



Number 31 of 2002

SOCIAL WELFARE ACT, 2002

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

Section

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3. Social assistance payments (new rates).
4. Family income supplement (new weekly rates).
5. Employment contributions (amendment to earnings ceiling).
6. Optional contributions (new rates of contributions and amendment to income ceiling).
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SCHEDULE A

SCHEDULE B

[No. 31.]

Social Welfare Act, 2002.

[2002.]

Acts Referred to

Social Welfare (Consolidation) Act, 1993

1993, No. 27

Social Welfare (No. 2) Act, 2001

2001, No. 51

Social Welfare Act, 1996

1996, No. 7



Number 31 of 2002

SOCIAL WELFARE ACT, 2002

AN ACT TO AMEND AND EXTEND THE SOCIAL WELFARE ACTS. [19th December, 2002]

BE IT ENACTED BY THE OIREACHTAS AS FOLLOWS:

1.—In this Act—

Definitions.

“Act of 1996” means the Social Welfare Act, 1996;

“No. 2 Act of 2001” means the Social Welfare (No. 2) Act, 2001;

“Principal Act” means the Social Welfare (Consolidation) Act, 1993.

2.—(1) The Principal Act is amended in the Second Schedule by substituting the Parts set out in *Schedule A* to this Act for Parts I to IV (inserted by section 2(1) of the No. 2 Act of 2001) of the said Second Schedule. Social insurance benefits (new rates).

(2) This section comes into operation—

(a) in so far as it relates to unemployment benefit, on 26 December 2002,

(b) in so far as it relates to disability benefit, health and safety benefit, injury benefit and disablement gratuity, on 30 December 2002,

(c) in so far as it relates to carer’s benefit, retirement pension, invalidity pension and a relevant payment by virtue of section 18(1)(a) of the Act of 1996, on 2 January 2003, and

(d) in so far as it relates to disablement pension, death benefit under section 60, 61 or 62 of the Principal Act, old age (contributory) pension, widow’s and widower’s (contributory) pension and orphan’s (contributory) allowance, on 3 January 2003.

[No. 31.] *Social Welfare Act, 2002.* [2002.]

Social assistance
payments (new
rates).

3.—(1) The Principal Act is amended in the Fourth Schedule by substituting the Parts set out in *Schedule B* to this Act for Parts I, II, IIA, IIB and IIC (inserted by section 3(1) of the No. 2 Act of 2001) of the said Fourth Schedule.

(2) This section comes into operation—

- (a) in so far as it relates to unemployment assistance, pre-retirement allowance and farm assist, on 25 December 2002,
- (b) in so far as it relates to supplementary welfare allowance, on 30 December 2002,
- (c) in so far as it relates to disability allowance, on 1 January 2003,
- (d) in so far as it relates to one-parent family payment (other than where payable in respect of a widow or widower), carer's allowance and a relevant payment by virtue of section 18(1)(b) or (c) of the Act of 1996, on 2 January 2003, and
- (e) in so far as it relates to old age (non-contributory) pension, blind pension, widow's and widower's (non-contributory) pension, one-parent family payment payable in respect of a widow or widower and orphan's (non-contributory) pension, on 3 January 2003.

Family income
supplement (new
weekly rates).

4.—(1) The Principal Act is amended by substituting the following for section 198 (inserted by section 4(1) of the No. 2 Act of 2001):

“198.—Subject to this Act, an allowance (in this Act referred to as ‘family income supplement’) shall be payable out of moneys provided by the Oireachtas in respect of a family where the weekly family income is less than—

- (a) in the case of a family which includes only 1 child, €379,
- (b) in the case of a family which includes 2 children, €405,
- (c) in the case of a family which includes 3 children, €430,
- (d) in the case of a family which includes 4 children, €455,
- (e) in the case of a family which includes 5 children, €487,
- (f) in the case of a family which includes 6 children, €513,
- (g) in the case of a family which includes 7 children, €534,
or
- (h) in the case of a family which includes 8 or more children, €556.”.

(2) This section comes into operation on 2 January 2003.

[2002.] *Social Welfare Act, 2002.* [No. 31.]

5.—(1) Section 10(1)(c) (as amended by section 5(1)(a) of the No. 2 Act of 2001) of the Principal Act is amended by substituting “€40,420” for “€38,740”. Employment contributions (amendment to earnings ceiling).

(2) This section comes into operation on 1 January 2003.

6.—(1) Section 24B(1) of the Principal Act is amended—

(a) by substituting the following for paragraph (a):

“(a) Subject to paragraph (b), an optional contributor shall pay an optional contribution of an amount equal to 4 per cent. of his or her reckonable income in excess of €2,500 in the preceding contribution year, or €200, whichever is the greater.”,

Optional contributions (new rates of contributions and amendment to income ceiling).

and

(b) in paragraph (b) (as amended by section 6(1) of the No. 2 Act of 2001), by substituting “€40,420” for “€38,740”.

(2) This section comes into operation on 1 January 2003.

7.—(1) This Act may be cited as the Social Welfare Act, 2002.

Short title and construction.

(2) The Social Welfare Acts and this Act shall be construed together as one.

SCHEDULE A

"PART I

Rates of Periodical Benefits and Increases Thereof

Description of benefit (1)	Weekly rate (2)	Increase for qualified adult (where payable) (3)	Increase for each qualified child (where payable) (4)	Increase for prescribed relative under section 167 (where payable) (5)	Increase where the person is living alone (where payable) (6)	Increase where the person has attained the age of 80 years (where payable) (7)	Increase where the person is ordinarily resident on an island off the coast of Ireland (where payable) (8)
	€	€	€	€	€	€	€
1. Disability Benefit, Unemployment Benefit, Injury Benefit and Health and Safety Benefit	124.80	82.80	16.80	—	—	—	—
2. Death Benefit:							
(a) pension payable to a widow or widower (section 60)	153.60	—	21.60	86.50	7.70	—	12.70
additional increase for a widow or widower (under section 60) who has attained pensionable age	8.10	—	—	—	—	—	—
(b) pension payable to a parent:							
(i) reduced rate ...	74.30	—	—	86.50	7.70	—	—
(ii) maximum rate ...	153.60	—	—	86.50	7.70	—	—
(c) pension payable to an orphan	99.90	—	—	—	—	—	—
3. Old Age (Contributory) Pension and Retirement Pension: ...	157.30	104.80	19.30	86.50	7.70	6.40	12.70
additional increase for a qualified adult who has attained pensionable age	—	16.70	—	—	—	—	—
4. Invalidity Pension:	130.30	93.00	19.30	86.50	7.70	6.40	12.70
additional increase for a beneficiary who has attained the age of 65 years	27.00	—	—	—	—	—	—
additional increase where qualified adult has attained pensionable age	—	20.10	—	—	—	—	—
5. Widow's and Widower's (Contributory) Pension and a relevant payment by virtue of section 18(1)(a) of the Social Welfare Act, 1996	130.30	—	21.60	86.50	7.70	6.40	12.70
additional increase for a beneficiary who has attained pensionable age	25.50	—	—	—	—	—	—
6. Orphan's (Contributory) Allowance	97.00	—	—	—	—	—	—
7. Carer's Benefit:							
(a) in the case of a person to whom section 82D(1)(b) applies	139.70	—	16.80	—	—	—	—
(b) in the case of a person to whom section 82D(1)(a) applies	209.60	—	16.80	—	—	—	—

PART II

Sch.A

Occupational Injuries Benefits — Gratuities and Grant

Description of Grant (1)	Amount (2)
	€
1. Disablement Benefit: Maximum gratuity	10,910
2. Death Benefit	635

PART III

Disablement Pension

Degree of Disablement (1)	Weekly Rate (2)
	€
100 per cent	155.90
90 per cent	140.30
80 per cent	124.70
70 per cent	109.10
60 per cent	93.50
50 per cent	78.00
40 per cent	62.40
30 per cent	46.80
20 per cent	31.20

PART IV

Increases of Disablement Pension

Description of Increase (1)	Weekly Rate (2)	Increase where the person is living alone (3)
	€	€
1. Increase where the person is permanently incapable of work	124.80	7.70
2. Increase where the person requires constant attendance	139.70	—

”.

SCHEDULE B

"PART I

Rates of Periodical Social Assistance and Increases Thereof

Description of assistance (1)	Weekly rate (2)	Increase for qualified adult (where payable) (3)	Increase for each qualified child (where payable) (4)	Increase for prescribed relative under section 167 (where payable) (5)	Increase where the person is living alone (where payable) (6)	Increase where the person has attained the age of 80 years (where payable) (7)	Increase where the person is ordinarily resident on an island off the coast of Ireland (where payable) (8)
	€	€	€	€	€	€	€
1. Unemployment Assistance:							
(a) in the case of a person to whom section 121(1)(a) applies... ..	124.80	82.80	16.80	—	—	—	—
(b) in the case of a person to whom section 121(1)(b) applies	124.80	82.80	16.80	—	—	—	—
2. Pre-Retirement Allowance	124.80	82.80	16.80	—	—	—	—
3. Disability Allowance	124.80	82.80	16.80	—	7.70	—	—
4. Old Age (Non-Contributory) Pension	144.00	—	16.80	86.50	7.70	6.40	12.70
5. Blind Pension:	124.80	—	16.80	86.50	7.70	6.40	12.70
additional increase for a beneficiary who has attained pensionable age	19.20	—	—	—	—	—	—
6. Widow's (Non-Contributory) Pension, Widower's (Non-Contributory) Pension and a relevant payment by virtue of section 18(1)(b) or (c) of the Social Welfare Act, 1996:	124.80	—	—	86.50	7.70	6.40	12.70
additional increase for a beneficiary who has attained pensionable age	19.20	—	—	—	—	—	—
7. One-Parent Family Payment:	124.80	—	19.30	—	—	6.40	12.70
additional increase for a beneficiary who has attained pensionable age	19.20	—	—	—	—	—	—
8. Carer's Allowance:							
(a) in the case of a person to whom section 165(1)(a) applies... ..	194.40	—	16.80	—	—	—	12.70
additional increase for a beneficiary who has attained pensionable age	27.30	—	—	—	—	—	—
(b) in the case of a person to whom section 165(1)(b) applies	129.60	—	16.80	—	—	—	12.70
additional increase for a beneficiary who has attained pensionable age	18.20	—	—	—	—	—	—
9. Orphan's (Non-Contributory) Pension	97.00	—	—	—	—	—	—
10. Supplementary Welfare Allowance	124.80	82.80	16.80	—	—	—	—
11. Farm Assist	124.80	82.80	16.80	—	—	—	—

PART II

Sch.B

Increase of Old Age (Non-Contributory) Pension for One of a Couple and
Increase in Blind Pension for One of a Couple Where Both Beneficiary and
Spouse have attained Pensionable Age

Means of claimant or pensioner	Weekly rate of increase
	€
Where the weekly means of the claimant or pensioner do not exceed €7.60	95.20
exceed €7.60 but do not exceed €10.10	93.50
exceed €10.10 but do not exceed €12.60	91.90
exceed €12.60 but do not exceed €15.10	90.20
exceed €15.10 but do not exceed €17.60	88.60
exceed €17.60 but do not exceed €20.10	86.90
exceed €20.10 but do not exceed €22.60	85.30
exceed €22.60 but do not exceed €25.10	83.60
exceed €25.10 but do not exceed €27.60	82.00
exceed €27.60 but do not exceed €30.10	80.30
exceed €30.10 but do not exceed €32.60	78.70
exceed €32.60 but do not exceed €35.10	77.00
exceed €35.10 but do not exceed €37.60	75.40
exceed €37.60 but do not exceed €40.10	73.70
exceed €40.10 but do not exceed €42.60	72.10
exceed €42.60 but do not exceed €45.10	70.40
exceed €45.10 but do not exceed €47.60	68.80
exceed €47.60 but do not exceed €50.10	67.10
exceed €50.10 but do not exceed €52.60	65.40
exceed €52.60 but do not exceed €55.10	63.80
exceed €55.10 but do not exceed €57.60	62.10
exceed €57.60 but do not exceed €60.10	60.50
exceed €60.10 but do not exceed €62.60	58.80
exceed €62.60 but do not exceed €65.10	57.20
exceed €65.10 but do not exceed €67.60	55.50
exceed €67.60 but do not exceed €70.10	53.90
exceed €70.10 but do not exceed €72.60	52.20
exceed €72.60 but do not exceed €75.10	50.60
exceed €75.10 but do not exceed €77.60	48.90
exceed €77.60 but do not exceed €80.10	47.30
exceed €80.10 but do not exceed €82.60	45.60
exceed €82.60 but do not exceed €85.10	44.00
exceed €85.10 but do not exceed €87.60	42.30
exceed €87.60 but do not exceed €90.10	40.70
exceed €90.10 but do not exceed €92.60	39.00
exceed €92.60 but do not exceed €95.10	37.40
exceed €95.10 but do not exceed €97.60	35.70
exceed €97.60 but do not exceed €100.10	34.00
exceed €100.10 but do not exceed €102.60	32.40
exceed €102.60 but do not exceed €105.10	30.70
exceed €105.10 but do not exceed €107.60	29.10
exceed €107.60 but do not exceed €110.10	27.40
exceed €110.10 but do not exceed €112.60	25.80
exceed €112.60 but do not exceed €115.10	24.10
exceed €115.10 but do not exceed €117.60	22.50
exceed €117.60 but do not exceed €120.10	20.80
exceed €120.10 but do not exceed €122.60	19.20
exceed €122.60 but do not exceed €125.10	17.50
exceed €125.10 but do not exceed €127.60	15.90
exceed €127.60 but do not exceed €130.10	14.20
exceed €130.10 but do not exceed €132.60	12.60
exceed €132.60 but do not exceed €135.10	10.90
exceed €135.10 but do not exceed €137.60	9.30
exceed €137.60 but do not exceed €140.10	7.60
exceed €140.10 but do not exceed €142.60	5.90
exceed €142.60 but do not exceed €145.10	4.30
exceed €145.10 but do not exceed €147.60	2.60
exceed €147.60	Nil

PART IIA

Increase of Blind Pension for One of a Couple Where Both Beneficiary and Spouse have not attained Pensionable Age

Means of claimant or pensioner	Weekly rate of increase
	€
Where the weekly means of the claimant or pensioner do not exceed €7.60	82.80
exceed €7.60 but do not exceed €10.10	81.10
exceed €10.10 but do not exceed €12.60	79.50
exceed €12.60 but do not exceed €15.10	77.80
exceed €15.10 but do not exceed €17.60	76.20
exceed €17.60 but do not exceed €20.10	74.50
exceed €20.10 but do not exceed €22.60	72.80
exceed €22.60 but do not exceed €25.10	71.20
exceed €25.10 but do not exceed €27.60	69.50
exceed €27.60 but do not exceed €30.10	67.90
exceed €30.10 but do not exceed €32.60	66.20
exceed €32.60 but do not exceed €35.10	64.50
exceed €35.10 but do not exceed €37.60	62.90
exceed €37.60 but do not exceed €40.10	61.20
exceed €40.10 but do not exceed €42.60	59.60
exceed €42.60 but do not exceed €45.10	57.90
exceed €45.10 but do not exceed €47.60	56.30
exceed €47.60 but do not exceed €50.10	54.60
exceed €50.10 but do not exceed €52.60	52.90
exceed €52.60 but do not exceed €55.10	51.30
exceed €55.10 but do not exceed €57.60	49.60
exceed €57.60 but do not exceed €60.10	48.00
exceed €60.10 but do not exceed €62.60	46.30
exceed €62.60 but do not exceed €65.10	44.60
exceed €65.10 but do not exceed €67.60	43.00
exceed €67.60 but do not exceed €70.10	41.30
exceed €70.10 but do not exceed €72.60	39.70
exceed €72.60 but do not exceed €75.10	38.00
exceed €75.10 but do not exceed €77.60	36.40
exceed €77.60 but do not exceed €80.10	35.20
exceed €80.10 but do not exceed €82.60	33.90
exceed €82.60 but do not exceed €85.10	32.60
exceed €85.10 but do not exceed €87.60	31.30
exceed €87.60 but do not exceed €90.10	28.10
exceed €90.10 but do not exceed €92.60	26.40
exceed €92.60 but do not exceed €95.10	24.70
exceed €95.10 but do not exceed €97.60	23.10
exceed €97.60 but do not exceed €100.10	21.40
exceed €100.10 but do not exceed €102.60	19.80
exceed €102.60 but do not exceed €105.10	18.10
exceed €105.10 but do not exceed €107.60	16.50
exceed €107.60 but do not exceed €110.10	14.80
exceed €110.10 but do not exceed €112.60	13.10
exceed €112.60 but do not exceed €115.10	11.50
exceed €115.10 but do not exceed €117.60	9.80
exceed €117.60 but do not exceed €120.10	8.20
exceed €120.10 but do not exceed €122.60	6.50
exceed €122.60 but do not exceed €125.10	4.80
exceed €125.10 but do not exceed €127.60	3.20
exceed €127.60	Nil

PART IIB

Sch.B

Increase of Blind Pension for One of a Couple Where Beneficiary has not attained Pensionable age and Spouse has attained Pensionable Age

Means of claimant or pensioner	Weekly rate of increase
	€
Where the weekly means of the claimant or pensioner do not exceed €7.60	95.20
exceed €7.60 but do not exceed €10.10	93.30
exceed €10.10 but do not exceed €12.60	91.40
exceed €12.60 but do not exceed €15.10	89.50
exceed €15.10 but do not exceed €17.60	87.60
exceed €17.60 but do not exceed €20.10	85.70
exceed €20.10 but do not exceed €22.60	83.80
exceed €22.60 but do not exceed €25.10	81.80
exceed €25.10 but do not exceed €27.60	79.90
exceed €27.60 but do not exceed €30.10	78.00
exceed €30.10 but do not exceed €32.60	76.10
exceed €32.60 but do not exceed €35.10	74.20
exceed €35.10 but do not exceed €37.60	72.30
exceed €37.60 but do not exceed €40.10	70.40
exceed €40.10 but do not exceed €42.60	68.50
exceed €42.60 but do not exceed €45.10	66.60
exceed €45.10 but do not exceed €47.60	64.70
exceed €47.60 but do not exceed €50.10	62.80
exceed €50.10 but do not exceed €52.60	60.90
exceed €52.60 but do not exceed €55.10	59.00
exceed €55.10 but do not exceed €57.60	57.10
exceed €57.60 but do not exceed €60.10	55.20
exceed €60.10 but do not exceed €62.60	53.20
exceed €62.60 but do not exceed €65.10	51.30
exceed €65.10 but do not exceed €67.60	49.40
exceed €67.60 but do not exceed €70.10	47.50
exceed €70.10 but do not exceed €72.60	45.60
exceed €72.60 but do not exceed €75.10	43.70
exceed €75.10 but do not exceed €77.60	42.20
exceed €77.60 but do not exceed €80.10	40.90
exceed €80.10 but do not exceed €82.60	39.70
exceed €82.60 but do not exceed €85.10	38.40
exceed €85.10 but do not exceed €87.60	37.10
exceed €87.60 but do not exceed €90.10	35.90
exceed €90.10 but do not exceed €92.60	34.60
exceed €92.60 but do not exceed €95.10	33.30
exceed €95.10 but do not exceed €97.60	32.00
exceed €97.60 but do not exceed €100.10	30.80
exceed €100.10 but do not exceed €102.60	22.70
exceed €102.60 but do not exceed €105.10	20.80
exceed €105.10 but do not exceed €107.60	18.90
exceed €107.60 but do not exceed €110.10	17.00
exceed €110.10 but do not exceed €112.60	15.10
exceed €112.60 but do not exceed €115.10	13.20
exceed €115.10 but do not exceed €117.60	11.30
exceed €117.60 but do not exceed €120.10	9.40
exceed €120.10 but do not exceed €122.60	7.50
exceed €122.60 but do not exceed €125.10	5.60
exceed €125.10 but do not exceed €127.60	3.70
exceed €127.60	Nil

PART IIC

Increase of Blind Pension for One of a Couple Where Beneficiary has attained Pensionable Age and Spouse has not attained Pensionable Age

Means of claimant or pensioner	Weekly rate of increase
	€
Where the weekly means of the claimant or pensioner do not exceed €7.60	82.80
exceed €7.60 but do not exceed €10.10	81.40
exceed €10.10 but do not exceed €12.60	79.90
exceed €12.60 but do not exceed €15.10	78.50
exceed €15.10 but do not exceed €17.60	77.10
exceed €17.60 but do not exceed €20.10	75.60
exceed €20.10 but do not exceed €22.60	74.20
exceed €22.60 but do not exceed €25.10	72.70
exceed €25.10 but do not exceed €27.60	71.30
exceed €27.60 but do not exceed €30.10	69.90
exceed €30.10 but do not exceed €32.60	68.40
exceed €32.60 but do not exceed €35.10	67.00
exceed €35.10 but do not exceed €37.60	65.60
exceed €37.60 but do not exceed €40.10	64.10
exceed €40.10 but do not exceed €42.60	62.70
exceed €42.60 but do not exceed €45.10	61.20
exceed €45.10 but do not exceed €47.60	59.80
exceed €47.60 but do not exceed €50.10	58.40
exceed €50.10 but do not exceed €52.60	56.90
exceed €52.60 but do not exceed €55.10	55.50
exceed €55.10 but do not exceed €57.60	54.10
exceed €57.60 but do not exceed €60.10	52.60
exceed €60.10 but do not exceed €62.60	51.20
exceed €62.60 but do not exceed €65.10	49.70
exceed €65.10 but do not exceed €67.60	48.30
exceed €67.60 but do not exceed €70.10	46.90
exceed €70.10 but do not exceed €72.60	45.40
exceed €72.60 but do not exceed €75.10	44.00
exceed €75.10 but do not exceed €77.60	42.60
exceed €77.60 but do not exceed €80.10	41.10
exceed €80.10 but do not exceed €82.60	39.70
exceed €82.60 but do not exceed €85.10	38.20
exceed €85.10 but do not exceed €87.60	36.80
exceed €87.60 but do not exceed €90.10	35.40
exceed €90.10 but do not exceed €92.60	33.90
exceed €92.60 but do not exceed €95.10	32.50
exceed €95.10 but do not exceed €97.60	31.10
exceed €97.60 but do not exceed €100.10	29.60
exceed €100.10 but do not exceed €102.60	28.20
exceed €102.60 but do not exceed €105.10	26.70
exceed €105.10 but do not exceed €107.60	25.30
exceed €107.60 but do not exceed €110.10	23.90
exceed €110.10 but do not exceed €112.60	22.40
exceed €112.60 but do not exceed €115.10	21.00
exceed €115.10 but do not exceed €117.60	19.60
exceed €117.60 but do not exceed €120.10	18.10
exceed €120.10 but do not exceed €122.60	16.70
exceed €122.60 but do not exceed €125.10	15.20
exceed €125.10 but do not exceed €127.60	13.80
exceed €127.60 but do not exceed €130.10	12.40
exceed €130.10 but do not exceed €132.60	10.90
exceed €132.60 but do not exceed €135.10	9.50
exceed €135.10 but do not exceed €137.60	8.10
exceed €137.60 but do not exceed €140.10	6.60
exceed €140.10 but do not exceed €142.60	5.20
exceed €142.60 but do not exceed €145.10	3.70
exceed €145.10 but do not exceed €147.60	2.30
exceed €147.60	Nil

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