

2020 No. 103

PAYMENT SCHEME

DISABLED PERSONS

The Victims' Payments Regulations 2020

Made - - - - at 11.20 a.m. on 31st January 2020

Laid before Parliament at 2.30 p.m. on 31st January 2020

Coming into force in accordance with regulation 1

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SCHEDULES

SCHEDULE 1 — The Board

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The Secretary of State makes these Regulations in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 10 and 11 of the Northern Ireland (Executive Formation etc) Act 2019^(a).

The Secretary of State has had regard to advice given by the Commission for Victims and Survivors for Northern Ireland in accordance with section 10(10) of that Act.

PART 1

Preliminary

Citation and commencement and extent

- 1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Victims' Payments Regulations 2020.
- (2) The following provisions come into force on the 24th February 2020—
- (a) regulation 1;
 - (b) regulation 3;
 - (c) Schedule 1;
 - (d) paragraph 4(1) of Schedule 2, and regulation 15(8) so far as it relates to that paragraph;
 - (e) paragraphs 1, 4 and 5 of Schedule 3, and regulation 53 so far as it relates to that paragraph.
- (3) The remaining provisions of these Regulations come into force on 29th May 2020.
- (4) Except as provided by paragraphs (5) to (7), these Regulations extend to Northern Ireland only.
- (5) Regulations 1, 2, 26, 28, 29 and 31 extend to England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.
- (6) The amendments made by paragraph 2 of Schedule 3 extend to England and Wales only.
- (7) Any other amendment made by these Regulations has the same extent as the provision it amends.

^(a) 2019 c. 22.

Interpretation

2.—(1) In these Regulations—

“appeal panel” means a panel appointed by the President of the Board under regulation 35(1);

“the Board” means the Victims’ Payments Board established by regulation 3(1);

“the Executive Office” means the Executive Office in Northern Ireland;

“the data protection legislation” has the same meaning as in the Data Protection Act 2018^(a) (see section 3 of that Act).

“degree of disablement” means the degree of disablement assessed in accordance with regulation 15 and “assessed” is to be construed accordingly;

“the deceased” has the meaning given in regulation 10(1);

“degree of relevant disablement” means—

- (a) the degree of permanent disablement, or
- (b) in a case where an interim assessment has been made, the degree of disablement of a person during an interim period;

“the Department” means the Department designated under paragraph 2(1) of Schedule 1;

“disablement” means damage, disfigurement and loss of physical or mental capacity resulting from injury, and “disabled” shall be construed accordingly;

“health care professional” means—

- (a) a registered medical practitioner;
- (b) a registered nurse;
- (c) an occupational therapist or physiotherapist registered with a regulatory body established by an Order in Council under section 60 of the Health Act 1999^(b), or
- (d) a member of such other profession regulated by a body mentioned in section 25(3) of the National Health Service Reform and Health Care Professions Act 2002^(c);

“interim assessment” has the meaning given by regulation 14(1)(b);

“interim period” has the meaning given by regulation 14(1)(a);

“legal member” means a member of the Board appointed under paragraph 3(1)(a) of Schedule 1;

“medical member” means a member of the Board appointed under paragraph 3(1)(b) of Schedule 1;

“ordinary member” means a member of the Board appointed under paragraph 3(1)(c) of Schedule 1;

“panel” means a panel appointed by the President of the Board (other than an appeal panel);

“permanent”, in relation to disablement, means where, following appropriate clinical management of adequate duration, an injury has reached a steady or stable state at maximum medical improvement;

“personal data” means data within the meaning of section 3(2) of the Data Protection Act 2018 except that it also includes data relating to a deceased individual where the data would be personal data within the meaning of that section if it related to a living individual;

“relevant incident” means a Troubles-related incident determined by a panel under regulation 12(3)(c) to be an incident in relation to which the applicant is entitled to victims’ payments;

“review panel” means a panel appointed by the President of the Board under regulation 43(3).

(a) 2018 c. 12; section 3 is amended by S.I. 2019/419.

(b) 1999 c. 8; there are amendments to section 60 not relevant to these Regulations.

(c) 2002 c. 17; relevant amendments to section 25(3) were made by paragraph 17(2) and (3) of Schedule 10 to the Health and Social Care Act 2008 (c. 14), paragraph 56(b) of Schedule 15 to the Health and Social Care Act 2012 (c. 7) and SI 2010/231.

(2) The Scheme established by these Regulations is to be known as the Troubles Permanent Disablement Payment Scheme.

PART 2

The Board

The Board

- 3.—(1) The Victims' Payments Board is established.
- (2) Schedule 1 makes further provision about the Board.

Principles

- 4.—(1) When exercising functions under these Regulations, the Board must have regard to—
- (a) the need to prioritise, and be responsive to, the needs of victims of Troubles-related incidents;
 - (b) the need to be transparent and to communicate effectively with the public and victims of Troubles-related incidents;
 - (c) the need for the Scheme to be straightforward and simple to navigate;
 - (d) the need for applications to be determined without delay;
 - (e) the need for personal data to be handled sensitively.
- (2) The duties in paragraph (1) apply only so far as they are relevant in the particular context.

PART 3

Entitlement to victims' payments

Entitlement to victims' payments

- 5.—(1) A person is entitled to victims' payments in respect of injury caused by a Troubles-related incident if—
- (a) the injury results in permanent disablement;
 - (b) the assessed degree of relevant disablement amounts to not less than 14 percent;
 - (c) the Troubles-related incident took place—
 - (i) in the United Kingdom, or
 - (ii) anywhere in Europe, at a time when the applicant—
 - (aa) was a British Citizen;
 - (bb) was a person born in Northern Ireland and having, at the time of their birth, at least one parent who is a British Citizen, an Irish Citizen or is otherwise entitled to reside in Northern Ireland without any restriction on the period of residence;
 - (cc) was outside the United Kingdom in service of the Crown, or
 - (dd) was an accompanying close relative of a person serving outside the United Kingdom in service of the Crown;
 - (d) the Troubles-related incident took place on or after 1 January 1966 but before 12 April 2010, and
 - (e) an application has been made in accordance with regulation 8.
- (2) But this entitlement is subject to regulation 6.

(3) Paragraph (1)(a) does not apply to a person during an interim period specified under regulation 14(c)(i).

(4) For the purpose of paragraph (1)(c)(ii)(dd)—

- (a) a person is the close relative of someone in service of the Crown if the person is—
 - (i) the spouse, civil partner or cohabiting partner of the person in service of the Crown;
 - (ii) a child under the age of 18 of the person in service of the Crown or of a person to whom sub-paragraph (i) applies;
 - (iii) a child of the person in service of the Crown who is dependent on that person as a result of disablement;
- (b) a person was an accompanying close relative of a person in service of the Crown if they were a close relative and living with that person in the same household.

(5) Paragraph (1)(d) does not apply in any case where a panel considers that the application of that paragraph would undermine the purposes of this Scheme.

(6) For the purpose of paragraph (5), the purposes of this Scheme are to—

- (a) acknowledge the harm suffered by those injured in the Troubles, and
- (b) promote reconciliation between people in connection with Northern Ireland's troubled past.

Convictions

6.—(1) A person is not entitled to victims' payments in relation to a particular Troubles-related incident where the person—

- (a) has a conviction (whether spent or not), and
- (b) that conviction was in respect of conduct which caused, wholly or in part, that incident.

(2) A person is not entitled to victims' payments where the Board considers that the person's relevant conviction makes entitlement to victims' payments inappropriate.

(3) A person is not entitled to victims' payments where the President of the Board considers that the exceptional circumstances of the case, having regard to material evidence, make entitlement to victims' payments inappropriate.

(4) The Secretary of State may issue guidance to the Board regarding the circumstances in which a relevant conviction or exceptional circumstances makes entitlement to victims' payments inappropriate.

(5) The Board and the President must have regard to any guidance issued under paragraph (4) when taking a decision under paragraph (2) or (3).

(6) In this regulation, a person has a relevant conviction if, in respect of that conviction, they received a sentence which is—

- (a) excluded from rehabilitation under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974^(a) as it applies in England and Wales;
- (b) an excluded sentence under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 as it applies in Scotland, or
- (c) excluded from rehabilitation under the Rehabilitation of Offenders (Northern Ireland) Order 1978^(b).

(7) Until section 17 of the Management of Offenders (Scotland) Act 2019^(c) is in force, the reference in paragraph (6)(b) to an excluded sentence is to be read as a reference to a sentence which is excluded from rehabilitation.

^(a) 1974 c. 53.

^(b) S.I. 1978/1908 (N.I. 27).

^(c) 2019 asp 14.

Transfer of entitlement on death

9.—(1) On the death of a person entitled to victims' payments, a nominated person is entitled to such payments for the period of 10 years beginning with the date of death.

(2) A person entitled to victims' payments ("a beneficiary") may nominate one person for the purpose of this regulation.

(3) A person may be nominated for the purpose of this regulation by a beneficiary if the person—

- (a) is the spouse, civil partner or cohabiting partner of the person so entitled, or
- (b) is, or used to be, regularly and substantially engaged in caring for the beneficiary.

(4) For the purpose of these Regulations, a person is to be treated as regularly and substantially engaged in caring for a beneficiary if—

- (a) the person satisfies the conditions for entitlement to a carer's allowance or would do so but for the fact that their earnings have exceeded the limit prescribed for the purposes of that allowance, or
- (b) a panel appointed for this purpose by the President of the Board considers it is equitable, in all the circumstances, to treat the person as having regularly and substantially engaged in caring for the beneficiary.

(5) But a person is not to be treated as regularly and substantially engaged in caring for a beneficiary if the person derives earned income from those caring responsibilities.

(6) Paragraph (4)(a) applies whether or not the person has made a claim for a carer's allowance.

(7) In this regulation, "carer's allowance" means a carer's allowance under section 70 of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992(a) or section 70 of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits (Northern Ireland) Act 1992(b).

Posthumous applications

10.—(1) This regulation applies on the death of a person ("the deceased") who would have been, before death, entitled to victims' payments if an application had been made in accordance with regulation 8.

(2) An application for victims' payments may be made in accordance with regulation 8(1) by a person who the deceased could (following the determination of entitlement) have nominated under regulation 9(2).

(3) On receipt of an application made by a person pursuant to paragraph (2), the Board must so far as reasonably practicable—

- (a) consider whether any other person may make an application pursuant to paragraph (2), and
- (b) notify in writing any such person of their right to make an application.

(4) Where there is more than one person who has—

- (a) made an application pursuant to paragraph (2), or
- (b) notified the Board of an intention to make an application pursuant to that paragraph,

a panel appointed for this purpose by the President of the Board must determine which application may proceed.

(5) The panel must so far as possible make a determination under paragraph (4) by deciding who the panel reasonably considers the deceased would have nominated had the deceased made an application for victims' payments.

(a) 1992 c. 4; amended by S.I 2002/1457, 2011/2426, 2013/388, 2015/1754.

(b) 1992 c. 7; relevant amending instruments are: S.R. 1994 No. 370, S.R. 2002 No. 321, S.R. 2011 No. 356, S.R. 2016 No. 228.

(6) In making a determination under paragraph (4), the panel must have regard to any will made by the deceased.

(7) Where the panel is unable to decide who the deceased would have nominated—

- (a) in a case where a person who was the deceased's spouse, civil partner or cohabiting partner seeks to make an application, the panel must determine that application may proceed unless the Board considers it would be inequitable to do so, and
- (b) in any other case, or where the Board considers it inequitable for an application to proceed under sub-paragraph (a), the panel must determine which application is, in the interests of fairness, to proceed.

(8) Paragraph (7)(a) does not apply in the case of a spouse or civil partner who was estranged from the deceased.

(9) After making a determination under paragraph (4), the Board must as soon as reasonably practicable notify in writing the persons referred to in paragraph (4) of—

- (a) the determination and the reason for it, and
- (b) the right to appeal.

(10) Where this regulation applies, a person entitled to victims' payments is entitled to such payments—

- (a) in a case where the deceased died on or before 23rd December 2014, for the period beginning with the 23rd December 2014 and ending 10 years after the date of death of the deceased, or
- (b) in any other case, for the period of 10 years beginning with the date of death of the deceased.

PART 4

Determination of entitlement

Priority of applications

11.—(1) The Board may decide the order of priority in which applications for victims' payments are to be determined.

(2) In making a decision under paragraph (1), the Board must, in particular, have regard to—

- (a) whether evidence provided with an application, or otherwise in the possession of the Board, is likely to allow the application to be determined quickly;
- (b) the age of each applicant, and
- (c) so far as it is disclosed in the application, the health of each applicant.

(3) The Board must give priority to applications made by applicants who—

- (a) are terminally ill, and
- (b) disclose that fact to the Board.

Determination by the Board

12.—(1) This regulation applies on receipt by the Board of an application made in accordance with regulation 8.

(2) The Board must determine whether the applicant is entitled to victims' payments.

(3) A panel appointed for this purpose by the President of the Board must—

- (a) consider the application on behalf of the Board;
- (b) determine whether (subject to assessment by a health care professional of the degree of relevant disablement of the applicant) the applicant is entitled to victims' payments, and

- (c) make a report to the Board—
 - (i) specifying the interim period and the interim assessment;
 - (ii) reporting the reasons for the extension and the interim assessment.
- (6) The interim period may be extended more than once but is to be a maximum of 4 years.
- (7) Where an interim period is extended, paragraph (3) applies at the end of the interim period as extended.
- (8) Paragraph (9) applies if, at the end of an interim period of 4 years, a health care professional considers that the condition of the person still does not allow the degree of permanent disablement to be assessed.
- (9) Where this paragraph applies, the health care professional must—
 - (a) assess the degree of permanent disablement so far as it is possible, and
 - (b) make a report to the Board of the assessed degree of permanent disablement and the reason for that assessment.

Assessment by a health care professional

- 15.**—(1) Where an assessment is to be carried out by a health care professional, the Board must provide that health care professional with any relevant information obtained under regulation 29 or otherwise in the possession of the Board.
- (2) A health care professional must assess the degree of relevant disablement by doing one or more of the following—
- (a) considering any relevant information provided by the applicant or the Board;
 - (b) carrying out an examination of the applicant;
 - (c) considering the report of another health care professional who has considered any relevant information or carried out an examination of the applicant.
- (3) Where a health care professional considers that an examination is necessary for the purpose of assessing the degree of relevant disablement, the health care professional may request that the applicant attends for, or submits to, an examination.
- (4) Paragraph (5) applies where—
- (a) a health care professional has made a request under paragraph (3), and
 - (b) the applicant has unreasonably refused to comply with the request.
- (5) Any issue for which an examination is necessary for that issue to be proven is deemed not to be proven.
- (6) The Board must make arrangements to ensure that only health care professionals with—
- (a) experience and training in disability assessment medicine, and
 - (b) such other experience and training as the Board considers appropriate,
- carry out assessments under these Regulations.
- (7) In this regulation, “relevant information” means information relevant to the decisions the health care professional is required to make.
- (8) Schedule 2 makes further provision regarding the assessment of the degree of relevant disablement.

Assessment of degree of disablement: posthumous applications

- 16.**—(1) This regulation applies where—
- (a) an application has been made in a case where regulation 10 applies, and
 - (b) the determination of the panel is (subject to assessment by a health care professional of the degree of relevant disablement of the deceased) is that the applicant is entitled to victims’ payments.

- (2) The Board must—
- (a) arrange for an assessment by a health care professional, and
 - (b) provide that health care professional with any relevant information obtained under regulation 29 or otherwise in the possession of the Board.
- (3) The health care professional must—
- (a) so far as possible, assess the degree of relevant disablement of the deceased before death by doing one or more of the following—
 - (i) considering any relevant information provided by the applicant or the Board;
 - (ii) considering the report of another health care professional who has considered any relevant information or carried out an examination of the deceased, and
 - (b) make a report to the Board—
 - (i) specifying the assessed degree of relevant disablement, and
 - (ii) reporting the reason for the assessment.
- (4) In this regulation, “relevant information” means information relevant to the decisions the health care professional is required to make.

Notification to the applicant

17. Following determination of eligibility for victims’ payments, the Board must as soon as reasonably practicable notify the applicant in writing of the following matters—

- (a) whether the applicant is eligible for victims’ payments;
- (b) any determination under regulation 12(3)(c);
- (c) the assessed degree of relevant disablement of the applicant or, as the case may be, the deceased;
- (d) in any case where an assessment is made under regulation 14, the interim period specified or extended;
- (e) a summary of the reasons for the matters in sub-paragraphs (a) to (d), and
- (f) the right to appeal.

PART 5

Payments

Determination of amount of victims’ payments

18.—(1) If a person is entitled to victims’ payments, the Board must determine the amount of victims’ payments payable to the applicant.

(2) The amount of victims’ payments payable to an applicant is the appropriate rate subject to any adjustment made in accordance with regulations 19 and 20.

(3) The appropriate rate is the rate specified from time to time in column 2 of the table in Part 2 of Schedule 1 to The Naval, Military and Air Forces Etc. (Disablement and Death) Service Pensions Order 2006^(a) (weekly rates of pensions for disabled members of the armed forces of certain ranks) corresponding to the applicant’s degree of relevant disablement.

(4) Where an interim assessment of the applicant’s degree of disablement has been made, for the duration of the interim period, the appropriate rate is the rate specified from time to time in column 2 of that table corresponding to the interim assessment of the applicant’s degree of relevant disablement.

^(a) S.I. 2006/606.

- (k) any payment made under the National Health Service (Scotland) (Injury Benefits) Regulations 1998^(a), the Health and Personal Social Services (Injury Benefits) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2001^(b) or the National Health Service (Injury Benefits) Regulations 1995^(c);
- (l) any benefit that is equivalent or substantially similar to those listed in sub-paragraphs (a)-(k) above (including benefits awarded under the legislation of another country or dependent territory).

Adjustment in respect of past compensation

20.—(1) This regulation applies in a case where—

- (a) a person is determined to be entitled to victims' payments in respect of disablement suffered by that person or another person, but
- (b) compensation has previously been paid to the person so entitled in respect of that disablement, and
- (c) the compensation referred to in sub-paragraph (b) exceeds the amount of exempted compensation.

(2) The reference in paragraph (1)(b) to the payment of compensation is a reference to the payment of compensation—

- (a) in proceedings on a claim,
- (b) in settlement of a claim (whether or not proceedings on the claim were brought before a court), or
- (c) under a scheme established under a statutory provision.

(3) The Board may, to the extent that Board considers appropriate, adjust the amount of victims' payments payable to the person in respect of the amount compensation mentioned in paragraph (1)(b) which is in excess of the amount of exempted compensation.

(4) In considering whether, and to what extent, to exercise the power in paragraph (3), the Board must have regard in particular to —

- (a) the amount of compensation referred to in sub-paragraph (b) which is in excess of the amount of exempted compensation;
- (b) the period of time since any such compensation was paid, and
- (c) any other factor the Board considers relevant.

(5) The exempted amount of compensation is calculated by taking the following three steps.

(6) The first step is to calculate the amount a person would have received had they been entitled to victims' payments from the date of the relevant incident, by multiplying together—

- (a) the number of weeks since the relevant incident, and
- (b) the appropriate rate.

(7) The second step is to adjust the amount calculated under step 1 for inflation, using the ratio published by the Treasury and known as the Gross Domestic Product deflator by reference to the period—

- (a) beginning with the date of the relevant incident, and
- (b) ending with the date of the determination of the person's entitlement to victims' payments.

(8) The third step is to further adjust the amount calculated under step 1 to reflect the time value of money, with reference to the Bank of England base rate.

^(a) 1998 No. 1594 (S. 84).

^(b) S.R. 2001 No. 365.

^(c) S.I. 1995/866.

(9) Subject to paragraph (10), in this regulation “the appropriate rate” has the meaning given by regulation 18.

(10) In a case where disablement is caused by more than one relevant incident—

- (a) the amount of exempted compensation is calculated by taking the sum of calculations carried out under paragraph (5) in respect of each incident, and
- (b) the appropriate rate, in relation to a particular incident, means the rate specified from time to time in column 2 of the table in Part 2 of Schedule 1 to The Naval, Military and Air Forces Etc. (Disablement and Death) Service Pensions Order 2006 corresponding to the assessed degree of disablement attributable to that incident.

(11) The Bank of England base rate means—

- (a) the rate announced from time to time by the Monetary Policy Committee of the Bank of England as the official dealing rate, being the rate at which the Bank is willing to enter into transactions for providing short term liquidity in the money markets, or
- (b) where an order under section 19 of the Bank of England Act 1998(a) is in force, any equivalent rate determined by the Treasury under that section.

Backdating

21.—(1) This regulation applies where—

- (a) an applicant is entitled to victims’ payments, and
- (b) the application which resulted in that entitlement was made during the relevant period.

(2) For the purpose of determining the amount of victims’ payments payable, the entitlement must be backdated to the date the Board considers that the person would have become entitled to victims’ payments had this Scheme been established on 23 December 2014.

(3) For the purposes of this regulation, “the relevant period” means the period—

- (a) beginning with the first date on which applications may be made, and
- (b) ending on the date three years after that date, or such later date as the Secretary of State may determine.

(4) For the purpose of determining the amount of victims’ payments payable in respect of a past period, the reference in regulation 18 to a rate specified from time to time is a reference to the rate specified at the time the amount of victims’ payments is determined.

Notification to the applicant

22. After making a determination of the amount of victims’ payments payable to an applicant, the Board must as soon as reasonably practicable notify the applicant in writing of—

- (a) the amount payable;
- (b) a summary of the reason for the determination, and
- (c) the right to appeal.

Making of payments

23.—(1) Victims’ payments must be paid monthly unless the Board considers the facts of a particular case means other arrangements are more appropriate.

(2) The first payment of victims’ payments to a person must be made as soon as reasonably practicable after the determination of the amount of victims’ payments payable to the person.

(3) The Board may make payments by whatever means the Board considers appropriate.

(a) 1998 c. 11.

Lump sums

24.—(1) A person entitled to victims' payments is entitled on application to receive instead a lump sum if—

- (a) the person is over the age of 60, or
- (b) the person is terminally ill.

(2) An application under paragraph (1) must be—

- (a) made to the Board;
- (b) in writing;
- (c) on a form approved for the purpose by the Board, and
- (d) signed by or on behalf of the applicant.

(3) An application to receive a lump sum may be made—

- (a) at the same time as an application for victims' payments;
- (b) whether or not the person is over the age of 60 at the time of the application.

(4) Subject to paragraph (5), the lump sum is the amount of victims' payments that would be payable to the person in the period of ten years beginning with—

- (a) in the case of a person to whom paragraph (1)(a) applies, the person's 60th Birthday, or
- (b) in the case of a person to whom paragraph (1)(b) applies, the date of the application to receive a lump sum.

(5) Where an application to receive a lump sum is made at the same time as an application for victims' payments, the lump sum must include any amount of victims' payments payable in accordance with regulation 21.

(6) For the purpose of calculating the amount of the lump sum no regard is to be had to the possibility of—

- (a) the rate specified in column 2 of the table in Part 2 of Schedule 1 to The Naval, Military and Air Forces Etc. (Disablement and Death) Service Pensions Order 2006 being increased;
- (b) the person's assessed degree of relevant disablement increasing or decreasing, or
- (c) any other change of circumstance.

(7) Where a person is paid a lump sum in accordance with this Regulation, the person—

- (a) has no further entitlement to victims' payments (and accordingly regulation 23(1) does not apply), and
- (b) may not bring an appeal.

Overpayments

25.—(1) The Board may recover any amount of victims' payments or a lump sum paid in excess of entitlement.

(2) Overpayments are recoverable from the person to whom the overpayment was made.

(3) Where a person receives victims' payments or a lump sum on behalf of another person (whether pursuant to an appointment under regulation 48(1) or otherwise), overpayments are recoverable from the person on whose behalf the payments were received (as well as from the person to whom the overpayment was made).

(4) Any amount recoverable from a person may be recovered by deducting the amount from further payments of victims' payments, or from payment of a lump sum, made to that person.

(5) An amount recoverable under paragraph (1) is, if the county court so orders, recoverable as if it were payable under an order of that court.

(6) Any costs of the Board in recovering an amount under this regulation may be recovered by the Board as if the costs were amounts recoverable under paragraph (1).

(7) Where the Board is seeking to recover an overpayment, the Board must notify in writing the person from whom the Board intends to recover overpayments of—

- (a) the amount the Board is seeking to recover;
- (b) the reason the Board considers that a payment has been made in excess of entitlement.

Disregard of payments and lump sums for certain purposes

26.—(1) A payment of victims' payments or a lump sum is to be disregarded—

- (a) from the calculation of a person's income or capital when determining entitlement to a relevant social security benefit;
- (b) for the purposes of an assessment of a person's ability to pay under regulations made under Article 36(6) or 99(5) (cost of providing residential accommodation) of the Health and Personal Social Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1972(a);
- (c) for the purposes of determining whether a person should repay (either fully or in part) an award of criminal injuries compensation where the application for that award was determined before these Regulations come into force.

(2) In paragraph (1)—

“criminal injuries compensation” means compensation under a scheme established under the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act 1995(b) or the Criminal Injuries Compensation (Northern Ireland) Order 2002(c);

“relevant social security benefit” means any of the following—

- (a) employment and support allowance under—
 - (i) Part 1 of the Welfare Reform Act 2007(d) as it has effect apart from the amendments made by Schedule 3, and Part 1 of Schedule 14, to the Welfare Reform Act 2012(e) (to remove references to an income-related allowance);
 - (ii) Part 1 of the Welfare Reform Act (Northern Ireland) 2007(f) as it has effect apart from the amendments made by Schedule 3, and Part 5 of Schedule 12, to the Welfare Reform Order (Northern Ireland) 2015(g) (to remove references to an income related allowance);
- (b) housing benefit under—
 - (i) Part 7 of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992(h), or
 - (ii) Part 7 of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits (Northern Ireland) Act 1992(i);
- (c) income support under—
 - (i) Part 7 of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992, or
 - (ii) Part 7 of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits (Northern Ireland) Act 1992;
- (d) jobseeker's allowance under—
 - (i) the Jobseekers Act 1995(j) as it has effect apart from the amendments made by Part 1 of Schedule 14 to the Welfare Reform Act 2012 (to remove references to an income-based allowance);

(a) S.I. 1972/1265 (N.I. 14). Article 99 was substituted by S.I. 1991/194 (N.I. 1).

(b) 1995 c. 53.

(c) S.I. 2002/796 (N.I. 1).

(d) 2007 c. 5.

(e) 2012 c. 5.

(f) 2007 c. 2 (N.I.).

(g) S.I. 2015/2006 (N.I. 1).

(h) 1992 c. 4.

(i) 1992 c. 7.

(j) 1995 c. 18.

- (ii) the Jobseekers (Northern Ireland) Order 1995^(a) as it has effect apart from the amendments made by Part 1 of Schedule 12 to the Welfare Reform Order (Northern Ireland) 2015 (to remove references to an income-based allowance);
- (e) state pension credit under—
 - (i) section 1 of the State Pension Credit Act 2002^(b), or
 - (ii) section 1 of the State Pension Credit Act (Northern Ireland) 2002^(c);
- (f) universal credit under—
 - (i) Part 1 of the Welfare Reform Act 2012, or
 - (ii) Part 2 of the Welfare Reform (Northern Ireland) Order 2015.

Exclusion of payments from benefit recovery schemes

27.—(1) In regulation 2(2) of the Social Security (Recovery of Benefits) Regulations 1997^(d) (exempted trusts and payments), after sub-paragraph (p) insert—

“(q) any payment of victims’ payments, or of a lump sum, under the Victims’ Payments Regulations 2020.”.

(2) In regulation 2(2) of the Social Security (Recovery of Benefits) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1997^(e) (exempted trusts and payments), after sub-paragraph (q) insert—

“(r) any payment of victims’ payments, or of a lump sum, under the Victims’ Payments Regulations 2020.”.

(3) In regulation 7(2) of the Social Security (Recovery of Benefits) (Lump Sum Payments) Regulations 2008^(f) (exempted trusts and payments), after sub-paragraph (m) insert—

“(n) any payment of victims’ payments, or of a lump sum, under the Victims’ Payments Regulations 2020.”.

(4) In regulation 7(2) of the Social Security (Recovery of Benefits) (Lump Sum Payments) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2008^(g) (exempted trusts and payments), after sub-paragraph (n) insert—

“(o) any payment of victims’ payments, or of a lump sum, under the Victims’ Payments Regulations 2020.”.

Invalidity of assignment and bankruptcy

28.—(1) Subject to regulation 9, any assignment or charge, and any agreement to assign or charge, any payment to which a person is entitled under this Scheme is void.

(2) On the bankruptcy of any person entitled to payments under these Regulations, no such payment, or entitlement to payments, is to pass to any trustee or person acting on behalf of the creditors.

^(a) S.I. 1995/2705 (N.I. 15).

^(b) 2002 c.16.

^(c) 2002 c.14 (N.I.).

^(d) S.I. 1997/2205. Sub-paragraph (p) was inserted by S.I. 2017/870.

^(e) S.R. 1997 No. 429. Sub-paragraph (q) was inserted by S.R. 2017 No. 219.

^(f) S.I. 2008/1596. Sub-paragraph (m) was inserted by S.I. 2017/870.

^(g) S.R. 2008 No. 355. Sub-paragraph (n) was inserted by S.R. 2017 No. 219.

- (e) for the purposes of legal proceedings (whether civil or criminal), or
- (f) for the purposes of—
 - (i) preventing serious physical harm to a person;
 - (ii) preventing loss of human life;
 - (iii) safeguarding vulnerable adults or children;
 - (iv) responding to an emergency, or
 - (v) protecting national security.

(3) Paragraph (2) does not apply to HMRC information or social security information, but such information may be used by the Board for purposes other than those for which it was disclosed with the consent of the relevant authority (which may be general or specific).

(4) In this regulation—

“HMRC information” means information disclosed to the Board under paragraph (1) by the Revenue and Customs;

“the Revenue and Customs” has the meaning given by section 17(3) of the Commissioners for Revenue and Customs Act 2005^(a);

“social security information” means information which, when disclosed to the Board under paragraph (1), was information held for the purposes of any of the following functions of the Secretary of State or a Northern Ireland Department—

- (a) functions relating to social security, including functions relating to—
 - (i) statutory payments as defined in section 4C(11) of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992^(b);
 - (ii) maternity allowance under section 35 of that Act;
 - (iii) statutory payments as defined in section 4C(11) of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits (Northern Ireland) Act 1992^(c);
 - (iv) maternity allowance under section 35 of that Act;
 - (v) schemes and arrangements under section 2 of the Employment and Training Act 1973^(d);
 - (b) functions relating to the investigation and prosecution of offences relating to tax credits;
- “the relevant authority” means—
- (c) the Secretary of State (in the case of a disclosure of social security information held, when disclosed to the Board under paragraph (1), for the purposes of the functions of the Secretary of State);
 - (d) the Department for Communities in Northern Ireland (in the case of a disclosure of social security information held, when disclosed to the Board under paragraph (1), for the purposes of the functions of a Northern Ireland department);
 - (e) the Commissioners or an officer of Revenue and Customs (in the case of a disclosure or further disclosure of HMRC information).

Confidentiality of personal data

31.—(1) Personal data provided to the Board by an applicant, or disclosed pursuant to a notice under regulation 29, may not be disclosed—

- (a) by the Board, or
- (b) by any other person who has received it directly or indirectly from the Board.

(a) 2005 c. 11.
 (b) 1992 c. 4.
 (c) 1992 c. 7.
 (d) 1973 c. 50.

(2) In the case of personal data which is not HMRC information or social security information, paragraph (1) does not apply to a disclosure—

- (a) which is required or permitted by any enactment (including these Regulations);
- (b) which is required by a retained EU obligation;
- (c) which is made in pursuance of an order of the court;
- (d) of information which has already lawfully been made available to the public;
- (e) which is made for the prevention or detection of crime;
- (f) which is made for the purposes of a criminal investigation,
- (g) which is made for the purposes of legal proceedings (whether civil or criminal);
- (h) which is a protected disclosure for any of the purposes of the Employment Rights Act 1996^(a) or the Employment Rights (Northern Ireland) Order 1996^(b);
- (i) consisting of the publication of information for the purposes of journalism, where the publication of the information is in the public interest;
- (j) which is made with the consent of the person to whom it relates, or
- (k) which is made for the purposes of—
 - (i) preventing serious physical harm to a person;
 - (ii) preventing loss of human life;
 - (iii) safeguarding vulnerable adults or children;
 - (iv) responding to an emergency, or
 - (v) protecting national security.

(3) In the case of HMRC information or social security information, paragraph (1) does not apply to a disclosure made with the consent of the relevant authority.

(4) The duty imposed by paragraph (1) is enforceable by civil proceedings by the President of the Board for an injunction or any other appropriate relief.

(5) In this regulation “HMRC information”, “social security information” and “the relevant authority” have the same meaning as in regulation 31.

PART 7

Appeal, further assessment and review

Finality of decisions

32. Where the Board determines—

- (a) whether a person is entitled to victims’ payments, or
 - (b) the amount of victims’ payments payable to a person,
- subject to regulations 33, 34 and 43 the determination is final.

Further assessment where disablement worsens

33.—(1) A person may apply to have their degree of permanent disablement assessed again where—

- (a) the person’s permanent disablement has become worse, and

^(a) 1996 c. 18.

^(b) S.I. 1996/1919 (N.I. 16).

- (b) the person reasonably believes that their assessed degree of permanent disablement (“the original assessment”) does not provide a reasonable assessment of the degree of permanent disablement resulting from the relevant incident.
- (2) An application under paragraph (1) must—
- (a) be made to the Board
 - (b) be in writing;
 - (c) be on a form approved for the purpose by the Board;
 - (d) be signed by or on behalf of the claimant;
 - (e) be made within the period of 12 months beginning with the date on which the worsening began;
 - (f) specify the grounds on which the application is made;
 - (g) include medical evidence that the applicant’s disablement has become worse, and
 - (h) include such information as the President of the Board may from time to time determine.
- (3) On receipt of an application under paragraph (1), the Board must—
- (a) arrange for the applicant to be assessed by a health care professional, and
 - (b) provide that health care professional with any relevant information obtained under regulation 29 or otherwise in the possession of the Board.
- (4) The health care professional must—
- (a) assess the applicant’s degree of permanent disablement in accordance with regulation 15(2) to (8), and
 - (b) make a report to the Board—
 - (i) specifying the assessed degree of permanent disablement, and
 - (ii) reporting the reason for the assessment.
- (5) Where the assessed degree of permanent disablement specified under paragraph (4)(b)(i) (“the further assessment”) is higher than the original assessment—
- (a) the Board must determine the amount of victims’ payments payable to the applicant in accordance with regulations 18(2) to (5), 19 and 20 by reference to the further assessment, and
 - (b) the applicant is entitled to the amount of victims’ payments determined under sub-paragraph (a) from the date of that determination.
- (6) Following the report made under paragraph (4)(b) or (in a case where paragraph (5) applies) following the determination made under paragraph (5)(a), the Board must as soon as reasonably practicable notify the applicant in writing of—
- (a) the assessed degree of permanent disablement of the applicant;
 - (b) in a case where paragraph (5) applies, the amount determined under paragraph (5)(a), and
 - (c) the right to appeal.
- (7) A person may make an application under this regulation only once.

Appeals

34.—(1) A person may appeal to the Board against—

- (a) a determination under regulation 10(4);
- (b) a determination under regulation 12(3)(b);
- (c) a determination under regulation 12(3)(c);
- (d) an assessment of the degree of relevant disablement under regulations 13(3), 16(3) or 33(4);
- (e) an interim assessment under regulation 14(1)(b);

- (f) a determination of the amount of victims' payments payable to a person.
- (2) An appeal must be brought before the end of—
 - (a) the period of one year beginning with the date on which the determination or assessment was notified to the person, or
 - (b) such longer period as the President of the Board considers equitable having regard to the circumstances.
- (3) An application to appeal must—
 - (a) be in writing;
 - (b) be on a form approved for the purpose by the Board;
 - (c) be signed by or on behalf of the claimant;
 - (d) be made within the period of 12 months beginning with the date on which the determination or assessment was notified to the applicant;
 - (e) include such information as the President of the Board may from time to time determine, and
 - (f) specify the grounds on which the application is made.
- (4) A person may appeal to the Board against a determination notwithstanding that the determination has been reviewed by the Board under regulation 43, and in such a case the period mentioned in paragraph (3)(a) begins with the date on which the result of the review was notified to the appellant.

Appeal Panels

- 35.—**(1) An appeal is to be determined on behalf of the Board by a panel appointed by the President for that purpose.
- (2) An appeal panel must consist of three members and include—
 - (a) in any case where the determination of the appeal requires the appeal panel to consider an assessment by a health care professional, one legal member, one medical member and one ordinary member, and
 - (b) in any other case, one legal member, one ordinary member and one other member the President considers appropriate.
 - (3) An appeal panel may not consider a determination made by a panel which included any member of the appeal panel.

Determination of appeals

- 36.—**(1) An appeal under regulation 34(1) is by way of reconsideration of the determination or assessment against which the appeal is brought, and accordingly—
- (a) on an appeal under regulation 34(1)(a), paragraphs (5) to (9) of regulation 10 apply as they do to a determination under regulation 10(4);
 - (b) on an appeal under regulation 34(1)(b), the appeal panel must determine whether the appellant is entitled to victims' payments;
 - (c) on an appeal under regulation 34(1)(c), the appeal panel must determine the Troubles-related incident or incidents in relation to which the applicant is entitled to victims' payments;
 - (d) on an application under regulation 34(1)(d) or (e), the appeal panel must consider whether the assessed degree of disablement provides a reasonable assessment of the degree of disablement resulting from the relevant incident;
 - (e) on an application under regulation 34(1)(f)—
 - (i) the appeal panel must determine the amount of victims' payments payable to the appellant, and

(2) An appeal panel may, if it considers it necessary in the interests of justice to do so, direct that evidence at an oral hearing is to be given on oath.

(3) An oral hearing is to be held in private but the panel may, if it considers that it would be in the interests of justice to do so, direct that the hearing is to be held wholly or partly in public.

(4) The appeal panel may direct that an oral hearing is to be held, wholly or in part, via video link, telephone conference or any other electronic means.

(5) The Board may, by notice in writing, require any person to attend a hearing convened by the panel and to give oral evidence on oath to the appeal panel.

(6) A notice under paragraph (4) must specify one or more dates on which the person must attend, the earliest of which must be at least 21 days after the date of the notice.

(7) A person to whom a notice under paragraph (1) is given may make a claim to the appeal panel that—

- (a) the person is unable to comply with the notice, or
- (b) it is not reasonable in all the circumstances to require the person to comply with the notice.

(8) On considering a claim under paragraph (7), the panel may confirm, revoke or vary the notice.

Representation

40. The appellant may appear in person at an oral hearing and may be represented by any person appointed for that purpose.

Case management

41. An appeals panel may—

- (a) adjourn or postpone a hearing;
- (b) transfer the appeal to a different appeals panel, and
- (c) give whatever other directions, and may take whatever other steps, it considers necessary for managing the appeal and securing its efficient determination.

Exercise of functions by the chair

42. The powers under regulations 39(1) to (5) and 41 may be exercised by the chair of the panel acting alone.

Review

43.—(1) The Board may at any time review a determination made by the Board if the Board is satisfied that—

- (a) the determination was made in consequence of the applicant having—
 - (i) provided information which the applicant knew to be false in a material particular;
 - (ii) recklessly provided information which was false in a material particular, or
 - (iii) knowingly failed to disclose a material fact;
- (b) the determination was made in consequence of—
 - (i) ignorance of, or a mistake as to, a material fact, or
 - (ii) a mistake as to the law, or
- (c) there has been a relevant change of circumstance.

(2) The Board may review a determination made under regulation 12(3)(b) or (c) where a person entitled to victims' payments is convicted of an offence such that regulation 6(1), (2) or (3) may apply.

Applicants under 18

48.—(1) An application may be made on behalf of a child by the child’s parents or a person having legal responsibility for the child.

(2) Subject to paragraph (3), where a child is entitled to victims’ payments, any payment is to be made to the child’s parents or a person having legal responsibility for the child.

(3) Where paragraph (4) applies the Board may, in writing, appoint a person to—

- (a) receive payments on behalf of the child, and
- (b) apply the payments for the benefit of the child.

(4) This paragraph applies if the Board considers that it is in the interests of the child that a person other than the parent or person having legal responsibility for the child should receive payments on behalf of the child.

(5) Where a person appointed under paragraph (3) is a natural person, the person must be over the age of 18.

(6) The Board may, before appointing a person under paragraph (3), require that person to give such undertaking as the Board considers necessary as to the use of payments.

(7) Where the Board has made an appointment under paragraph (3)—

- (a) the Board may at any time revoke it and either—
 - (i) make another appointment under paragraph (3), or
 - (ii) pay the child’s payments to the parent or the person having legal responsibility for the child, and
- (b) the person appointed may resign after having given one month’s notice in writing to the Board of the intention to do so.

(8) In this regulation, a “child” means a person under the age of 18.

Duty to notify the Public Guardian

49.—(1) Where a health care professional, after carrying out an assessment of a person, is satisfied—

- (a) that the person lacks capacity in relation to a matter or matters relating to that person’s care, treatment, personal welfare or property and affairs;
- (b) that any of the powers of the court under section 113 of the Mental Capacity Act (Northern Ireland) 2016^(a) ought to be exercised with respect of a relevant matter, and
- (c) that arrangements in that behalf under section 113 of that Act have not been made and are not being made;

it is the duty of the health care professional to notify the Public Guardian of the situation.

(2) In this regulation—

“lacks capacity” has the meaning given by section 3 of the Mental Capacity Act (Northern Ireland) 2016;

“Public Guardian” has the meaning given by section 125 of that Act (the Public Guardian).

(3) Until section 128 of the Mental Capacity Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 (duty to notify the Public Guardian) is in force for all purposes, this regulation has effect as if for paragraphs (1) and (2) there were substituted—

“(1) Where a health care professional, after carrying out an assessment of a person, is satisfied—

- (a) that the person by reason of mental disorder, of managing and administering their property and affairs;

(a) 2016 c. 18; section 113 is not yet in force.

- (b) that any of the powers of the court under Article 98 or 99 of the Mental Health (Northern Ireland) Order 1986(a) ought to be exercised with respect to the property or affairs of that person;
- (a) that arrangements in that behalf have not been made and are not being made, it is the duty of the health care professional to notify the Office of Care and Protection of those matters.
- (2) In this regulation—
 - “mental disorder” has the meaning given in article 3 of the Mental Health (Northern Ireland) Order 1986;
 - “Office of Care and Protection” means the Office of Care and Protection of the Supreme Court of Judicature of Northern Ireland.”.

Provision of advice

- 50.** The Board must make arrangements for facilitating access to—
- (a) advice and support for any person making an application, or considering whether to make an application, under this Scheme, and
 - (b) advice on the financial management of payments for a person entitled to payments under this Scheme.

Expenses

51. The Board may reimburse the expenses of travel, subsistence and accommodation reasonably incurred by a person in making an application or bringing an appeal under these Regulations.

Review of the Scheme

52.—(1) The Secretary of State must, within the period of 12 months beginning with the end of the initial period, prepare a report on the operation of the Scheme.

(2) In paragraph (1), “the initial period” is the period of 2 years beginning with the first date on which applications may be made.

(3) In preparing the report under paragraph (1), the Secretary of State must, in particular, consult—

- (a) The President of the Board;
 - (b) the Department and the Executive Office;
 - (c) such persons representing the interests of those injured or killed as a result of Troubles-related incidents as the Secretary of State considers appropriate, and
 - (d) such persons with experience and training regarding the medical assessment of disability as the Secretary of State considers appropriate.
- (4) The Secretary of State must publish the report prepared under paragraph (1).

Consequential amendments

53. Schedule 3 (which contains consequential amendments) has effect.

(a) S.I. 1986 No. 595 (N.I. 4); article 99 was amended by sections 59(5) and 148(1) of, and paragraph 6 of Schedule 11 to, the Constitutional Reform Act 2005 (c. 4).

Expenses

8. The Department may defray the expenses of the Board to such amount as the Department may determine.

Funding

9.—(1) The Executive Office may make to the Department grants of such amounts as the Executive Office determines for the purpose of funding—

- (a) the costs of exercising the administrative functions of the Board;
- (b) the payment of victims' payments and lump sums, and
- (c) the reimbursing of expenses under regulation 51.

(2) The Board must pay to the Executive Office all sums received by it in the course of, or in connection with, the exercise of the Board's functions.

(3) But sub-paragraph (2) does not apply to such sums, or sums of such description, as the Executive Office may direct with the approval of the Department of Finance in Northern Ireland.

(4) Any sums received by the Executive Office under this paragraph must be paid into the Consolidated Fund of Northern Ireland.

Seal

10. The application of the seal of the Board must be authenticated—

- (a) by the signature of the President, or
- (b) by the signature of a person who is authorised under paragraph 5(4) for that purpose.

Evidence

11.—(1) A document purporting to be an instrument issued by the Board and to be duly executed under the Board's seal or signed by or on behalf of the Board is to be received in evidence and, unless the contrary is proved, taken to be such an instrument.

(2) The Board may administer oaths for the purposes of these Regulations.

Panels

12.—(1) A panel other than an appeal panel or a review panel must be constituted to consist of—

- (a) one legal member, or
- (b) three members, including at least one legal member and one ordinary member.

(2) A panel must be constituted in accordance with paragraph (1)(b) if the panel is to make a decision or determination under regulations 5(5), 6(2) or (3), 9(4)(b), 10(4) or 20(3).

(3) Where a panel has been constituted in accordance with paragraph (1)(a), the President may appoint further members such that the panel is constituted in accordance with paragraph (1)(b).

(4) Where a panel consists of one legal member, that member is chair.

(5) Where a panel consists of three members—

- (a) if the panel includes the President of the Board, the President is the chair of the panel;
- (b) in any other case, the President must appoint a legal member as the chair.

(6) A determination or decision of a panel is the determination or decision of the majority of the members of the panel.

(7) The functions of a panel consisting of one legal member may, where and to the extent the President considers it appropriate, be exercised by a member of staff provided under paragraph 7.

Advisors

- 13.—**(1) The Board may appoint one or more persons to act as advisors to the Board.
- (2) A person may be appointed as an advisor only if it appears to the Board that the person has expertise that makes that person a suitable person to provide advice to the Board.
- (3) The Board may at any time terminate the appointment of an advisor.

Annual report

- 14.—**(1) The Board must, as soon as practicable after the end of each financial year, send to the Executive Office a report on the exercise of the Board's functions during that year.
- (2) The Executive Office must, in the case of each report sent to it under this paragraph, lay a copy of the report before the Northern Ireland Assembly.
- (3) In this paragraph, "financial year" means—
- (a) the period beginning with the day on which the Board is established under section 1 and ending with the next 31 March following that date, and
 - (b) each successive period of twelve months ending with 31 March.

SCHEDULE 2

Regulation 15(8)

Assessment of disablement

Assessment of degree of disablement

- 1.—**(1) The degree of the disablement caused by a relevant incident is assessed by making a comparison between the condition of—
- (a) the person so disabled, and
 - (b) an average, healthy person of the same age and sex who is not disabled.
- (2) In making the comparison in accordance with sub-paragraph (1), the following must not be taken into account—
- (a) the earning capacity of the person so disabled in the person's trade or occupation or any other trade or occupation, and
 - (b) the effect of any individual factors or extraneous circumstances.
- (3) Where disablement is caused by more than one relevant incident, a composite assessment of the degree of disablement is to be made by reference to the combined effect of all such incidents.
- (4) Subject to sub-paragraph (5), where the sole injury which an applicant suffers as a result of the relevant incident is one specified in column 1 of Schedule 2 to the Social Security (General Benefit) Regulations 1982 (prescribed degrees of disablement), whether or not such injury incorporates one or more other injuries so specified, the assessed degree of disablement suffered by the applicant as a result of that injury is the degree of disablement specified in column 2 of that Schedule.
- (5) The degree of disablement assessed in accordance with paragraph (4) is subject to such increase or reduction of that degree of disablement as may be reasonable in the circumstances of the case where that degree of disablement does not provide a reasonable assessment of the degree of disablement resulting from the relevant incident.
- (6) Where the assessed degree of disablement is increased or decreased in accordance with sub-paragraph (6), the health care professional conducting the assessment must make a record of the reason for the increase or decrease.
- (7) For the purpose of assessing the degree of disablement resulting from an injury not specified in Column 1 of Schedule 2 to the Social Security (General Benefit) Regulations 1982, the health

makes further provision about when injury may be said to be caused by a particular incident. A person entitled to victims' payments can nominate someone (their spouse, civil partner, cohabiting partner, or someone with regular and substantial caring responsibilities for them) to receive payments for ten years after their death. If no such person has been nominated, the Board has the power to decide if someone may apply to receive such payments.

Part 4 makes provision for the Board to determine whether someone is entitled to victims' payments and, if so, in relation to which particular incident. The determination is to be made on behalf of the Board by a panel, but the decision of the panel is subject to assessment by a medical health professional as to the degree the applicant has permanent disablement caused by the relevant incident. A health care professional may assess the applicant by considering information (such as medical records), carrying out an examination, or considering a report by another health care professional. In cases where the degree of permanent disablement cannot be assessed, regulation 14 provides for the degree of disablement to be assessed with reference to an interim period.

Part 5 makes provisions regarding payments. The amount of victims' payments a person is entitled to must be determined by the Board. This is done, as per regulation 18, using the table in Part 2 of Schedule 1 to The Naval, Military and Air Forces Etc. (Disablement and Death) Service Pensions Order 2006 (S.I. 2006/606), as periodically updated, which sets out amounts of payments corresponding to particular degrees of disablement. Regulation 19 makes provision for this amount to be reduced in respect of other payments in respect of the same disablements, and regulation 20 allows the Board to adjust payments to reflect compensation received in the past and sets out factors the Board must have particular regard to in making such a decision. Regulation 21 provides that if a person applies in the period of three years beginning with the day applications are first advertised as possible, (or longer if the Secretary of State decides) the entitlement to victims' payments will be backdated to the date the applicant would have been entitled to victims' payments if the Scheme had existed since 23 December 2014. Regulation 24 provides that a person can opt to receive a lump sum equal to ten years of victims' payments, instead of regular payments, if they are 60 years old or terminally ill.

Part 6 makes provision regarding the obtaining and use of information by the Board. Regulation 29 allows the Board to require persons, by notice, to provide the Board with the information the Board needs in order to determine applications and appeals. Regulation 30 makes provision restricting the use by the Board of personal data obtained under notice or provided by an applicant and regulation 31 limits the circumstances in which such personal data can be disclosed by the Board or any person receiving the information from the Board.

Part 7 provides that determinations by the Board are final, subject to three exceptions. Regulation 33 makes provision for a situation in which a person's condition has worsened, allowing their degree of disablement to be reassessed by a health care professional. Regulation 34 sets out the circumstances in which a person can appeal against a determination or assessment. Regulation 35 provides that appeals are to be determined by an appeal panel of three members and regulation 36 provides that the appeal panel is to reconsider the determination or assessment. Regulation 37 confers on an appeal panel the ability to require that the appellant be reassessed by a health care professional for the purpose of determining the appeal. Regulation 38 provides that the appeal panel's powers include changing a determination or assessment and taking any action that a panel can take. Regulation 39 provides that a hearing can be held if the appellant reasonably requests one or if the Panel thinks it is necessary. Regulations 40, 41 and 42 make provisions for hearings, representation and case management. The third way a determination can be changed is set out in regulation 43, which allows a panel to review decisions in certain circumstances.

Part 8 makes miscellaneous provision. That includes, in regulations 44 and 45, that an applicant or appellant has the burden of proving matters on the balance of probabilities.

Schedule 1 makes provision regarding the Board. The Board is to be a body corporate, with administrative functions exercised on its behalf by a Northern Ireland Department which will also be responsible for providing the Board with staff and accommodation. The Board is to have a

President, legal members, medical members and ordinary members and determinations will be taken by panels, consisting of those members, appointed by the President.

Schedule 2 sets out how a health care professional is to assess a person's degree of disablement. Disablement means the loss of physical or mental capacity caused by an injury or illness, whether mental or physical. It is assessed by comparing the person with the disablement with an average, healthy person of the same age and sex, ignoring such matters as occupation. The degree of disablement must be expressed as a percentage.

Schedule 3 makes consequential amendments.

A full impact assessment has not been produced for this instrument as no, or no significant, impact on the private, voluntary or public sector is foreseen.

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