



# Welfare Reform Act 2007

## 2007 CHAPTER 5

### PART 1

#### EMPLOYMENT AND SUPPORT ALLOWANCE

##### *General*

#### 24 Interpretation of Part 1

(1) In this Part—

[<sup>F1</sup>“child” means a person under the age of 16;]

“claimant” means a person who has claimed an employment and support allowance;

[<sup>F2</sup>“contributory allowance” has the meaning given by section 1(7);]

“employment” and “employed” have the meanings prescribed for the purposes of this Part;

“entitled”, in relation to an employment and support allowance, is to be construed in accordance with—

- (a) the provisions of this Act,
- (b) section 1 of the Administration Act (entitlement dependent on making of claim), and
- (c) section 27 of the Social Security Act 1998 (c. 14) (restrictions on entitlement in certain cases of error);

[<sup>F2</sup>“income-related allowance” has the meaning given by section 1(7);]

[<sup>F2</sup>“income support” means income support under section 124 of the Contributions and Benefits Act;]

“limited capability for work” shall be construed in accordance with section 1(4);

“limited capability for work-related activity” shall be construed in accordance with section 2(5);

---

*Changes to legislation: Welfare Reform Act 2007, Section 24 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 08 May 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

---

“period of limited capability for work” has the meaning prescribed for the purposes of this Part;

“prescribed” means specified in, or determined in accordance with, regulations;

“regulations” means regulations made by the Secretary of State;

[<sup>F1</sup>“single person” means an individual who is not a member of a couple (within the meaning of Part 1 of the Welfare Reform Act 2012);]

“week” means a period of 7 days beginning with a Sunday or such other period of 7 days as may be prescribed;

[<sup>F1</sup>“work” has such meaning as may be prescribed;]

[<sup>F1</sup>“work-focused interview requirement” has the meaning given by section 11B;]

[<sup>F1</sup>“work preparation requirement” has the meaning given by section 11C;]

[<sup>F3</sup>“work-related activity” has the meaning given by section 13(7).]

[<sup>F3</sup>“work-related activity”, in relation to a person, means activity which makes it more likely that the person will obtain or remain in work or be able to do so;]

[<sup>F1</sup>“work-related requirement” has the meaning given by section 11;]

- (2) For the purposes of this Part, the assessment phase, in relation to a claimant, is the period—
- (a) beginning, subject to subsection (3), with the first day of the period for which he is entitled to an employment and support allowance, and
  - (b) ending with such day as may be prescribed.
- (3) Regulations may prescribe circumstances in which the assessment phase is to begin with such day as may be prescribed.

[<sup>F4</sup>[<sup>F5</sup>(3A) For the purposes of this Part, a person is a lone parent if the person—

- (a) is not a member of a couple (within the meaning given by section 137(1) of the Contributions and Benefits Act), and
- (b) is responsible for, and a member of the same household as, a person under the age of 16.]

[<sup>F5</sup>(3B) For the purposes of subsection (3A)(b) regulations may make provision—

- (a) as to circumstances in which one person is to be treated as responsible or not responsible for another;
- (b) as to circumstances in which persons are to be treated as being or not being members of the same household.]]

- (4) For the purposes of this Part, a person is a member of the support group if he is a person in respect of whom it is determined that he has, or is to be treated as having, limited capability for work-related activity.

#### Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 24(1) inserted (29.4.2013 for specified purposes and subsequently on the days on which and for the purposes for which "the amending provisions" are brought into force by secondary legislation) by [Welfare Reform Act 2012 \(c. 5\)](#), **ss. 57(4)(a)**, 150(3); S.I. 2013/983, **art. 7(1)(d)** (with **art. 7(3)**) (as amended: (1.7.2013) by S.I. 2013/1511, **art. 6**)

**Changes to legislation:** Welfare Reform Act 2007, Section 24 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 08 May 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

- F2** Words in s. 24(1) repealed (29.4.2013 for specified purposes, 1.7.2013 and 29.7.2013 for specified purposes, 28.10.2013 for specified purposes, 25.11.2013 for specified purposes, 24.2.2014 and 7.4.2014 for specified purposes, 23.6.2014 and further specified dates for specified purposes, 15.9.2014 and further specified dates for specified purposes, 26.11.2014 for specified purposes, 28.1.2015 for specified purposes, 16.2.2015 and further specified dates for specified purposes, 18.3.2015 and further specified dates for specified purposes, 21.9.2015 and further specified dates for specified purposes, 2.12.2015 for specified purposes, 27.1.2016 and 24.2.2016 for specified purposes, 23.3.2016 and 27.4.2016 for specified purposes, 1.2.2019 for specified purposes) by Welfare Reform Act 2012 (c. 5), s. 150(3), Sch. 14 Pt. 1; S.I. 2013/983, arts. 4(1)(c), 5, Sch. 1 (with arts. 6, 9(1), 22, Sch. 4) (as amended: (1.7.2013) by S.I. 2013/1511; (29.10.2013) by S.I. 2013/2657; (16.6.2014) by S.I. 2014/1452; (30.6.2014) by S.I. 2014/1661; (28.7.2014) by S.I. 2014/1923; (15.9.2014) by S.I. 2014/2321; (17.11.2014) by S.I. 2014/3067; (21.11.2014) by S.I. 2014/3094; (19.1.2015) by S.I. 2015/32 (as amended (10.2.2015) by S.I. 2015/101); (10.3.2015) by S.I. 2015/634; (20.7.2015) by S.I. 2015/1537; (23.11.2015) by S.I. 2015/1930; (6.4.2017) by S.I. 2017/483; (2.2.2018) by S.I. 2018/138; (16.1.2019) by S.I. 2019/10; and (31.1.2019) by S.I. 2019/167); S.I. 2013/1511, art. 4, Sch. (as amended or modified: (29.10.2013) by S.I. 2013/2657; (16.6.2014) by S.I. 2014/1452; (30.6.2014) by S.I. 2014/1661; (28.7.2014) by S.I. 2014/1923; (17.11.2014) by S.I. 2014/3067; (19.1.2015) by S.I. 2015/32; (10.3.2015) by S.I. 2015/634; (20.7.2015) by S.I. 2015/1537; and (25.1.2017) by S.I. 2017/57); S.I. 2013/2657, art. 4, Sch. (with art. 6) (as amended or modified: (16.6.2014) by S.I. 2014/1452; (30.6.2014) by S.I. 2014/1661; (28.7.2014) by S.I. 2014/1923; (17.11.2014) by S.I. 2014/3067; (19.1.2015) by S.I. 2015/32; (10.3.2015) by S.I. 2015/634; (20.7.2015) by S.I. 2015/1537; and (23.5.2016) S.I. 2016/596; and (25.1.2017) by S.I. 2017/57); S.I. 2013/2846, art. 4, Sch. (with art. 5) (as amended or modified: (16.6.2014) by S.I. 2014/1452; (30.6.2014) by S.I. 2014/1661; (28.7.2014) by S.I. 2014/1923; (17.11.2014) by S.I. 2014/3067; (19.1.2015) by S.I. 2015/32; (10.3.2015) by S.I. 2015/634; (20.7.2015) by S.I. 2015/1537; and (23.5.2016) by S.I. 2016/596); S.I. 2014/209, art. 4, Sch. (as amended or modified: (16.6.2014) by S.I. 2014/1452; (30.6.2014) by S.I. 2014/1661; (28.7.2014) by S.I. 2014/1923; (17.11.2014) by S.I. 2014/3067; (19.1.2015) by S.I. 2015/32; (10.3.2015) by S.I. 2015/634; (20.7.2015) by S.I. 2015/1537; and (23.5.2016) by S.I. 2016/596; and (25.1.2017) by S.I. 2017/57); S.I. 2014/1583, art. 4, Sch. (as amended or modified: (30.6.2014) by S.I. 2014/1661; (28.7.2014) by S.I. 2014/1923; (17.11.2014) by S.I. 2014/3067; (19.1.2015) by S.I. 2015/32; (10.3.2015) by S.I. 2015/634; (20.7.2015) by S.I. 2015/1537; and (19.5.2017) by S.I. 2017/664); S.I. 2014/2321, art. 4 (as amended or modified: (17.11.2014) by S.I. 2014/3067; (19.1.2015) by S.I. 2015/32; (10.3.2015) by S.I. 2015/634; (20.7.2015) by S.I. 2015/1537; (23.5.2016) by S.I. 2016/596; (29.9.2016) by S.I. 2016/963; (24.4.2017) by S.I. 2017/584; and (19.5.2017) by S.I. 2017/664); S.I. 2014/3094, art. 4 (with art. 6); S.I. 2015/33, art. 4 (with art. 6) (as amended: (11.2.2015) by S.I. 2015/101; (10.3.2015) by S.I. 2015/634; (6.4.2017) by S.I. 2017/483; (11.4.2018) by S.I. 2018/138; (16.1.2019) by S.I. 2019/10; (15.1.2019) by S.I. 2019/37); and (31.1.2019) by S.I. 2019/167); S.I. 2015/101, art. 4 (with art. 2(2)-(4)) (as amended or modified: (10.3.2015) by S.I. 2015/534; (17.3.2015) by S.I. 2015/740; (20.7.2015) by S.I. 2015/1537; (14.1.2016) by S.I. 2016/33; (21.3.2016) by S.I. 2016/407; (23.5.2016) by S.I. 2016/596; (29.9.2016) by S.I. 2016/963; (25.1.2017) by S.I. 2017/57; (24.4.2017) by S.I. 2017/584; and (19.5.2017) by S.I. 2017/664); S.I. 2015/634, art. 4 (with art. 6) (as amended: (17.3.2015) by S.I. 2015/740; (6.4.2017) by S.I. 2017/376; (16.1.2019) by S.I. 2019/10; (15.1.2019) by S.I. 2019/37; and (31.1.2019) by S.I. 2019/167); S.I. 2015/1537, art. 4 (as modified: (23.11.2015) by S.I. 2015/1930; (14.1.2016) by S.I. 2016/33; (21.3.2016) by S.I. 2016/407; (23.5.2016) by S.I. 2016/596; (29.9.2016) by S.I. 2016/963; (25.1.2017) by S.I. 2017/57; (24.4.2017) by S.I. 2017/584; and (19.5.2017) by S.I. 2017/664); S.I. 2015/1930, art. 4; S.I. 2016/33, art. 4, Sch.; S.I. 2016/407, art. 4, Sch.; S.I. 2019/167, art. 4(5)-(7) (with art. 4(8)-(12))
- F3** Words in s. 24(1) substituted (29.4.2013 for specified purposes and subsequently on the days on which and for the purposes for which "the amending provisions" are brought into force by secondary legislation) by Welfare Reform Act 2012 (c. 5), ss. 57(4)(b), 150(3); S.I. 2013/983, art. 7(1)(d) (with art. 7(3)) (as amended: (1.7.2013) by S.I. 2013/1511, art. 6)
- F4** S. 24(3A)(3B) inserted (6.10.2011 for specified purposes, 31.10.2011 in so far as not already in force) by Welfare Reform Act 2009 (c. 24), ss. 3(5), 61(3); S.I. 2011/2427, art. 2(1)(a)(b)

---

*Changes to legislation: Welfare Reform Act 2007, Section 24 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 08 May 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

---

- F5** S. 24(3A)(3B) repealed (29.4.2013 for specified purposes and subsequently on the days on which and for the purposes for which "the amending provisions" are brought into force by secondary legislation) by [Welfare Reform Act 2012 \(c. 5\)](#), s. 150(3), [Sch. 14 Pt. 5](#); [S.I. 2013/983](#), art. 7(1)(f) (with art. 7(2)) (as amended: (1.7.2013) by [S.I. 2013/1511](#), art. 6)

---

**Modifications etc. (not altering text)**

- C1** Pt. 1 modified by 1995 c. 18, Sch. 1 para. 2(2) (as inserted (27.10.2008) by [Welfare Reform Act 2007 \(c. 5\)](#), s. 70(2), [Sch. 3 para. 12\(6\)](#); [S.I. 2008/787](#), art. 2(4)(f))
- C2** S. 24(2) modified by [SI 2013/983](#) art. 11 (as modified) (with application in accordance with art. 9(1) of the amending S.I.) by [The Welfare Reform Act 2012 \(Commencement No. 11 and Transitional and Transitory Provisions and Commencement No. 9 and Transitional and Transitory Provisions \(Amendment\)\) Order 2013 \(S.I. 2013/1511\)](#), [art. 9\(2\)](#)

---

**Commencement Information**

- I1** S. 24(1) in force at 18.3.2008 for specified purposes by [S.I. 2008/787](#), [art. 2\(1\)](#)
- I2** S. 24(1)(2)(b)(3) in force at 27.10.2008 in so far as not already in force by [S.I. 2008/787](#), [art. 2\(4\)\(a\)](#)
- I3** S. 24(2)(a)(4) in force at 27.10.2008 by [S.I. 2008/787](#), [art. 2\(4\)\(a\)](#)
- I4** S. 24(2)(b)(3) in force at 18.3.2008 for specified purposes by [S.I. 2008/787](#), [art. 2\(1\)](#)

**Changes to legislation:**

Welfare Reform Act 2007, Section 24 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 08 May 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations.

View outstanding changes

**Changes and effects yet to be applied to :**

- s. 24(1) words repealed by 2009 c. 24 Sch. 7 Pt. 1

**Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:**

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 1(3)(za) inserted by 2012 c. 5 s. 62(2)
- s. 1(3B) inserted by 2012 c. 5 s. 62(3)
- s. 1C inserted by 2012 c. 5 s. 54(3)
- s. 1C repealed by 2012 c. 5 Sch. 14 Pt. 5 (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. The entry for this repeal in Sch. 14 Pt. 6 was repealed (8.5.2012) without ever being in force by 2012 c. 5, s. 150(3), Sch. 14 Pt. 2)
- s. 2(6) inserted by 2012 c. 5 Sch. 5 para. 6(3)
- s. 13(6A) inserted by 2009 c. 24 s. 3(4)(b)
- s. 14(5) amendment to earlier affecting provision 2009 c. 24, s. 31(2) by 2012 c. 5 s. 54(7)
- s. 14(5) inserted by 2009 c. 24 s. 31(2)
- s. 16(1)(za) inserted by 2012 c. 5 s. 54(5)
- s. 20(7A)(7B) inserted by 2023 c. 20 Sch. para. 55(2)
- Sch. 1 para. 6(1)(da) inserted by 2009 c. 24 s. 5(2)(a)
- Sch. 1 para. 6(2A) inserted by 2009 c. 24 s. 5(2)(b)
- Sch. 2 para. 10A inserted by 2009 c. 24 s. 30(2)
- Sch. 2 para. 4B and cross-heading inserted by 2012 c. 5 s. 62(4)
- Sch. 2 para. 10B and cross-heading inserted by 2012 c. 5 s. 57(8)
- Sch. 2 para. 10ZA inserted by 2012 c. 5 s. 57(7)(b)
- Sch. 2 para. 10A heading word substituted by 2012 c. 5 s. 57(7)(a)
- Sch. 2 para. 10A(1) words inserted by 2009 c. 24 Sch. 3 para. 8(5)(a) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. The entry for this repeal in Sch. 14 Pt. 6 was repealed (8.5.2012) without ever being in force by 2012 c. 5, s. 150(3), Sch. 14 Pt. 2)
- Sch. 2 para. 10A(1) words repealed by 2012 c. 5 Sch. 14 Pt. 6 (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. The entry for this repeal in Sch. 14 Pt. 6 was repealed (8.5.2012) without ever being in force by 2012 c. 5, s. 150(3), Sch. 14 Pt. 2)
- Sch. 2 para. 10A(1) words substituted by 2012 c. 5 s. 57(7)(c)(i)
- Sch. 2 para. 10A(1) words substituted by 2012 c. 5 s. 57(7)(c)(ii)