), (2) and (4) of, and paragraph 3(b) of Schedule 1 to, the Jobseekers Act 1995 (b) and of all other powers enabling him in that behalf, after consultation, in respect of provisions in these Regulations relating to housing benefit and council tax benefit, with organisations appearing to the Secretary of State to be representative of the authorities concerned (c) by this instrument which contains only regulations made by virtue of, or consequential upon, section 60 of the Welfare Reform and Pensions Act 1999 (d) and which is made before the end of a period of six months beginning with the coming into force of that section (e), hereby makes the following Regulations:

Citation, commencement and interpretation

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Social Security Amendment (Employment Zones) Regulations 2000 and shall come into force on 3rd April 2000.

(2) In these Regulations—

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

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

“the Income Support Regulations” means the Income Support (General) Regulations 1987 (h);

“the Jobseeker’s Allowance Regulations” means the Jobseeker’s Allowance Regulations 1996 (i).

[Regulations 2-4 make various amendments to S.I.’s 1987/1967, 1987/1971, 1992/1814 and 1996/207.]

(a) 1992 c. 4; section 123(1)(e) was substituted by the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (c. 14), Schedule 9, paragraph 1(1); section 137(1) is an interpretation provision and is cited because of the meaning ascribed to the word “prescribed”.

(b) 1995 c. 18; section 35(1) is an interpretation provision and is cited because of the meaning ascribed to the words “prescribed” and “regulations”.

(c) See section 176(1) of the Social Security Administration Act 1992 (c. 5).

(d) 1999 c. 30.

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

(f) S.I. 1992/1814.

(g) S.I. 1987/1971.

(h) S.I. 1987/1967.

(i) S.I. 1996/207.

SOCIAL SECURITY AMENDMENT (**EMPLOYMENT ZONES**)
REGULATIONS 2000

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

Angela Eagle

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State,
Department of Social Security

13th March 2000

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

The Regulations contained in this Instrument are made in consequence of provisions in section 60 of the Welfare Reform and Pensions Act 1999 (c. 30). The instrument is made before the end of the period of six months beginning with the coming into force of those provisions; the regulations in it are therefore exempted from the requirement in section 172(1) of the Social Security Administration Act 1992 (c. 5) to refer proposals to make these Regulations to the Social Security Advisory Committee and are made without reference to that Committee.

These Regulations amend the Income Support (General) Regulations 1987 (S.I. 1987/1967), the Jobseeker's Allowance Regulations 1996 (S.I. 1996/207), the Housing Benefit (General) Regulations 1987 (S.I. 1987/1971) and the Council Tax Benefit (General) Regulations 1992 (S.I. 1992/1814).

In particular, these Regulations provide for the application of special rules in those benefits in respect of those persons who are, or have been, participating in an employment zone programme established pursuant to section 60 of the Welfare Reform and Pensions Act 1999 (c. 30).

These Regulations provide—

- for the purposes of income support and jobseeker's allowance, that subsistence allowances paid to participants shall be taken into account as income as if the agreed amount had been paid at the time it was paid (regulation 3(1) and (3));
- that arrears of subsistence allowances paid to participants as lump sums shall be treated as capital in all the income-related benefits and in jobseeker's allowance (regulation 3(2));
- that certain discretionary payments made by employment zone contractors to participants and arrears of subsistence payments shall be disregarded as income and as capital in all the income-related benefits and in jobseeker's allowance (regulation 3(3) and (4)).

Regulation 4 provides that periods in employment whilst participating in an employment zone programme shall be treated as periods of entitlement to the various benefits for the purposes of—

- linking jobseeking periods (paragraph (4)(a));
- ascertaining the qualifying period for having housing costs met in income support and jobseeker's allowance (paragraphs (3)(c) and (4)(d));
- entitlement to the lone parent rate of the family premium in income support and jobseeker's allowance (paragraphs (3)(a) and (4)(b));
- entitlement to the higher pensioner premium (paragraphs (1)(a), (2)(a), (3)(b) and (4)(b));
- extended payments of housing benefit and council tax benefit (paragraphs (1)(b) and (2)(b)).

Regulation 2 prescribes definitions of the terms used in these Regulations.

These Regulations do not impose any charge on businesses.