

STATES OF JERSEY



DRAFT SOCIAL SECURITY (CHRISTMAS BONUS) (AMENDMENT) (JERSEY) REGULATIONS 201-

**Lodged au Greffe on 19th September 2017
by the Minister for Social Security**

STATES GREFFE



Jersey

DRAFT SOCIAL SECURITY (CHRISTMAS BONUS) (AMENDMENT) (JERSEY) REGULATIONS 201-

REPORT

Background

Last year, the States agreed to provide a targeted Christmas Bonus to key vulnerable groups of claimants who receive Income Support and to other pensioners who do not pay income tax and have limited assets. The [Social Security \(Christmas Bonus\) \(Jersey\) Regulations 2016](#) were established alongside the [Income Support \(Special Payments\) \(Christmas Bonus\) \(Jersey\) Regulations 2016](#).

The Social Security (Christmas Bonus) (Jersey) Regulations 2016 included a transitional provision to make the 2016 Christmas Bonus payment based on providing a Christmas Bonus automatically to pensioners who were members of the previous 65+ health scheme.

Christmas Bonus for 2017 and future years

The 65+ health scheme was replaced by the statutory [Social Security \(Health Bonus Scheme\) \(Jersey\) Regulations 2016](#) on 1st January 2017 and the scheme is publically marketed as the Pension Plus Scheme (“PPS”). Over 2,500 pensioners are now members of the Pension Plus Scheme which provides financial assistance with dental, optical and chiropody costs. These pensioners have satisfied a residence test, do not pay income tax and have limited savings. The scheme is open to homeowners as the value of the family home is not included in the asset test.

These Regulations will automatically provide a Christmas Bonus each year to every pensioner who is a member of the Pension Plus Scheme during November of that year. This will reduce the need for administration and ensure that all pensioners who have applied for the health scheme will also receive a Christmas Bonus.

Collective responsibility under Standing Order 21(3A)

The Council of Ministers has a single policy position on this proposition and as such all Ministers and the Assistant Minister for Social Security are bound by the principle of collective responsibility to support the proposition, as outlined in the code of Conduct and Practice for Ministers and Assistant Ministers ([R.11/2015](#) refers).

Financial and manpower implications

There are no manpower considerations. The cost of the Christmas Bonus is included within the cash limit of the Department.

Explanatory Note

These Regulations amend the Social Security (Christmas Bonus) (Jersey) Regulations 2016 (the “Christmas Bonus Regulations”).

Regulation 1 makes provision for a person who, under Regulation 5 of the Social Security (Health Bonus Scheme) (Jersey) Regulations 2016, is admitted to the health bonus scheme on or before 1st November in any year (beginning with and including, November 2017) and remains eligible to be admitted to the health bonus scheme during the whole of that November to be deemed to have fulfilled the requirements as to eligibility for a Christmas bonus. The person is also deemed to have submitted a claim to the Minister under Regulation 5 of the Christmas Bonus Regulations and to have received a notification that the claim has been accepted as required under Regulation 2(1)(b) of those Regulations.

Regulation 2 provides the title by which these Regulations may be cited and provides for them to come into force the day after they are made.



Jersey

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Made [date to be inserted]
Coming into force [date to be inserted]

THE STATES, in pursuance of Article 2 of the Social Security (Bonus) (Jersey) Law 2014¹, have made the following Regulations –

1 Social Security (Christmas Bonus) (Jersey) Regulations 2016 amended

In Regulation 2 of the Social Security (Christmas Bonus) (Jersey) Regulations 2016² –

(a) after paragraph (2) there shall be inserted the following paragraph –

“(2A) Subject to paragraph (4), a person who, under Regulation 5 of the Social Security (Health Bonus Scheme) (Jersey) Regulations 2016³, is admitted to the health bonus scheme on or before 1st November in any year (beginning with and including, November 2017) and remains eligible to be admitted to the health bonus scheme during the whole of that November shall be deemed –

- (a) for the purposes of paragraph (1), to have fulfilled the requirements as to eligibility in paragraph (2) as required under paragraph (1)(a); and
- (b) to have submitted a claim to the Minister under Regulation 5 and to have received a notification under Regulation 5 that the claim made in accordance with that Regulation has been accepted as required under paragraph (1)(b).”;

(b) after paragraph (6) there shall be inserted the following paragraph –

“(7) In paragraph (2A), ‘health bonus scheme’ has the meaning given by Regulation (1) of the Social Security (Health Bonus Scheme) (Jersey) Regulations 2016⁴.”.

2 Citation and commencement

These Regulations may be cited as the Social Security (Christmas Bonus) (Amendment) (Jersey) Regulations 201- and shall come into force on the day after the day they are made.

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- ¹ *chapter 26.880*
 - ² *chapter 26.880.10*
 - ³ *chapter 26.880.70*
 - ⁴ *chapter 26.880.70*