Chapter 32 - Trade disputes

Contents

General 32000

Claimant involved in trade dispute

Introduction

Entitlement 32003

Exceptions 32006

Trade disputes and sanctions 32008

When there is no trade dispute 32011

What the decision maker must establish 32012

Evidence 32015

Place of work 32016

Burden of proof 32019

General rule 32022

Dock workers 32028

Other similar jobs 32032

Modification to the general rule 32039

Separate department 32045

Separate branch of work 32050

Commonly carried on as a separate business 32055

Trade dispute

Definition 32060

Parties to the dispute 32063

Share fishermen 32065

Reason for the dispute 32070

Identifying the reason for the dispute 32080

Meaning of dispute 32081

Hostile action 32085

At place of work 32091

Stoppage of work

Meaning of stoppage of work 32102

Appreciable interval 32106

Stoppage due to trade dispute 32114

A move in the contest 32115

Significance of termination of employment 32121

Stoppage no longer due to the dispute 32130

Return to work delayed 32131

Not employed due to stoppage 32150

Direct result of stoppage 32151

Indirect result of stoppage 32152

Not in work immediately before stoppage 32154

Significance of final termination of employment 32160

Employment lost for other reasons 32163

Left employment voluntarily before stoppage 32168

Employment suspended indefinitely before stoppage

Suspended 32175

The 12-day rule 32176

When the 12 day rule does not apply 32183

Definite period of suspension before stoppage 32188

Incapacity for work during stoppage 32195

Directly interested 32201

Start date of stoppage

General rule 32225

Direct interest acquired 32233

Not employed because of the stoppage 32234

Week 32235

Return to work delayed 32242

When disentitlement is not appropriate

Direct interest ends 32245

Employed somewhere else 32252

Employed 32253

Somewhere else 32254

Genuinely 32255

Work ended due to redundancy 32264

Genuinely returned to work, then left 32266

Resumed work with employer 32267

Subsequently left 32271

For a reason other than the trade dispute 32272

When the stoppage has ended 32278

Normal working 32286

Gradual return to work 32290

Closure of business 32295

Permanent reduction in trade 32302

Withdrawal of labour 32303

Labour 32307

When has labour been withdrawn 32308

To help further a trade dispute 32315

Period of withdrawal 32316

Statutory sick pay 32323

Relevant date 32326

Stoppage of work due to a trade disputes 32330

Direct interest 32333

Other benefits 32338

Amount of income-based Jobseeker's Allowance or Income Support payable

Amount of income-based Jobseeker's Allowance

The law 32500

About the guidance 32501

Is the person incapable of work?

About the guidance 32510

When a person is incapable of work 32511

Not in receipt of Incapacity Benefit or Severe   
Disablement Allowance 32513

In receipt of Statutory Sick Pay 32514

Is the person in the maternity period?

About the guidance 32530

When a person is in the maternity period 32531

Meaning of week 32532

Evidence 32533

Person pregnant but not in the maternity period 32534

Can the person get Jobseeker's Allowance?

About the guidance 32550

The law 32551

Can the person get Jobseeker's Allowance 32553

Assuming the applicable amount

About the guidance 32580

The law 32581

The effect of the law 32583

Appeals 32584

Special rules for Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance

About the guidance 32600

Applicable amount 32601

Income 32605

Weekly amount of income-based Jobseeker's Allowance 32606

Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance 32607

Amount of Income Support

The law 32620

About the guidance 32622

Special rules for Income Support

About the guidance 32635

Applicable amount

Single claimant 32637

Lone parent 32638

One member of a couple involved in a trade dispute 32640

Both members of a couple involved in a trade  
dispute - without child or young person 32644

Both members of a couple involved in a trade  
dispute - with a child or young person 32645

Income 32648

Amount of Income Support

Weekly amount of Income Support 32649

Income Support for part-weeks 32650

Special rules for income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance or Income Support

About the guidance

Income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance 32665

Income Support 32666

The guidance 32668

Conditions of entitlement

Members of a joint-claim couple who do not have to satisfy   
certain conditions of entitlement 32675

Treated as engaged in remunerative work 32676

Not treated as engaged in remunerative work 32681

Prescribed categories of person 32682

Capital treated as income

Health and Social Services Board or  
Health and Social Services Trusts payments 32685

Income not treated as capital

Advance of earnings or loan from employer 32690

Charitable or voluntary payments 32691

Holiday pay 32692

Applicable amount

Housing costs 32700

Income disregarded

Payments from trade union 32705

Income not disregarded

Charitable or voluntary payments 32715

Income in kind 32717

Health and Social Services Board or  
Health and Social Services Trusts payments 32721

Notional income

About the guidance 32725

Payment of benefit or pension in kind 32726

Payment in kind not benefit or pension 32727

Meaning of ordinary clothing or footwear 32729

Payment made to person involved in a trade dispute 32731

When Income Support is paid 32745

When the award ends 32750

Special rules - return to work

General

About the guidance 32755

When the rules apply 32756

Not in remunerative work 32757

Assuming the applicable amount 32758

Special rules

Prescribed categories of person 32780

Capital treated as income 32781

Income not treated as capital 32784

Income not disregarded 32787

Amount of Income Support 32789

When Income Support is paid 32790

Recoverable Income Support

General 32810

Deduction from earnings 32811

Protected earnings 32812

Income Support increased 32815

**Appendix 1 –** Prescribed sum

**Appendix 2 –** Relevant sum

Statutes commonly referred to in Chapter 32

**Full Title Abbreviations**

The Employment Rights (Northern Ireland) ER (NI) Order 96

Order 1996

Social Security Contributions and Benefits SS C&B (NI) Act 92

(Northern Ireland) Act 1992

The Jobseekers (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 JS (NI) Order 95

Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 Children (NI) Order 95

Statutory Rules commonly referred to in Chapter 32

**Short description Full Title Abbreviations**

Claims and The Social Security SS (C&P) Regs (NI)  
Payments (Claims and Payments)  
Regulations Regulations (Northern   
 Ireland) 1987 No 465

Decision Making The Social Security and SS & CS (D&A)  
and Appeals Child Support (Decisions Regs (NI)  
Regulations and Appeals) Regulations  
 (Northern Ireland) 1999  
 No 162

IS General The Income Support IS (Gen) Regs (NI)  
Regulations (General) Regulations  
 (Northern Ireland) 1987   
 No 459

Jobseeker's The Jobseeker’s Allowance JSA Regs (NI)  
Allowance Regulations (Northern Ireland)   
Regulations 1996 No 198

Payments on The Social Security SS (POR) Regs (NI)  
Account, (Payments on Account,  
Overpayment and Overpayments and Recovery)  
Recovery Regulations (Northern Ireland)   
Regulations 1987 No 122

Chapter 32 - Trade disputes

General

32000 This Chapter gives guidance on trade disputes. It is in two parts. DMG 32003 - 32340 gives guidance on claims for Jobseeker's Allowance made by claimants who are involved in a trade dispute DMG 32500 et seq gives guidance on what decision makers should consider when deciding entitlement to Jobseeker's Allowance and Income Support. Throughout this Chapter, unless otherwise specified, “claimant” includes a member of a joint claim.

32001 – 32002

Claimant involved in trade dispute

Introduction

Entitlement

32003 Claimants are not entitled to Jobseeker’s Allowance for any week in which they

**1.** are not employed because of a stoppage of work caused by a trade dispute at their place of work1 **or**

**2.** withdraw their labour to help further a trade dispute2.

1 JS (NI) Order 95, art 16(1); 2 art 16(2)

32004 A joint claim couple are not entitled to a joint claim Jobseeker’s Allowance for any week in which

1. both members of that couple are not employed because of a stoppage of work caused by a trade dispute at their place or places of work **or**
2. each member withdraws their labour to help further a trade dispute. However, where only one member of a joint claim couple is affected by the above, they may still be entitled to joint claim Jobseeker’s Allowance1.

1 JSA (NI) Order 95, art 17A(2) & (3)

32005 A week is a period of 7 days beginning with a Sunday1.

1 JS (NI) Order 95, art 2(2)

Exceptions

32006 The trade dispute provisions do not apply if clients can show that during the stoppage of work1 they

**1.** start work somewhere else (DMG 32252 - 32260) **or**

**2.** have been made redundant2 (DMG 32264 - 32265) **or**

**3.** have returned to work for their employer but have then left for reasons other than the trade dispute (DMG 32266 - 32274) **or**

**4.** are not directly interested in the dispute3 (DMG 32201 - 32222).

1 JS (NI) Order 95, art 16(3); 2 ER (NI) Order 96, art 174; 3 JS (NI) Order 95, art 16(1)

32007 The decision maker is not concerned with the merits of a dispute or whether the behaviour of those involved is reasonable1.

1 R(U)17/52T; R(U)19/53; R(U)1/56; R(U)21/59; R(U)17/61; R(U)12/62.

Trade disputes and sanctions

32008 If the decision maker is asked to consider

**1.** whether claimants have lost employment due to a trade dispute **and**

**2.** whether they lost their employment for reasons which may lead to a sanction

the trade dispute question should be decided first.

32009 If claimants can show that, although there is a stoppage of work, their employment has ended, the trade dispute provisions will not apply. But doubts may arise on a sanction question1.

1 JS (NI) Order 95, art 21

32010 If claimants leave a job because they did not know that the vacancy was caused by a trade dispute stoppage when they accepted it see DMG Chapter 34.

When there is no trade dispute

32011 There is no trade dispute where the stoppage of work is due only to a protest against the government or an Act of Parliament. But there is a trade dispute where the dispute

**1.** involves government policy **and**

**2.** is between

**2.1** employer and employees **or**

**2.2** employees and employees **and**

**3.** is about the

**3.1** terms of employment **or**

**3.2** the employment of any person **or**

**3.3** the non-employment of any person.

What the decision maker must establish

32012 Before deciding whether the claimant has lost employment because of a stoppage of work caused by a trade dispute the decision maker must establish

**1.** the claimant’s place of work (DMG 32016 - 32057) **and**

**2.** that there was a trade dispute at the place of work **and**

**3.** that there was a stoppage of work at the place of work **and**

**4.** that the stoppage was due to the trade dispute **and**

**5.** that the claimant lost employment because of the stoppage of work.

32013 If all of the points at DMG 32012 **2.** to **5.** above are proved the claimant will not be entitled to Jobseeker’s Allowance unless they can show that they fall under DMG 320061.

1 JS (NI) Order 95, art 16(1)

32014 If claimants have no direct interest in the trade dispute but have withdrawn their labour to help further the dispute they will not be entitled to Jobseeker’s Allowance1.

1 JS (NI) Order 95, art 16(2)

Evidence

32015 Evidence is usually in the form of oral or written statements from the claimant or the employer. The decision maker should not rely on unchallenged newspaper reports1.

1 R(U)6/61; R(U)11/63

Place of work

32016 As a general rule a place of work is the premises or place where a person is employed1. But there is an exception to this general rule2.

1 JS (NI) Order 95, art 16(4); 2 art 16(5)

32017 The exception helps claimants who work for a large company which is made up of more than one business in the same premises. In certain circumstances separate departments that would normally be classed as one place of work, can be treated as separate places of work (DMG 32039 - 32057)1.

1 JS (NI) Order 95, art 16(5)

32018 The decision maker must be satisfied that there is a trade dispute at the place of work as defined in the general rule1. If not there is no need to consider the exception.

1 JS (NI) Order 95, art 16(4)

Burden of proof

32019 If there is a trade dispute at the place of work within the general meaning, then claimants must prove that the exception applies to them.

32020 – 32021

General rule

32022 When considering what the general meaning of place of work is, a reasoned, practical approach should be taken. This must be neither too literal nor too narrow.

32023 A place of work may be

**1.** a works of one or more buildings on one site **or**

**2.** a works where buildings are

**2.1** spread over two or more adjoining sites **and**

**2.2** integral parts of the business even if separated by a road, railway or river1 **or**

**3.** a building site where several employers and employees are following various trades, even where this is not the employers’ permanent place of business.

1 R(U) 1/70

**Example**

A motor company is made up of several plants on one large site. These plants are cut through by two roads and a railway.

Richard Lyons is a repair welder, working at a paint trim and assembly plant.

Car bodies made in the connected body plant are built into finished cars in the paint trim and assembly plant.

Richard makes a claim for Jobseeker’s Allowance when he loses work because of a strike by sewing machinists who work in a trim shop at another plant on the site.

The decision maker decides that the company’s site is one place of work.

32024 If an employer’s buildings are on sites that are some distance apart they are separate places of work.

32025 If a firm owns several works in different places, each works is a separate place of work.

32026 – 32027

Dock workers

32028 Docks and shipyards are usually spread over a wide area. They are often made up of several docks, yards buildings or wharves owned or used by several employers.

32029 If a trade dispute covers the whole area of the dock or shipyard, then there is a trade dispute at the claimant’s place of work.

32030 But if the dispute is limited to a particular yard or vessel the claimant’s place of work must be established. For the trade dispute provisions to apply there must be a dispute at the claimant’s place of work.

32031 If claimants look for work only at one particular place, for example a dock or warehouse, then that is their place of work1. But if those claimants were to

**1.** look for work **or**

**2.** be required to work

at different parts of the dock or shipyard, then all of those parts will be the place of work2. Their place of work will not be limited to the building or vessel where they were working at the time the stoppage began.

1 R(U) 26/57; 2 R(U) 8/71; R(U) 30/57

**Example 1**

Michael Rodgers a dock pilot licensed to pilot vessels within the port loses his employment when a national dock strike reduces shipping.

The decision maker decides that the whole port is Michael's place of work.

**Example 2**

William Moore employed by a firm of boilerscalers has worked for the previous nine months on ships berthed in a particular dock.

The decision maker decides that the dock is William's place of work. The fact that the dock is not owned by his employers does not matter.

Other similar jobs

32032 Consider such jobs as porters in markets or casual workers in the newspaper industry in the same way as dock workers.

32033 In the coal mining industry each pit or colliery is a separate place of work. But districts or other divisions of a colliery are not separate places of work.

32034 The reason the trade dispute has to be at the claimants’ place of work is so that they do not lose Jobseeker’s Allowance only because of an economic consequence of a dispute somewhere else (but see DMG 32092 - 32099 on the extension of a dispute).

32035 The decision maker need not define exactly the place of work for people who normally travel around in their job, for example sales representatives, lorry drivers and street cleaners.

**Example**

Taxi drivers are in dispute with their employers at the garage they use.

Angela Evans works as a cab washer at the same garage.

Because of the dispute with the taxi drivers Angela is discharged as there is no work for her.

She makes a claim for Jobseeker’s Allowance. The decision maker decides that, as Angela works at the same place as the taxi drivers, there is a trade dispute at her place of work

32036 Where

**1.** claimants work in several places **and**

**2.** there is a trade dispute at each of them

there is a trade dispute at the place of work, even if there is a stoppage at only one of them.

32037 – 32038

Modification to the general rule

32039 The general rule is that the place of work is the premises or place where the claimant is employed. But if

**1.** part of the premises or place in question is a separate department in which a separate branch of work is carried out **and**

**2.** that separate branch of work is usually carried out as a separate business in separate premises or places

then the separate department is a separate place of work1.

1 JS (NI) Order 95, art 16(5)

32040 To benefit from this modification of the general rule claimants must show that

**1.** they are employed in a separate department on a separate branch of work **and**

**2.** that separate branch of work is one that is usually carried on as a separate business in **separate** premises or at a **separate** place **and**

**3.** that separate branch of work is carried on in a separate department **on the same** premises or at the **same** place.

32041 There is no need to consider the modification if it is clear that

**1.** there is a trade dispute at the place of work **and**

**2.** it is in the claimant’s department as well as others.

32042 – 32044

Separate department

32045 The decision maker must first decide whether the premises or place is divided into separate departments. Take into account

**1.** the organisation, by the employer, of work and workers at the premises or place1 **and**

**2.** the division of work and responsibilities between managers and supervisors **and**

**3.** the lay-out of the buildings, shops and machines.

The arrangements for payment of wages and salaries, or for accounting or costing should be ignored.

1 R(U) 24/57

32046 The actual organisation by the employer at the premises or place in question should be accepted. It cannot be altered by claimants or the decision maker. If there is no departmental organisation one cannot be invented.

**Example**

Patrick Burns is employed as a lorry driver by a firm of ship repairers.

Apart from carrying materials for their own firm, the transport section also does haulage work for ship owners in the area.

There is a stoppage of work at the employer’s premises. Owing to a shortage of work caused by the stoppage Patrick is laid off.

He makes a claim for Jobseeker’s Allowance. The decision maker decides that the transport section is a separate department.

32047 - 32049

Separate branch of work

32050 A separate branch of work means more than just different work. In a large business the work is usually organised as a series of operations performed by specialists. Each operation is normally undertaken in different parts of the premises.

32051 Where one operation is made up of several processes, one process will not usually be a branch of work separate from the complimentary processes1.

1 R(U) 4/62

**Example**

A firm of iron-founders usually produces castings at their own foundries.

The enamelling department at the firm processes these castings, and either assembles them into complete appliances or puts them aside for the service department.

Enamelling is an integrated process of the production and not a separate branch of work.

The enamelling department is therefore not a separate place even though the process of enamelling castings is usually carried on as a separate business.

32052 The following are not separate branches of work

**1.** ancillary work, such as day to day maintenance and repair of machines and tools

**2.** general office work performed for production departments.

32053 – 32054

Commonly carried on as a separate business

32055 Whether the separate branch of work is commonly carried on as a separate business at separate premises is a question of fact. The answer depends on current industrial organisation. It is not enough for claimants to show that the branch of work

**1.** could be carried on as a separate business **or**

**2.** is carried on separately in isolated instances.

32056 Claimants must show that the branch of work

**1.** is carried on as a separate business **and**

**2.** is carried on separately to such an extent that it can be said to be normally carried on separately1.

1 R(U) 5/61

32057 The practice in other industries is not relevant.

**Example 1**

Brendan Robb is employed in the export despatch department of a firm of ironfounders.

He loses employment because of a stoppage of work caused by a trade dispute in the foundry.

Brendan makes a claim for Jobseeker’s Allowance. The decision maker obtains evidence that the packing and despatching of manufactured products for export is highly specialised and that many firms carry on the business of export packers on behalf of customers of all kinds.

There is also evidence that the packing and despatching of manufactured goods for export is usually carried on as a separate business.

The decision maker decides that the trade dispute was not at Brendan’s place of work.

**Example 2**

Martin Rice is employed in the same despatch department as in the previous example.

Additional evidence is that at the place in question the majority of despatches are for home delivery.

The special documentation involved in overseas despatches is carried out in another section.

The decision maker decides that the despatch department is not a separate place of work.

This is because the work carried out there does not, as a whole, have that specialised character that constitutes a type of business usually carried on as a separate business.

32058 – 32059

Trade dispute

Definition

32060 The statutory definition of trade dispute covers

**1.** the people involved in the dispute **and**

**2.** the reason for the dispute.

32061 A trade dispute is any dispute

**1.** between

**1.1** employers and employees **or**

**1.2** employees and employees **and**

**2.** that is connected with

**2.1** the employment or non-employment **or**

**2.2** the terms or conditions of employment

of any person

whether or not they are employees of the employer with whom the dispute arises1.

1 JS (NI) Order 95, art 2(2)

32062 Disputes between two or more employers are not included in the definition.

Parties to the dispute

32063 A trade dispute can be between

**1.** an employer and their own employees **or**

**2.** an employer and employees of a different employer **or**

**3.** two or more groups of employees, whether employed by the same or different employers.

32064 Employees are persons classed as employed earners. They need not be in employment or under contract at the time of the dispute. It is enough that they are employees when working.

Share fishermen

32065 When considering trade dispute provisions for share fishermen

**1.** the owner of a fishing boat **or**

**2.** the managing owner, if there is more than one, is treated as the employer1.

1 JSA Regs (NI), reg 160

32066 Any share fisherman, other than the owner, who does

**1.** any repairs or maintenance to the fishing boat or its nets or gear (including running repairs) **or**

**2.** any work in connection with

**2.1** laying up the boat, nets and gear at the end of a fishing season **or**

**2.2** preparing the boat, nets and gear for a season’s fishing

is treated as an employee1.

1 JSA Regs (NI), reg 160

32067 It does not matter whether a trade dispute is

**1.** in one place, a few places or is nationwide **or**

**2.** pursued by employers or employees acting on their own behalf, or represented by an employer’s organisation or trade union(s) **or**

**3.** supported, recognised or approved by the appropriate organisation or trade union **or**

**4.** between more than two parties (for example an employer and two opposing groups of employees).

32068 – 32069

Reason for the dispute

32070 A trade dispute must be connected with

**1.** the employment or non-employment **or**

**2.** the terms and conditions of employment of a person.

32071 Most disputes fall within this definition, including those connected with the way in which work is performed1. If

**1.** employees

**1.1** work to rule **or**

**1.2** go slow **or**

**1.3** ban overtime **and**

**2.** the employer threatens to

**2.1** lock them out **or**

**2.2** lay them off

there is a trade dispute. Any resultant lock out or lay off is a stoppage of work due to a trade dispute.

1 R(U) 5/87

32072 Some issues that have led to a trade dispute are

**1.** wages and hours of work1

**2.** redundancy and dismissal2

**3.** doing work taken over from another firm where there was a trade dispute3

**4.** picketing4

**5.** a demand by fishermen for a registration system, work to be offered first to union members, together with the setting up of a joint council5

**6.** withholding a bonus from an employee due to absence from work6

**7.** disagreement between two trade unions over the division of duties7

**8.** whether workers can be asked to do each others jobs8

**9.** an increased work quote9

**10.** trade union membership10

**11.** taking part in a compulsory pension scheme11

**12.** the stopping of tea-breaks and altering of time-keeping rules12

**13.** a change of conditions based on religious beliefs13

**14.** safety of machines14

**15.** a dispute over duties and rights under legislation dealing with the conditions of employment15

**16.** an employer saying that the employees were not working as hard as they could16.

1 CWU 18/49(KL); R(U) 19/53; R(U) 27/56; R(U) 30/59; R(U) 12/60; 2 CU 274/50(KL); R(U) 11/52;  
R(U) 25/53(T); R(U) 36/53; R(U) 29/59; 3 R(U) 19/51; 4 R(U) 2/53; R(U) 3/69; 5 R(U) 1/56;  
6 R(U) 25/56; 7 R(U) 39/56; R(U) 36/58; R(U) 1/60(T); R(U) 14/64; 8 R(U) 6/61; 9 R(U) 32/57;  
10 R(U) 12/60; R(U) 11/63; 11 R(U) 17/61; 12 R(U) 3/62; R(U) 4/62; 13 R(U) 12/62; 14 R(U) 3/71;  
15 R(U) 5/77; 16 R(U) 5/87

32073 As the decision maker is not concerned with the reasons for, or merits of, a trade dispute the following do not matter

**1.** whether the dispute is about something illegal

**2.** which party has caused the dispute or stoppage

**3.** whether one party is acting unreasonably, without consultation, or against agreement or longstanding custom.

32074 A dispute can start as a personal matter between one or more workers and the employer. A stoppage of work can follow when other workers become involved1.

1 R(U) 25/56; R(U) 12/62

32075 The person causing the dispute does not have to be employed by the employer involved in the dispute. A trade dispute at one firm can spread to another firm and cause a stoppage of work there.

32076 – 32079

Identifying the reason for the dispute

32080 As there can be a dispute without a stoppage, the decision maker must distinguish between them. If there was a dispute at the claimant’s place of work, the decision maker should collect information1 to decide

**1.** what the dispute was about **and**

**2.** who was affected by it **and**

**3.** the background to it **and**

**4.** its development during the stoppage2.

1 JS (NI) Order 95, art 16(1); 2 R(U) 25/56; R(U) 30/59; R(U) 6/61; R(U) 5/86

Meaning of dispute

32081 A dispute means that two or more parties do not agree on an issue. They try to persuade or force each other, and they resist each other. Disputes usually include

**1.** demands or proposals

**2.** objections

**3.** meetings

**4.** negotiations

**5.** other forms of mutually planned action or counter-action.

32082 A dispute and a stoppage are not the same thing. There can be a dispute without hostile action1 (DMG 32085), and before agreed procedures for settling differences are used2. Just because an employer’s association or the employees’ trade unions do not support the demands or proposals made, that does not mean that there is not a trade dispute3.

1 R(U) 21/59; 2 R(U) 36/58, R(U) 1/60(T); 3 R(U) 18/58

32083 If workers at the claimants place of work refuse to accept a practice which has been accepted by their union’s executive there is a trade dispute1.

1 R(U) 6/61

32084 What the parties to the dispute do is often a better guide to the realities of the situation than what they say1.

1 R(U) 11/63

Hostile action

32085 Hostile action includes

**1.** a strike

**2.** go-slow working or working to rule

**3.** an overtime ban

**4.** meetings held by workers.

**Note:** Claimants may say there is no dispute in spite of evidence to the contrary1.

1 R(U) 36/58; R(U) 21/59

32086 A dispute can exist without hostile action. But if there is hostile action it is usually an indication that there is a dispute.

32087 Although the employer and the workers may have differences, there is no dispute where there are only

**1.** complaints

**2.** grumblings

**3.** agitation by discontented workers

**4.** tentative talks about future terms of employment1.

Something more definite is needed before there is a dispute.

1 R(U) 21/59

32088 If

**1.** an employer wants to impose new terms of employment on workers **and**

**2.** instead of disputing the matter, the workers simply leave their jobs the loss of employment is not because of a stoppage of work due to a trade dispute (DMG 32121 - 32125).

32089 – 32090

At place of work

32091 The trade dispute must be at the claimant’s place of work1.

1 JS (NI) Order 95, art 16(1)

32092 A trade dispute can

**1.** start in one place and spread to another **or**

**2.** be brought to a place of work by pickets from somewhere else1.

1 R(U) 1/74

32093 If there is a trade dispute at one place of work, and workers somewhere else strike in sympathy, the dispute spreads to the place of work of the striking workers. This is so even if they are not affected by the matter in dispute1.

1 R(U) 15/55

32094 If an employer locks workers out in support of another employer, the dispute has been extended1.

1 R(U) 23/64

32095 A stoppage in one place of work can cause a stoppage at another place of work where there is no dispute. If this is only because of an interruption in the supply of

**1.** materials **or**

**2.** service

then there is no dispute at the second place of work.

32096 Workers at the claimant’s place of work may be prevented from working by strikers from another. The dispute can be

**1.** between the strikers and the non-strikers **or**

**2.** the strikers and their employers.

If the reason for the dispute is the employment, or non-employment, of some or all of the workers at the claimants’ place of work there is a trade dispute at the claimants’ place of work.

32097 A trade dispute can be on a national or regional level. It can be between

**1.** a trade union or group of unions **and**

**2.** an employer or employer’s association.

32098 Even if the employers and workers at the different places of work affected by the dispute take no part in the negotiations, there can still be a trade dispute at all of those places of work.

32099 In all cases the decision maker must consider whether a stoppage at a particular place of work is due to a trade dispute, or is simply due to the effects of a stoppage somewhere else.

32100 – 32101

Stoppage of work

Meaning of stoppage of work

32102 All work does not have to have stopped for there to be a stoppage of work. As long as operations have been stopped or limited to more than just a negligible extent, there is a stoppage. So work which would have been done is not being done because of the stoppage.

32103 A stoppage may be in the form of

**1.** a strike by workers **or**

**2.** a lock-out by employers **or**

**3.** an interruption or dislocation of work due to

**3.1** an overtime ban **or**

**3.2** a meeting1 **or**

**3.3** a stoppage at some other place of work.

1 R(U) 36/53

32104 The number of workers not working is not so important as the proportion not working. Where

**1.** a considerable number of workers stop work together **and**

**2.** an appreciable interval of time passes before

**2.1** they return to work **or**

**2.2** their places are filled by others

there will almost certainly be a stoppage of work1.

1 R(U) 7/58

32105 There can be a stoppage of work even if only one, or a few, workers stop work. Large numbers of workers do not have to be involved.

Appreciable interval

32106 An appreciable interval does not have to be measured in days. It can be measured in

**1.** minutes **or**

**2.** hours **or**

**3.** days1.

1 R(U) 12/62

32107 There is no stoppage of work where an employer does all of the work and maintains output either by

**1.** getting replacements for workers who have stopped work **or**

**2.** reorganisation.

32108 If work is held up while replacements are obtained or reorganisation takes place, there is a stoppage during the interval before work restarts. Where the employer

**1.** gets some replacements **or**

**2.** manages some reorganisation but

**2.1** has to give up **or**

**2.2** postpone some parts of the work **or**

**2.3** reduce output

there is a stoppage of work1.

1 R(U) 7/58

32109 It is up to the decision maker to get enough information to show that there is a stoppage of work at the client’s place of work.

32110 – 32113

Stoppage due to trade dispute

32114 If the decision maker is satisfied that there is both

**1.** a trade dispute **and**

**2.** a stoppage of work at the claimant’s place of work

the decision maker must then decide whether the stoppage of work was due to the trade dispute.

A move in the contest

32115 To be due to a trade dispute a stoppage of work must be a move in a contest between

**1.** an employer and employees, whether their own or not1 **or**

**2.** employees and employees.

The aim of the stoppage is that work should be resumed on certain conditions2.

1 R(U) 1/74; 2 R(U) 17/57

32116 The stoppage of work is due to a trade dispute if there

**1.** has been a refusal to work overtime, as a move in a dispute, somewhere at the place of work **and**

**2.** is a stoppage of work somewhere else at the same place of work as an economic consequence.

32117 Where a stoppage is not a move in a dispute but happens only because of a decision to

**1.** stop working altogether for an employer **or**

**2.** stop employing workers at all

it is not due to a trade dispute. This is so even if the decision is taken because a trade dispute exists1.

1 R(U) 17/52(T)

32118 A stoppage due to a trade dispute means not only a stoppage of work, but a stoppage of work because either

**1.** employees are unwilling to work **or**

**2.** employers are unwilling to give work

so long as some matter in dispute is unsettled1.

1 R(U) 19/51; R(U) 17/52(T)

32119 – 32120

Significance of termination of employment

32121 It is not usually significant that notice to end employment has been given by the employer or workers. Contracts of employment usually state that notice must be given.

32122 The fact that notice has been given does not mean that there is no intention to return to work on new terms. It may be clear from

**1.** the conduct of the parties **or**

**2.** the course of previous negotiations **or**

**3.** the number of workers and employers involved

that neither side intends, or can afford, a permanent ending of relations1. The termination of employment is a trial of strength, ending in a resumption of relations when the trial of strength is over2.

1 R(U) 19/53; R(U) 19/51; 2 R(U) 17/52(T)

32123 The fact that contracts have been terminated **as a move in the dispute** does not matter. All that matters is that workers were in employed earner’s employment when employment was lost. Even if the employment of **some** workers has been unconditionally terminated it does not mean that the stoppage at the place of work is not due to a trade dispute.

32124 Terminations are not to be affected by the trade dispute rules if it is shown that the employer or the **whole body** of workers in dispute, are no longer willing to employ or to work for the other party **on any terms**. Such stoppages are due to the determination of one or both parties to have nothing further to do with the other1.

1 R(U) 17/52(T)

32125 But, if at any time during the stoppage either

**1.** the employer decides never to re-engage a particular employee or group of employees (this decision may itself be a move in the dispute, for example to coerce other workers) **or**

**2.** one employee, or group of employees, decide never to accept work again on any terms with that employer

this decision does not end the stoppage1.

1 R(U) 1/65

**Example 1**

Margaret Mitchell works in a machine shop. During a stoppage of work due to a trade dispute the employers move the machinery from the machine shop to other premises where it could be operated by non-union workers.

Margaret’s trade union say that the dispute ended when the employers said that the machinery was to be moved. This is because from that date there was no work available to Margaret.

However, Margaret’s employers have stated that they have not closed the machine shop with the intention of not opening it again.

When Margaret makes a claim for Jobseeker’s Allowance the decision maker decides that the stoppage of work due to the trade dispute continued after the machinery was moved.

**Example 2**

Emma’s employer gave her and her colleagues notice of the termination of their contracts. Emma and her colleagues were then offered new contracts of employment.

The offer was not accepted and a stoppage of work resulted. Emma makes a claim for Jobseeker’s Allowance. The decision maker decides that the stoppage of work was not due to the employer’s intention to finally sever relations with the workers, but to the workers’ attitude to the notice.

The decision maker also decides that Emma’s stoppage of work was due to a trade dispute.

32126 – 32129

Stoppage no longer due to the dispute

32130 A stoppage of work may be due to a trade dispute at the start. But a stoppage can continue even though the dispute has been settled. The decision maker should not give an adverse decision for weeks in which none of the days of stoppage were due to the dispute.

Return to work delayed

32131 If a dispute is settled but claimants cannot return to work because

**1.** a different dispute starts **and**

**2.** the claimants have no direct interest in the new dispute

they have no longer lost work because of a stoppage caused by a trade dispute.

32132 Claimants must prove that the stoppage of work is not caused by the trade dispute1.

1 CWU 18/49; R(U) 1/56

32133 A stoppage sometimes carries on after the dispute is settled or after it has been decided to go back to work. A stoppage can still be due to the dispute if there is a delay before

**1.** work is started again **or**

**2.** work can be said to be proceeding normally.

Whether the stoppage is still due to the dispute depends on the cause of the delay. It does not matter who is to blame for the delay1.

1 R(U) 1/56

32134 Delays in returning to work after the settlement of a dispute or a decision to return to work can be caused by

**1.** the need to carry out repair or maintenance work which has not been done or is needed because of disuse

**2.** the need to heat furnaces or ovens, or otherwise re-start processes in stages

**3.** the need to get fresh supplies of stocks or raw materials

**4.** the need to bring back machinery or equipment from other premises, where it was moved during the stoppage.

32135 Whatever the cause of the delay in returning to work, the stoppage is still due to the dispute if

**1.** the cause of the delay was a natural and probable (not necessarily inevitable) result of the trade dispute **and**

**2.** it could reasonably have been foreseen by the parties to the dispute1.

1 R(U) 9/80 Appendix

32136 Where industrial action leads to a situation in which decisions have to be taken for the best, claimants cannot successfully argue that a different decision would have let them return to work at an earlier date.

32137 Claimants can only successfully argue this if they are able to show that the decisions taken were unreasonable or unacceptable for some other reason1.

1 R(U) 9/80

32138 A stoppage is no longer due to a trade dispute if

**1.** the delay is obviously extreme (for example because the repair work has been delayed unreasonably) **or**

**2.** some unrelated circumstances have clearly replaced the dispute as the reason why the stoppage is continuing.

32139

32140 The decision maker is not concerned with the merits of the dispute or whether the parties have acted reasonably (except as in DMG 32136 - 32137 above). But

**1.** if a dispute has been settled or abandoned **and**

**2.** the workers are willing to return to work on terms acceptable to the employer **and**

**3.** the employer prolongs the stoppage as an act of retaliation or as a disciplinary measure

the stoppage continues to be due to the dispute1. If at the end of that period, the workers refuse to work, the fact that both parties have prolonged the stoppage may indicate that the dispute is continuing and that the stoppage was due to the dispute during both periods.

1 R(U) 17/52(T)

32141 During a stoppage, disputes about further matters can replace, or be added to, the original cause of the dispute. If these further matters prolong the stoppage, it continues to be due to a trade dispute1.

1 R(U) 12/60

32142 Sometimes different groups of workers at the same place of work are arguing for different things at the same time, and a stoppage follows. The stoppage may be due partly to each of the disputes. It depends on the extent to which the issues and events are connected.

**Example**

A national trade dispute has caused a stoppage of work in the printing trade.

When the dispute is settled, the workers at Andrew’s firm are ready to go back to work on the negotiated terms.

However by this time Andrew’s employer has said that only non-union workers will be taken on.

The stoppage goes on because the workers are not prepared to give up their union membership.

The decision maker decides that Andrew continues to lose employment because of a stoppage of work due to a trade dispute, although not the dispute which caused the original stoppage.

32143 – 32149

Not employed due to stoppage

32150 If there is a stoppage of work due to a trade dispute at the claimant’s place of work, it must then be decided whether the stoppage caused the claimant not to be employed.

Direct result of stoppage

32151 Claimants are not employed as a direct result of a stoppage where they

**1.** strike **or**

**2.** are locked out **or**

**3.** are prevented from working because of the action of violent pickets at their place of work1.

1 R(U) 5/86(T) Appendix

Indirect result of stoppage

32152 Employment may be lost as an indirect result of a stoppage1 even when it is one or more stages removed from the stoppage.

1 R(U) 5/86(T) Appendix

**Example**

All the workers in a factory are stood-off as an economic consequence of a strike at their place of work.

The stand-off is not itself a move in the contest.

But it has happened by reason of the stoppage which was caused by the strike due to a trade dispute.

32153

Not in work immediately before stoppage

32154 Claimants may lose employment because of a stoppage of work even though

**1.** the work is intermittent **or**

**2.** they are not actually at work when the stoppage begins (DMG 32177).

32155 If claimants have an offer of employment

**1.** withdrawn **or**

**2.** postponed because of a trade dispute

they are not yet employed to work at a place of work1.

1 R(U) 23/64

32156 – 32159

Significance of final termination of employment

32160 Not being employed because of a stoppage is usually temporary. But there may be cases where the loss of employment is not expected to be temporary.

**Example**

There is a stoppage of work caused by a trade dispute at a clothing factory.

Sharon is one of four employees who have their employment terminated because of the stoppage. All the other employees will be returning to work at the end of the stoppage.

Sharon makes a claim for Jobseeker’s Allowance. The decision maker decides that she has lost her employment because of the stoppage of work caused by the trade dispute (subject to DMG 32234 - 32302).

32161 So final termination of employment is not always significant when deciding whether employment has been lost due to a trade dispute.

32162 When considering what effect final termination has on deciding whether a stoppage of work is due to a trade dispute see DMG 32121 - 32125.

Employment lost for other reasons

32163 A person is presumed to have lost employment because of the stoppage where

**1.** the employment ends **and**

**2.** a stoppage of work due to a trade dispute starts at the same time.

32164 But a person has not left work due to a stoppage of work if

**1.** the final date of employment was fixed before the dispute arose (for example a person has a fixed term contract) **and**

**2.** the termination was not connected to the reasons for the dispute **and**

**3.** the dispute did not affect the termination of the employment in any way.

32165 But the employment has been lost due to the stoppage if

**1.** the employment was due to end at a certain time **and**

**2.** it ends earlier because of the stoppage (even by only an hour).

32166 – 32167

Left employment voluntarily before stoppage

32168 When claimants leave employment shortly before a stoppage of work begins the decision maker must establish whether they have

**1.** simply anticipated the stoppage **or**

**2.** left for some other reason.

32169 If the decision maker finds that the claimants only wanted to avoid the effects of losing work due to the stoppage then the employment was lost because of the stoppage1 from the date on which they last worked.

1 R(U) 30/55, R(U) 29/59

32170 If a person genuinely leaves work for some other reason the employment has not been lost because of the stoppage.

32171 In the situations in DMG 32168 - 32170 a sanction question may arise.

**Example 1**

Walter Love, a boilerman in a dockyard leaves his employment voluntarily four days before an unofficial strike at his place of work starts. Walter makes a claim for Jobseeker’s Allowance.

He gives no reason for leaving his employment.

However, on the day he leaves strikes have started at other places of work although it is not certain that there would be a stoppage at his place of work.

The decision maker decides that Walter has left work in anticipation of a stoppage and has lost his employment due to a trade dispute stoppage.

**Example 2**

Wendy is one of twelve workers given notice that they are to be made redundant.

A dispute arises between the unions and Wendy’s employer about the redundancies and as a result the workers decide to strike.

Wendy leaves her employment with the agreement of her employer, eleven days before her notice is due to run out.

Wendy leaves before there is a stoppage of work which starts later that same day. She makes a claim for Jobseeker’s Allowance. The decision maker decides that Wendy has lost her employment due to a trade dispute stoppage. This is because if Wendy had not anticipated the stoppage, there would have been no reason for her not to work her notice.

32172 – 32174

Employment suspended indefinitely before stoppage

Suspended

32175 A worker is suspended when

**1.** the employer has no work for the person **and**

**2.** the worker is stood-off but not finally discharged.

The 12-day rule

32176 The decision maker must apply the 12-day rule to decide whether a claimant’s lack of employment is due to a trade dispute where

**1.** employment is indefinitely suspended **and**

**2.** a trade dispute occurs at the place of work.

32177 Where a claimant’s employment has been indefinitely suspended 12 working days or less before a stoppage of work at the premises where they usually work they have lost work due to the stoppage1.

1 R(U) 20/57(T); R(U) 26/57

32178 The presumption in the 12 day rule is that a claimant who

**1.** is suspended within 12 days of a stoppage **and**

**2.** would, but for the stoppage, have been re-employed after the date on which the stoppage began

has lost the employment which would have existed after that date1.

1 R(U) 31/57

32179 A period of suspension from work starts on the day after the last day of work. If before the stoppage a claimant

**1.** is suspended **and**

**2.** returns to work **and**

**3.** is suspended again

there are two separate periods of suspension. Apply the 12 day rule to the last period of suspension even where the claimant returns to work for only one day1.

1 R(U) 29/57

32180 Days of recognised or customary holiday are not counted when deciding the number of working days for which a claimant has been suspended1. For guidance on days of recognised or customary holiday see DMG Chapter 26.

1 R(U) 21/57

32181 – 32182

When the 12 day rule does not apply

32183 The presumption of the 12 day rule can be disproved if there is definite evidence to the contrary1. If a claimant is suspended within 12 days of a stoppage they must show that it is very likely that

**1.** they did not lose work due to the stoppage **and**

**2.** they would not have been employed had there been no stoppage.

If it is doubtful whether they would have been employed had there been no stoppage, they have not discharged the burden of proof.

1 R(U) 20/57(T), R(U) 21/57

32184 If a claimant was suspended more than 12 days before the stoppage the decision maker should accept that employment was not lost because of the stoppage.

**Example 1**

Paul Buckle is suspended indefinitely 12 working days before the start of a stoppage of work at his place of work.

Several other workers are suspended at the same time.

Most of the other workers are re-engaged before the stoppage begins. Paul is not.

Paul remains unemployed and makes a claim for Jobseeker’s Allowance until after the stoppage is over. He then takes a job in another industry.

The decision maker decides that Paul has proved that he did not lose his employment because of the stoppage of work.

**Example 2**

Lesley Lewis is suspended indefinitely on the day before a stoppage of work at her place of work begins.

She makes a claim for Jobseeker’s Allowance. The decision maker obtains evidence that work on the order on which Lesley has been working was completed.

Lesley starts work again two days after the stoppage. The decision maker decides that Lesley has not proved that she has not lost work because of the stoppage.

The decision maker makes this decision because the fact that the work on the order was finished does not mean that Lesley would have been dismissed.

Also the fact that Lesley had been kept on until the day before the stoppage began strongly suggests that she was suspended because of the impending stoppage.

32185 – 32187

Definite period of suspension before stoppage

32188 If

**1.** a claimant’s employment is suspended for a definite period **and**

**2.** during that suspension a stoppage of work begins **and**

**3.** the stoppage prevents that claimant returning to work on the agreed date

the claimant has lost employment due to the stoppage from the date work should have been resumed1.

1 R(U) 12/61

32189 This situation may arise where claimants are working

**1.** to a shift system **or**

**2.** to a rota system **or**

**3.** on short-time.

32190 If claimants work only on certain days of the week, the days on which no work is done should be treated as definite periods of suspension.

32191 If a stoppage begins on a day claimants would not normally work, they have lost employment due to a stoppage caused by a trade dispute.

**Example**

Philip Shields works on Mondays, Tuesdays and Saturdays. He makes a claim for Jobseeker’s Allowance on Wednesday 20.10.04, the day on which a stoppage of work due to a trade dispute begins at his place of work.

The stoppage ends on Saturday 30.10.04. The decision maker decides that Philip has lost employment due to a trade dispute from Sunday 17.10.04 to Saturday 30.10.04.

32192 – 32194

Incapacity for work during stoppage

32195 Claimants may be off work due to illness when a stoppage of work begins. If

**1.** they recover and claim Jobseeker’s Allowance during the stoppage **and**

**2.** work would have been available if it were not for the stoppage

they have lost work due to the stoppage.

32196 But where they were given notice before the stoppage began and

**1.** they do not recover until after their employment was due to end **or**

**2.** it cannot be confirmed that they would have been employed on their recovery but for the stoppage

they have not lost employment due to the stoppage.

32197 The decision maker should establish

**1.** what the claimant’s contract says about sickness absences **and**

**2.** what the employer’s practice is for holding open the jobs of sick workers.

32198 Claimants may become ill during a stoppage of work due to a trade dispute. If when recovered they

**1.** make a claim to Jobseeker’s Allowance **and**

**2.** the stoppage of work due to a trade dispute is continuing

they will have lost employment because of the stoppage.

32199 – 32200

Directly interested

32201 If claimants can show that they have no direct interest in the dispute they will not have lost employment because of a stoppage of work due to a trade dispute1.

1 JS (NI) Order 95, art 16(1)

32202 There is no statutory definition of the term “directly interested”. The question whether claimants are directly interested in a dispute must always depend on the particular facts and circumstances of each case1. Claimants may have a direct interest in a dispute and yet take no part in that dispute2.

1 R(U) 14/71; 2 R(U) 14/64; R(U) 4/65

32203 Where it is almost automatic that claimants will be affected by the outcome of a trade dispute they are treated as having a direct interest in that dispute1. If there has to be an intervening event between the outcome of the dispute and the terms of employment being affected, claimants are not directly interested in the dispute2.

1 R(U) 13/71, Watt v The Lord Advocate 1979 S.C 120; 2 R(U) 8/72, R(U) 8/80

**Example 1**

The overlockers at Clive Russell's place of work are in dispute with the management over the rate of pay for overtime working.

Clive is a clipper and is not directly involved in the dispute. However, any renegotiated overtime rate will apply to all of the workers at the place of work.

Therefore Clive has a direct interest in the outcome of the dispute.

32204 If claimants are laid off because of a dispute this does not mean that they have a direct interest in that dispute. There must be a direct interest in the outcome of the dispute, not simply in its existence1.

1 Watt v The Lord Advocate 1979 S.C 120

32205 If claimants are laid off only because of the action of strike pickets that, on its own, does not mean that they are directly interested in the dispute1.

1 R(U) 3/69

32206 It does not need to be the claimant’s own pay or conditions that are the subject of the dispute. Where different groups of workers, belonging to different trade unions are employed by the same employer at the same place of work and there is a dispute between the employer and trade union A, workers belonging to trade union B are directly interested in that dispute if

**1.** whatever the outcome of the dispute the employer will apply it to workers in trade union B as well as those in trade union A **and**

**2.** the application of the outcome of the dispute to all workers comes about automatically as a result of

**2.1** a collective agreement which is legally binding **or**

**2.2** a collective agreement which is not legally binding **or**

**2.3** established industrial custom and practice at the place of work concerned1.

1 R(U) 1/84 Appendix

32207 – 32209

32210 It is for claimants to show that whatever the outcome of the dispute the terms or conditions of their employment would not be affected almost automatically. It does not matter whether the outcome is likely to be to the advantage or disadvantage of the claimant1.

1 R(U) 3/56

32211 A dispute which starts off as personal, affecting only one person, can develop into a dispute about a matter of principle affecting many others1.

1 R(U) 25/56

32212 It is the nature of the interest which is important, not its degree1. For example workers may have a direct interest in a dispute about plans

**1.** to abolish their afternoon tea break2

**2.** to reduce the time allowance for unpenalised lateness by two minutes a day3.

Even though these matters are so insignificant that they could be ignored the workers still have a direct interest in the dispute.

1 R(U) 3/62; R(U) 4/62; 2 R(U) 3/62; 3 R(U) 4/62

32213 Workers are not directly interested in a dispute where an amendment of an agreement to which they are party would not affect their position either for the better or the worse1.

1 R(U) 18/58

32214 Workers are not directly interested in a dispute if their interest is only in an effect which is not, and does not become, the subject of a dispute. The subject and limit of the dispute must be identified before deciding whether a workers has a direct interest in it.

**Example 1**

Eddie Richardson is a surface worker at a coal mine.

Some underground workers do not report for work on Sunday night because of a dispute about the pay for that shift.

Eddie loses part of his weekly bonus as a result.

Eddie is not directly interested in the dispute because it is about rates of pay for underground work on Sunday night, not the circumstances in which his bonus can be withheld.

Eddie’s loss of bonus is only an effect of the dispute.

**Example 2**

Fred Bradley is also a surface worker at a coal mine.

Paul, an underground worker at the same coal mine does not receive his bonus payment because he is absent from work. A dispute develops because of this and all the underground workers withdraw their labour as a result.

Fred is directly interested in the dispute. This is because it is about the conditions in which a bonus can be made and is of direct interest to all workers covered by the bonus agreement. Fred is one of those workers.

32215 – 32217

32218 Workers may have no direct interest in a dispute at the start of a stoppage. But during the stoppage new matters may become the subject of the dispute. Workers may then have a direct interest1.

1 R(U) 12/60

32219 A dispute can be about several things. Workers who are directly interested in some, but not all, of these matters, are directly interested in the dispute1.

1 R(U) 17/61; R(U) 3/62; R(U) 4/62

32220 If workers are directly interested in the dispute then their own views on the subject in dispute do not matter. It does not matter that

**1.** they are not members of the trade union involved in the dispute1 **or**

**2.** they disagree with fellow workers demands and wish to continue working2 **or**

**3.** they do not know what the dispute is about, nor that they have a direct interest in it3 **or**

**4.** they do not know that a dispute exists4.

1 RU) 22/57, R(U) 26/57; 2 R(U) 17/61; 3 R(U) 22/57; 4 R(U) 14/64

32221 A trade dispute can be about any condition of employment. Workers may have a direct interest in disputes about

**1.** pay1

**2.** the method of working out bonus earnings2

**3.** the conditions governing payment of bonus3

**4.** superannuation4

**5.** time allowed for unpenalised lateness5

**6.** tea breaks6

**7.** demarcation of duties7

**8.** interchangeability8

**9.** heating arrangements9

**10.** free provision of protective clothing10.

1 R(U) 3/56; R(U) 13/71; R(U) 14/71; R(U) 8/72; R(U) 1/74; R(U) 6/78; R(U) 8/80; R(U) 12/80; R(U) 1/84;  
2 R(U) 18/58; 3 R(U) 25/56; 4 R(U) 17/61; 5 R(U) 4/62; 6 R(U) 3/62; 7 R(U) 1/60(T); R(U) 14/64;  
8 R(U) 6/61; R(U) 9/80; 9 R(U) 4/65; 10 R(U) 5/77

32222 Workers who have a direct interest in a dispute may be able to show that they have stopped having such an interest before the stoppage has ended.

32223 – 32224

Start date of stoppage

General rule

32225 A stoppage starts on the first day on which work is

**1.** stopped **or**

**2.** limited to more than just a minor extent.

32226 A stoppage can only begin on a day when work

**1.** is done **or**

**2.** would be done

but for the stoppage.

32227 A stoppage cannot begin on a day when work would not be done anyway. If a national or regional stoppage is arranged for a given date, and that day is a non-working day in some of the places of work affected, the stoppage at those places begins on the next working day.

32228 A stoppage cannot start on different dates for workers at the same place of work. Where different groups of workers at the same place of work stop work on different dates the stoppage begins on the date the first group refuses to work or is prevented from working. This may happen if

**1.** different groups decide to strike or are laid off on different dates **or**

**2.** there is shift, or staggered short time, working.

32229 If the premises is divided into separate places of work the stoppage in these separate places may begin on different dates.

32230 – 32232

Direct interest acquired

32233 Workers who have no direct interest in the trade dispute have not lost employment due to the stoppage. But if at a later date

**1.** a new matter becomes an issue in the dispute **and**

**2.** those workers have a direct interest in it

they will have lost employment due to the stoppage1. Any entitlement to Jobseeker’s Allowance will end from the first day of the week in which they do have an interest in the dispute.

1 CU 274/50(KL); R(U) 4/62

Not employed because of the stoppage

32234 The decision maker must decide whether the stoppage of work has caused clients not to be employed on any day. If it has, they will not be entitled to Jobseeker’s Allowance for any week which includes a day on which they were not employed for this reason1.

1 JS (NI) Order 95, art 16

Week

32235 A week is a period of 7 days beginning on a Sunday1.

1 JS (NI) Order 95, art 2(2)

32236 Even if

**1.** subject to DMG 32238 **5.** the employment would have finished anyway before the end of the stoppage1 **or**

**2.** claimants would not normally have worked on every day during the stoppage, for example because they are

**2.1** a 5-day week worker **or**

**2.2** on short time **or**

**2.3** a casual worker2 **or**

**3.** claimants become incapable of work during the stoppage

they are not entitled to Jobseeker’s Allowance.

1 R(U) 11/52; R(U) 17/56; R(U) 29/59; R(U) 12/72(T); 2 R(U) 32/55; R(U) 12/80

32237 But if

**1.** a stoppage of work that claimants are directly interested in, ends **and**

**2.** claimants cannot work because of a further dispute that they do not have a direct interest in

the stoppage of work caused by the second dispute will not have caused them not to be employed.

32238 When either

**1.** the stoppage comes to an end **or**

**2.** although the stoppage has not ended, it is no longer due to a trade dispute **or**

**3.** claimants are no longer directly interested in the dispute **or**

**4.** claimants become genuinely employed somewhere else1 **or**

**5.** claimants become redundant within the meaning of the relevant legislation2 **or**

**6.** having genuinely resumed work with their employer, claimants then leave for reasons unconnected with the trade dispute3

the stoppage of work will no longer have caused the claimants not to be employed. When either reason **1.** or **2.** applies, the same date is applied to all workers at the same place of work. If **3.** to **6.** apply the date may be different for each worker at the same place of work.

1 JS (NI) Order 95, art 16(3)(a); 2 ER (NI) Order 96, art 174;  
JS (NI) Order 95, art 16(3)(b); 3 art 16(3)(c)

32239 A stoppage of work can end even though the dispute continues. Claimants cannot lose employment due to a stoppage of work if there is no stoppage in that week (but see DMG 32278 if considering withdrawal of labour). But if, at a later date, there is another stoppage of work because of the same dispute, this stoppage will have caused them not to be employed1.

1 R(U) 14/64

32240 If workers refuse to work only on some days each week but work normally on other days, there is a series of stoppages. But the decision maker will be concerned with the weeks which include at least one day of stoppage.

32241

Return to work delayed

32242 In some cases a dispute is settled but return to work is prevented because of a different dispute that claimants have no direct interest in. In these cases as the claimants have no direct interest in the dispute, they have no longer lost work due to a stoppage caused by a trade dispute.

32243 Claimants must prove that the stoppage is not caused by the trade dispute1.

1 CWU 18/49; R(U) 1/56

32244

When disentitlement is not appropriate

Direct interest ends

32245 Disentitlement to Jobseeker’s Allowance will not be appropriate if claimants can show that they no longer have a direct interest in the dispute. Claimants must show that they can no longer be affected in any way by the outcome of the dispute.

32246 They will usually be able to prove this by showing that they have permanently stopped being a person who can be directly interested in the dispute.

32247 Resignation or dismissal during the dispute is not enough to show that there is no longer a direct interest in the dispute. If the reinstatement of a dismissed worker becomes an issue in the dispute, then it has not been shown that the worker has permanently ended relations with the employer.

32248 Even if claimants are able to show that they have permanently ended relations with the employer, they must also show that any settlement of the dispute does not affect their position in any way during the period before the employment ended.

**Example**

There is a dispute about work at Barbara Bradford’s place of work. As a result she resigns and makes a claim for Jobseeker’s Allowance.

When the dispute is settled, Barbara will receive arrears of pay for the period before her employment ended. The decision maker decides that Barbara cannot show that any settlement would not affect her position before her employment ended.

32249 It is important to look in detail at claimants’ reasons for resigning, or the employer’s reasons for dismissing claimants, where it is alleged that

**1.** there has been a permanent ending of relations between claimants and the employer **and**

**2.** the claimants’ direct interest in the dispute has ended.

32250 – 32251

Employed somewhere else

32252 If claimants can show that during a stoppage of work they have become genuinely employed somewhere else, they will no longer have lost employment due to the stoppage of work1. But a sanction question may arise2.

1 JS (NI) Order 95, art 16(3)(a); 2 art 21(6) & 22(A)(2)

Employed

32253 “Employed” in this context means either employed earner’s or self employment.

Somewhere else

32254 This means somewhere other than where claimants worked when the stoppage started. The new work must be

**1.** at different premises **or**

**2.** in a separate department on the same premises if that department is a separate place of work.

Genuinely

32255 Whether work is genuine is a question of fact to be decided by the decision maker. The decision must be based on available evidence.

32256 Work should be both genuine and taken up for an honest motive1.

1 R(U) 6/74

32257 If claimants show that the job was taken up for a proper reason, for example to have a job and earn a living, then it is genuine. If this has been shown, the work

**1.** does not have to be permanent **or**

**2.** taken with the intention of permanently ending relations with the previous employer.

32258 Work can be genuine even if

**1.** it turns out to be temporary **or**

**2.** claimants know it will be temporary from the start.

The probable, or expected, duration of the work is only one element in considering whether it is genuine. The fact that it turns out to last only a short time is not enough on its own to find that it was not genuine.

32259 Work is not genuine if the claimant

**1.** takes it **or**

**2.** maintains to have taken work which is a sham

simply to avoid disentitlement to Jobseeker’s Allowance.

32260 Work which is done for a big employer is usually genuine. But work which is done for a small firm, owned by a friend, will often not be genuine. The decision maker must, in all cases, find out exactly the nature of the work and how claimants came to start it1.

1 R(U) 6/74

32261 – 32263

Work ended due to redundancy

32264 If clients can show that during a stoppage they have been made redundant they can claim Jobseeker’s Allowance1. The redundancy must be within the meaning of the relevant legislation2.

1 JS (NI) Order 95, art 16(3)(b); 2 ER (NI) Order 96, art 174

32265 For guidance on whether work has ended due to redundancy within the meaning of the relevant legislation see DMG 34267 - 34269. If there is some doubt as to whether redundancy has resulted in the permanent ending of relations between the employer and the employee, for example because the redundancies were an issue in the dispute, refer the case to Decision Making Services.

Genuinely returned to work, then left

32266 Claimants who can prove that during the stoppage they

**1.** genuinely returned to work as an employed earner for the employer **and**

**2.** then left for reasons other than the trade dispute

will not have lost employment because of the stoppage1. This applies from the date that the claimant returned to work for the employer.

1 JS (NI) Order 95, art 16(3)(c)

Resumed work with employer

32267 Claimants have resumed work with the employer if they have gone back to work for the same employer they worked for immediately before the stoppage began. It does not have to be the same job. Any work with that employer is enough.

32268 Claimants have not satisfied this condition if they have returned to work for a different employer at the same place of work where they worked when the stoppage began. Nor can they satisfy the “employed somewhere else” condition1.

1 JS (NI) Order 95, art 16(3)(c)

32269 – 32270

Subsequently left

32271 The word “left” includes leaving voluntarily and dismissal. It does not include suspension. For guidance on the difference between termination and suspension from work see DMG Chapter 26.

For a reason other than the trade dispute

32272 The main reason for leaving must not be the trade dispute1. It does not matter that the dispute is a minor factor in the decision to leave if it seems likely that the claimants would have left for another reason in any event.

1 JS (NI) Order 95, art 16(3)(c)

32273 But if

**1.** the dispute is a major factor in the decision to leave **and**

**2.** it seems unlikely that claimants would have left if it had not been for the dispute

then it cannot be said that the claimants have left for reasons other than the trade dispute.

32274 The circumstances in which clients leave employment may give grounds for a sanction being imposed1.

1 JS (NI) Order 95, art 21(6) & 22(A)(2)

32275 – 32277

When the stoppage has ended

32278 Claimants have to prove that the stoppage of work has ended1.

1 R(U) 1/56

32279 A stoppage at a place of work ends when there has been a general return to work. If the dispute has not been settled

**1.** workers may return to work a few at a time **or**

**2.** their places may be gradually filled by others.

32280 In such cases the stoppage ends when the employers have got all of the workers they need, that is, when work is no longer stopped or curbed

**1.** by workers refusing to work on the employer’s terms **or**

**2.** by the employer’s refusal to employ the workers on their terms **or**

**3.** because work has to be reorganised due to

**3.1** circumstances directly resulting from the dispute **or**

**3.2** repairs, which are necessary because of the stoppage, have not been completed1.

1 R(U) 25/57

32281 The ending of a stoppage is a question of fact1.

1 R(U) 5/86(T)

32282 The date of the end of the stoppage is the last day of the stoppage. This is normally the day before work is

**1.** resumed **or**

**2.** sufficiently resumed.

32283 Settlement of the dispute, or an agreement to return to work, does not mean that the stoppage has ended. If the employer and workers at a particular place of work do not reach agreement on the terms of a return to work the stoppage has not ended at that place of work even though there has been

**1.** a national settlement **and**

**2.** a general return to work elsewhere1.

1 R(U) 12/60

32284 But a stoppage may end without settlement of the dispute if the number of workers

**1.** returning to work **or**

**2.** whose places are taken by others

is enough to enable work to carry on normally again at the place of work concerned.

32285

Normal working

32286 Normal working need not be the same as it was immediately before the dispute or stoppage started, for example

**1.** working practices **or**

**2.** the amount of work available

may have changed in the interim period, even if the stoppage had not happened. This may be so particularly if the stoppage was lengthy.

32287 Normal working means working which would be regarded as normal on the particular day in question.

32288 A stoppage of work cannot end on different days for different workers at the same place of work1.

1 R(U) 17/56

**Example 1**

There is a stoppage of work at the factory where Patricia Hanlon works.

Patricia returns to work to do her own job.

No other workers return to work.

Patricia’s return to work does not bring the stoppage to an end.

**Example 2**

There is a trade dispute at a factory involving the coppersmiths.

The coppersmith’s labourers withdraw their labour in support of the coppersmiths.

However, a few days later the labourers return to work but the coppersmiths do not return to work for a further two weeks.

The stoppage of work did not end until the date on which the coppersmiths returned to work.

32289 If premises are divided into separate departments which are separate places of work, stoppages in these separate places can end on different dates.

Gradual return to work

32290 It can be difficult to decide on what date work can be said to have returned to normal in cases where there is a gradual return to work, for example where

**1.** it is normal for the number of workers to vary a lot depending on trading conditions **or**

**2.** business has been lost because of the stoppage **or**

**3.** fewer people are needed to do the same amount of work as before the stoppage (possibly because of previous over-staffing) **or**

**4.** the stoppage was so long, it is no longer possible to say what is normal working because of industrial or other changes happening during the stoppage.

32291 When this happens the stoppage will have ended when the employers have got all the workers they need to perform the work available.

32292 If the employer cannot say definitely when they have got all the workers they need, the stoppage will have ended when more than 90% of the workforce has gone back to work1. Cases of doubt should be referred to the Decision Making Services.

1 R(U) 5/86

32293 – 32294

Closure of business

32295 If

**1.** the employer

**1.1** closes the business **and**

**1.2** cuts all relations with the workers **and**

**2.** the only reason for the closure is the trade dispute

claimants who have lost employment because of the closure have permanently lost it due to a stoppage caused by the dispute1. This means they will not be entitled to Jobseeker’s Allowance until they have had another job.

1 R(U) 15/80

32296 But usually it is some reason other than the trade dispute that leads to closure, such as financial difficulties. In these cases, once the closure is complete, the stoppage is no longer due to the trade dispute.

32297 In deciding whether there is a closure in this situation, the decision maker should consider the

**1.** nature **and**

**2.** extent **and**

**3.** characteristics

of the business. If the main reason for the company’s existence has gone, and the company has lost, or given up, its essential function and taken on no other function, there is a closure1. This is so even if work is continuing to dispose of the assets.

1 R(U) 15/80

**Example**

A company makes and sells goods.

The employer has dismissed the productive workforce.

He will never re-employ or replace them.

All trading procedures such as looking for new work, selling and quoting for goods, has ended.

The company is no longer “in business” - even if work continues to dispose of its assets.

32298 It may only be possible to decide the date of closure with hindsight. If the employer has in effect withdrawn from the contest, continued picketing does not mean that the company has not closed.

32299 Where the decision maker thinks that permanent closure was due only to the trade dispute and that an adverse decision may be appropriate, the case should be referred to Decision Making Services.

32300 – 32301

Permanent reduction in trade

32302 A stoppage does not come to an end automatically where employers decide that in future they will only trade on a smaller scale. But once

**1.** all the necessary arrangements have been made **and**

**2.** business is being carried on at the reduced level

the stoppage is no longer due to the dispute.

Withdrawal of labour

32303 Workers who

**1.** have not lost employment because there is a stoppage due to a trade dispute **but**

**2.** nevertheless withdraw their labour to help further that dispute

are not entitled to Jobseeker’s Allowance for any week that includes a day on which labour is withdrawn1.

1 JS (NI) Order 95, art 16(2)

32304 Claimants may have withdrawn their labour if they

**1.** have previously been found to have lost employment because of a stoppage of work caused by a trade dispute **and**

**2.** make a new claim after the stoppage has ended.

32305 Claimants who withdraw their labour in furtherance of a trade dispute in which they have no direct interest may later acquire such an interest. In these cases they will have lost employment because of a stoppage of work caused by a trade dispute1.

1 JS (NI) Order 95, art 16(2)

32306

Labour

32307 Labour includes both self-employed and employed-earner’s employment.

When has labour been withdrawn?

32308 Claimants will have withdrawn their labour if

**1.** they do not attend for work **or**

**2.** having turned up for work, they then refuse to do any (or only a small amount) of the work which is normally their own, even where their employer lays them off **or**

**3.** having been laid off they then refuse to return to work when it becomes available. In this case claimants will have withdrawn their labour from the date on which they refused to return to work.

32309 Claimants will still have withdrawn their labour, even if the employer terminates their contract of employment as a move in the dispute.

32310 – 32311

32312 Whether claimants have withdrawn their labour is a question of fact. The decision maker should consider, amongst other things

**1.** what claimants were asked to do **and**

**2.** what duties they had to perform under the terms of their contracts **and**

**3.** what, if anything, they did in fact do **and**

**4.** what they were prepared to do.

If claimants refuse only to work overtime, or refuse to perform only a small portion of their own duties, they have not withdrawn their labour. Cases of doubt should be referred to Decision Making Services.

32313 If claimants work for part of the day and then stop work, they will have withdrawn their labour for that day.

32314 Withdrawal of labour is a voluntary act. Claimants who are prevented from working by picket violence, or the threat of it, have not withdrawn their labour.

To help further a trade dispute

32315 The withdrawal of labour must be to help further a trade dispute. The dispute does not need to be at the claimant’s place of work. Nor does there need to be a stoppage of work, either at the claimant’s or any other place of work.

Period of withdrawal

32316 Claimants will not be entitled to Jobseeker’s Allowance from the first day of the week in which, on any day, they withdrew their labour. This will be a Sunday.

32317 If claimants then resign, or are dismissed by their employer, the decision maker must establish whether that is merely a move in the dispute.

32318 If claimants can show that

**1.** their employment has been unconditionally ended **and**

**2.** the employer or the claimants concerned are no longer willing to employ or be employed by the other

an adverse decision should not be given.

32319 Where the re-instatement of a worker becomes an issue in the dispute, it cannot be said that that person has permanently ended relations with the employer.

32320 – 32322

Statutory sick pay

32323 If an employer and an employee disagree about whether there is entitlement to statutory sick pay, a decision maker will make a decision.

32324 There is no entitlement to statutory sick pay1 if on the relevant date there is a stoppage of work due to a trade dispute at the claimant’s place of work.

1 SS C&B (NI) Act 92, Sch 11, para 1 & 2(g)

32325 This rule will not apply if the claimant can show that at no time, on or before the relevant date, did they have a direct interest in the trade dispute in question1.

1 SS C&B (NI) Act 92, Sch 11, para 7

Relevant date

32326 The relevant date is the date on which a period of entitlement to statutory sick pay would begin if it were not for the trade dispute provision1.

1 SS C&B (NI) Act 92, Sch 11, para 3

32327 The decision maker dealing with the statutory sick pay question may not be experienced in deciding trade dispute questions. The decision maker dealing with the statutory sick pay can ask a decision maker in the Jobs and Benefits/Social Security Office to decide whether, on the relevant date, there was

**1.** a stoppage of work due to a trade dispute at the claimant’s place of work **and**

**2.** if so, whether the claimant has proved that at no time on or before that date did they have a direct interest in the trade dispute.

32328 – 32329

Stoppage of work due to a trade dispute at the place of work

32330 The decision maker deciding the trade dispute question will only need to consider whether there was a stoppage of work due to a trade dispute at the claimant’s place of work on the date referred by the decision maker deciding the statutory sick pay question.

32331 When considering whether there was a stoppage of work due to a trade dispute see DMG 32016 - 32118.

32332 The question whether a claimant has lost employment due to the stoppage does not arise for statutory sick pay purposes.

Direct interest

32333 In deciding whether claimants have, or had, a direct interest in the trade dispute in question, follow the guidance in DMG 32201 - 32222.

32334 Claimants must prove that at no time on or before the relevant date did they have a direct interest in the dispute.

32335 Once claimants have had a direct interest it cannot assist their claim if their interest ended before the relevant date. But if claimants have not had a direct interest in the dispute, up to and including the relevant date, it does not matter if they later acquire a direct interest. It is only the position up to and including the relevant date that matters.

32336 – 32337

Other benefits

32338 There are other benefits where entitlement depends on whether the claimant, or their partner, is involved in a trade dispute.

32339 The decision maker determining entitlement to these benefits may not be experienced in deciding trade dispute questions. They may ask the decision maker who is experienced in deciding trade dispute questions for

**1.** a decision **or**

**2.** an opinion

as to whether the claimant, or their partner, is involved in a trade dispute.

32340 If such a question is referred to the decision maker who is experienced in deciding trade dispute questions, they should

**1.** make their decision **or**

**2.** give their opinion

using the guidance in DMG 32000 - 32335.

32341 – 32499

Amount of income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance or Income Support payable

Amount of income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance

The law

32500 Special rules apply when working out income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance if a member of the claimant’s family cannot get Jobseeker’s Allowance because of a trade dispute1. Note that the rules do not apply

**1.** if that member is

**1.1** a child **or**

**1.2** a young person **or**

**1.3** incapable of work **or**

**1.4** in the maternity period2 **and**

**2.** from the date that member returns to work for the same employer even if the trade dispute has not ended3.

1 JS (NI) Order 95, art 17 & 17A; 2 JSA Regs (NI), reg 169; 3 JS (NI) Order 95, art 17(4) & 17A(5)

About the guidance

32501 Guidance on

**1.** whether partners

**1.1** are incapable of work is at DMG 32510 - 32514

**1.2** are in the maternity period is at DMG 32530 - 32534

**1.3** cannot get Jobseeker’s Allowance because of being involved in a trade dispute is at DMG 32550 - 32556

**2.** when to assume the applicable amount is reduced or disregarded is at DMG 32580 - 32584

**3.** how to work out income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance if partners or members of a joint claim couple cannot get Jobseeker’s Allowance because of being involved in a trade dispute is at DMG 32600 - 32608

**4.** how to work out income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance if members of the claimant’s family cannot get Jobseeker’s Allowance because of being involved in a trade dispute is at DMG 32665 - 32750.

32502 – 32509

Is the person incapable of work?

About the guidance

32510 Decision makers should use this guidance to consider if

**1.** **partners** who are involved in a trade dispute are incapable of work if a claim for **Jobseeker's Allowance** is made **and**

**2.** **claimants or partners** who are involved in a trade dispute are incapable of work if a claim for **Income Support** is made.

When a person is incapable of work

32511 The rules on whether a person is incapable of work for Jobseeker's Allowance or Income Support are the same as for Incapacity Benefit or Severe Disablement Allowance purposes1. So decision makers should decide a person involved in a trade dispute if that person is incapable of work if that person is getting Incapacity Benefit or Severe Disablement Allowance.

1 JS (NI) Order 95, Sch 1, para 2; SS C&B (NI) Act 92, Part XIIA

32512 The rules on whether a person is incapable of work for statutory sick pay purposes are not the same rules as for Incapacity Benefit or Severe Disablement Allowance.

Not in receipt of Incapacity Benefit or Severe Disablement Allowance

32513 If the person involved in a trade dispute is not getting Incapacity Benefit or Severe Disablement Allowance, the decision maker has to consider whether the person is incapable of work. DMG Chapter 13 gives guidance on when a person is incapable of work.

In receipt of statutory sick pay

32514 If the person involved in a trade dispute is getting statutory sick pay, the decision maker has to consider whether the person is incapable of work. DMG Chapter 13 gives guidance on when a person is incapable of work.

32515 – 32529

Is the person in the maternity period?

About the guidance

32530 Decision makers should use this guidance to consider if

**1.** **partners** who are involved in a trade dispute are in the maternity period if a claim for **Jobseeker's Allowance** is made **and**

**2.** **claimants or partners** who are involved in a trade dispute are in the maternity period if a claim for **Income Support** is made.

When a person is in the maternity period

32531 A person who is pregnant is in the maternity period

**1.** from the start of the sixth week before the expected week of confinement

**2.** to the end of the seventh week after the week of the actual date of confinement1.

1 JSA Regs (NI), reg 169(b)(ii); SS C&B (NI) Act 92, sec 125(2)

**Example**

Monica cannot get Jobseeker's Allowance because she is involved in a trade dispute from 26.10.06 to 1.4.07. She claims Income Support from 2.11.06 until she returns to work on 2.4.07. She is pregnant. Her expected date of confinement is 26.12.06, the expected week of confinement is 24.12.06 to 30.12.06. She has the baby on 9.1.07, the week of the actual date of confinement is 7.1.07 to 13.1.07. Monica is not in the maternity period from 2.11.06 to 11.11.06 or from 4.3.07 to 1.4.07. The maternity period is from 12.11.06 to 3.3.07.

Meaning of week

32532 Week means

**1.** for income-based Jobseeker's Allowance1 **and**

**2.** for Income Support

a period of 7 days starting with midnight between Saturday and Sunday2.

1 JSA Regs (NI), reg 1(2); 2 SS (C&P) Regs (NI), reg 2(1); SS C&B (NI) Act 92, sec 121

Evidence

32533 Claimants or partners can get evidence of the expected week of confinement from their doctor. Evidence of the expected date of confinement may already be held if Maternity Allowance has been claimed.

Person pregnant but not in the maternity period

32534 A person who is pregnant and not in the maternity period may be incapable of work. In such cases the decision maker should decide if the person is incapable of work (see DMG 32510 - 32514).

32535 – 32549

Can the person get Jobseeker’s Allowance?

About the guidance

32550 Decision makers should use this guidance to decide if

**1.** either **member of a joint-claim couple or members of a claimant’s family** who are involved in a trade dispute cannot or could not get Jobseeker’s Allowance if the claimant claims **Jobseeker’s Allowance and**

**2.** **claimants or partners** who are involved in a trade dispute cannot or could not get Jobseeker’s Allowance if

**2.1** the claimant claims **Income Support and**

**2.2** the decision maker has decided claimants or partners are not

**2.2.a** incapable of work (DMG 32510 - 32514) **and**

**2.2.b** in the maternity period (DMG 32530 - 32534)

**3.** members of a joint claim couple, where both members of the couple are involved in a trade dispute and they cannot or could not get Jobseeker’s Allowance if

* 1. either member of the joint claim couple claims Income Support **and**
  2. neither member of the couple is incapable of work or in the maternity period.

The law

32551 A person cannot get Jobseeker’s Allowance if the decision maker decides that person is involved in a trade dispute1.

1 JS (NI) Order 95, art 16

32552 A couple claiming a joint claim Jobseeker’s Allowance cannot get that benefit if the decision maker considers that both members of that couple are involved in a trade dispute1.

1 JS (NI) Order 95, art 17A(2)

Can the person get Jobseeker’s Allowance?

32553 The decision maker has to decide whether a person cannot or could not get Jobseeker’s Allowance because of being involved in a trade dispute. If the decision maker decides a person is involved in a trade dispute that person

**1.** cannot get Jobseeker’s Allowance if that person has claimed Jobseeker’s Allowance **and**

**2.** could not get Jobseeker’s Allowance if that person has not claimed Jobseeker’s Allowance.

DMG 32003 - 32340 gives guidance on how to decide if a person is involved in a trade dispute.

32554 Decision makers can assume the applicable amount is reduced or disregarded if they cannot determine immediately whether a person is involved in a trade dispute (DMG 32580 - 32584).

32555 – 32579

Assuming the applicable amount

About the guidance

32580 Decision makers should use this guidance to decide whether they should assume the applicable amount is reduced or disregarded if

**1.** the decision maker considers partners or a member of a joint claim couple (income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance) and claimants or partners (Income Support)

**1.1** are not incapable of work (DMG 32510 - 32514) **and**

**1.2** are not in the maternity period (DMG 32530 - 32534) **and**

**2.** they have not returned to work for the same employer even if the trade dispute has not ended **and**

**3.** the decision maker cannot decide immediately if they cannot or could not get Jobseeker’s Allowance because of being involved in a trade dispute.

The law

32581 The applicable amount is reduced or disregarded if certain people cannot or could not get Jobseeker’s Allowance because of being involved in a trade dispute1. The decision maker can assume the applicable amount is reduced or disregarded if that question cannot be decided immediately2.

1 JS (NI) Order 95, art 17(2)(a) & (b); & 17A(5); SS C&B (NI) Act 92, sec 125(3);  
2 SS & CS (D&A) Regs (NI), reg 13(2)(a)(i) & 15(a)(i)

32582 The decision should be revised or superseded when the decision maker can decide the question1.

1 SS CS (D&A) Regs (NI), reg 3 & 6

The effect of the law

32583 The effect of the law is the same as the decision maker deciding

**1.** partners or a member of a joint claim couple if a claim for Jobseeker’s Allowance is made **and**

**2.** claimants or partners if a claim for Income Support is made

cannot or could not get Jobseeker’s Allowance because of being involved in a trade dispute.

Appeals

32584 If the claimant

**1.** appeals **and**

**2.** the decision appealed is based on the assumption that the applicable amount should be reduced or disregarded

the tribunal cannot decide if the applicable amount should be reduced or disregarded until the decision maker has decided that question. The tribunal can decide any other part of the decision.

32585 – 32599

Special rules for income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance

About the guidance

32600 This guidance and the guidance at DMG 32665 - 32750 sets out the special rules which apply when working out income-based Jobseeker's Allowance if

**1.** the decision maker has determined the partner or one member of a joint claim couple

**1.1** cannot or could not get Jobseeker’s Allowance because of being involved in a trade dispute **and**

**1.2** is not incapable of work **and**

**1.3** is not in the maternity period **and**

**2.** the partner or the member of the joint claim couple has not returned to work for the same employer after being involved in a trade dispute.

Applicable amount

32601 The applicable amount for a couple is reduced by one half if

**1.** the claimant is a member of a couple or joint claim couple **and**

**2.** the partner or the other member of the joint claim couple cannot or could not get Jobseeker’s Allowance because of being involved in a trade dispute1.

Any part of the applicable amount which is for the partner or member of the couple who is involved in a trade dispute is disregarded2.

1 JS (NI) Order 95, art 17(2)(b) & 17A(4); 2 art 17(2)(a) & 17A(5)

32602 The amount of the reduction is rounded down to the nearest multiple of 5p if one half of the applicable amount for the couple is not a multiple of 5p1.

1 JS (NI) Order 95, art 17(3)

32603 Claimants are awarded

**1.** the personal allowance for a couple and any relevant premiums, such as

**1.1** disability premium **or**

**1.2** enhanced pensioner premium **or**

**1.3** higher pensioner premium **or**

**1.4** pensioner premium **or**

**1.5** severe disability premium at the higher rate.

The total of the personal allowance and any premiums is reduced by one half. The amount of the reduction is rounded down to the nearest multiple of 5p if it is not a multiple of 5p

**2.** any personal premiums, such as

**2.1** carer premium **or**

**2.2** severe disability premium at the lower rate

**3.** if the claimant or partner is responsible for a child or young person who is a member of the household

**3.1** family premium **and**

**3.2** the personal allowance for that child or young person **and**

**3.3** disabled child premium where appropriate **and**

**4.** housing costs if DMG 32700 applies.

32604 Claimants cannot get

**1.** any premiums which a partner or the other member of a joint claim couple may get, such as

**1.1** carer premium **or**

**1.2** severe disability premium at the lower rate **or**

**2.** the personal allowance or any premiums for a partner or other member of a joint claim couple who the claimant has married polygamously if that partner

**2.1** is not included in the personal allowance for the couple **and**

**2.2** cannot or could not get Jobseeker's Allowance because of being involved in a trade dispute.

Income

32605 The following payments are treated as income

**1.** refunds of tax under the pay as you earn scheme

**1.1** which are available to the claimant's partner or the other member of a joint claim couple and that person cannot or could not get Jobseeker's Allowance because of being involved in a trade dispute **or**

**1.2** would be available to such a partner or the other member of a joint claim couple if that person applied for it1 **and**

**2.** payments which the claimant or members of the claimant's family get or can get because the claimant's partner or the other member of a joint claim couple cannot or could not get Jobseeker's Allowance because of being involved in a trade dispute2.

**Note:** Unlike the normal rules, refunds of tax are not income treated as capital3.

1 JS (NI) Order 95, art 17(2)(c)(i) & 17A(5); 2 art 17(2)(c)(ii) & 17A(5)(d) 3 JSA Regs (NI), reg 110(2)

Weekly amount of income-based Jobseeker's Allowance

32606 The amount of income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance which claimants can get for a week if the partner or the other member of a joint claim couple cannot or could not get income-based in that week because of being involved in a trade dispute is

**1.** nil if the weekly amount of income Jobseeker's Allowance is equal to or less than the prescribed sum1 (Appendix 1) **or**

**2.** the difference between the

**2.1** weekly amount of income-based **and**

**2.2** prescribed sum

if **1.** does not apply2.

1 JS (NI) Order 95, art 17(2)(d)(i); 2 art 17(2)(d)(ii)

Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance for part-weeks

32607 The amount of income based Jobseeker's Allowance which claimants can get for a part-week if the partner or other member of a joint claim couple cannot or could not get Jobseeker's Allowance in that part-week because of being involved in a trade disputes

**1.** nil if the amount of income-based Jobseeker's Allowance for the part-week is equal to or less than the amount of the prescribed sum (Appendix 1) for the same number of days as there are in the part-week **or**

**2.** the difference between the

**2.1** amount of income-based Jobseeker's Allowance for the part-week **and**

**2.2** the prescribed sum

if **1.** does not apply1.

1 JS (NI) Order 95, art 17(5); JSA Regs (NI), reg 155

32608 To work out the amount of the prescribed sum for the part-week

**1.** divide the prescribed sum by 7 **and**

**2.** multiply that figure by the number of days in the part-week.

32609 – 32619

Amount of Income Support

The law

32620 Special rules apply when working out Income Support if claimants or members of their family cannot get Jobseeker’s Allowance because of a trade dispute1. Note that the rules do not apply

**1.** if the person is

**1.1** a child **or**

**1.2** a young person **or**

**1.3** incapable of work **or**

**1.4** in the maternity period2 **and**

**2.** from the date claimants or members of their family return to work for the same employer even if the dispute has not ended3.

1 SS C&B (NI) Act 92, sec 125; 2 sec 125(1); 3 sec 126(a)

32621 Special rules also apply when working out what Income Support claimants can get if

**1.** a person returns to work after a period when DMG 32620 would have applied to that person **and**

**2.** that person returns to work for the same employer even if the trade dispute has not ended.

The special rules apply for 15 days from the date the person returns to work. Those rules are different from the rules used if DMG 32620 applies. Any Income Support paid for the 15 day period is recoverable1.

1 SS C&B (NI) Act 92, sec 126

About the guidance

32622 Guidance on

**1.** whether claimants, partners or other members of a joint claim couple

**1.1** are incapable of work is at DMG 32510 - 32514

**1.2** are in the maternity period is at DMG 32530 - 32534

**1.3** cannot get Jobseeker’s Allowance because of being involved in a trade dispute is at DMG 32550 - 32554

**2.** when to assume the applicable amount is reduced or disregarded is at DMG 32580 - 32584

**3.** how to work out Income Support if claimants, partners cannot get Jobseeker’s Allowance because of being involved in a trade dispute is at DMG 32635 - 32652 and DMG 32665 - 32750

**4.** how to work out Income Support when claimants, partners have returned to work for the same employer after being involved in a trade dispute is at DMG 32755 - 32817.

32623 – 32634

Special rules for Income Support

About the guidance

32635 This guidance and the guidance at DMG 32665 - 32750 sets out the special rules which apply when working out Income Support if the decision maker has decided claimants or partners

**1.** cannot or could not get Jobseeker’s Allowance because of being involved in a trade dispute (DMG 32550 - 32554) **and**

**2.** are not incapable of work (DMG 32510 - 32514) **and**

**3.** are not in the maternity period (DMG 32530 - 32534).

32636 Decision makers should use the guidance at DMG 32755 - 32817 to consider what Income Support claimants can get if claimants or partners have returned to work for the same employer after being involved in a trade dispute.

Applicable amount

Single claimant

32637 All the applicable amount is disregarded if the claimant

**1.** is not a member of a family **and**

**2.** cannot or could not get Jobseeker's Allowance because of being involved in a trade dispute1.

Claimant's cannot get Income Support if all the applicable amount is disregarded.

1 SS C&B (NI) Act 92, sec 125(3)(a)

Lone parent

32638 Any part of the applicable amount for the claimant is disregarded if the claimant

**1.** is not a member of a couple **and**

**2.** cannot or could not get Jobseeker's Allowance because of being involved in a trade dispute **and**

**3.** is a member of a family1.

1 SS C&B (NI) Act 92, sec 125(3)(b)

32639 Lone parents

**1.** are **not** awarded the personal allowance for themselves or any premiums, such as

**1.1** carer premium **or**

**1.2** disability premium **or**

**1.3** enhanced pensioner premium **or**

**1.4** higher pensioner premium **or**

**1.5** lone parent family premium **or**

**1.6** pensioner premium **or**

**1.7** severe disability premium

**2.** are awarded

**2.1** family premium **and**

**2.2** the personal allowance for any child or young person who

**2.2.a** they are responsible for **and**

**2.2.b** is a member of their household **and**

**2.3** disabled child premiumwhere appropriate **and**

**2.4** housing costs if DMG 32700 applies.

One member of a couple involved in a trade dispute

32640 The applicable amount for a couple is reduced by one half if

**1.** the claimant is a member of a couple **and**

**2.** one member of the couple cannot or could not get Jobseeker’s Allowance because of being involved in a trade dispute.

Any part of the applicable amount which is for the member who is involved in a trade dispute disregarded1.

1 SS C&B (NI) Act 92, sec 125(3)(c)

32641 The amount of the reduction is rounded down to the nearest multiple of 5p if one half of the applicable amount for the couple is not a multiple of 5p1.

1 SS C&B (NI) Act 92, sec 125(4)

32642 Claimants are awarded

**1.** the personal allowance for a couple and any relevant premiums, such as

**1.1** disability premium **or**

**1.2** enhanced pensioner premium **or**

**1.3** higher pensioner premium **or**

**1.4** pensioner premium **or**

**1.5** severe disability premium.

**2.** any premiums for the member of the couple who is not involved in a trade dispute, such as

**2.1** carer premium **or**

**2.2** severe disability premium at the lower rate

**3.** if the claimant or partner is responsible for a child or young person who is a member of the household

**3.1** family premium **and**

**3.2** the personal allowance for that child or young person **and**

**3.3** disabled child premium **and**

**4.** housing costs if DMG 32700 applies.

32643 Claimants cannot get

**1.** any premiums for the member who is involved in a trade dispute such as

**1.1** carer premium **or**

**1.2** severe disability premium

**2.** the personal allowance or any premiums for a partner who the claimant has married polygamously if that partner

**2.1** is not included in the personal allowance for the couple **and**

**2.2** cannot or could not get Jobseeker’s Allowance because of being involved in a trade dispute.

Both members of a couple involved in a trade dispute - without child or young person

32644 All the applicable amount is disregarded if

**1.** the claimant is a member of a couple **and**

**2.** both members of the couple cannot or could not get Jobseeker's Allowance because of being involved in a trade dispute **and**

**3.** neither member of the couple is responsible for a child or young person who is a member of the household1.

Claimants cannot get Income Support if all the applicable amount is disregarded.

1 SS C&B (NI) Act 92, sec 125(3)(d)(i)

Both members of a couple involved in a trade dispute - with a child or young person

32645 The applicable amount for a couple is disregarded if

**1.** the claimant is a member of a couple **and**

**2.** both members of the couple are involved in a trade dispute **and**

**3.** either member of the couple is responsible for a child or young person who is a member of the household1.

Any part of the applicable amount which is for either member of the couple is also disregarded2.

1 SS C&B (NI) Act 92, sec 125(3)(d)(i); 2 sec 125(3)(d)(i)

32646 Claimants are **not** awarded

**1.** the personal allowance for a couple **or**

**2.** any premiums for the couple, such as

**2.1** disability premium **or**

**2.2** enhanced pensioner premium **or**

**2.3** higher pensioner premium **or**

**2.4** pensioner premium **or**

**2.5** severe disability premium **or**

**3.** any premiums for either member of the couple, such as

**3.1** carer premium **or**

**3.2** severe disability premium **or**

**4.** the personal allowance or any premiums for a partner who the claimant has married polygamously if that partner

**4.1** is not included in the personal allowance for the couple **and**

**4.2** cannot or could not get Jobseeker's Allowance because of being involved in a trade dispute.

32647 Claimants are awarded

**1.** family premium **and**

**2.** the personal allowance for the child or young person **and**

**3.** disabled child premium **and**

**4.** housing costs if DMG 32700 applies.

Income

32648 The following payments are treated as income

**1.** refunds of tax under the pay as you earn scheme

**1.1** which are available to claimants or partners who cannot or could not get Jobseeker's Allowance because of being involved in a trade dispute **or**

**1.2** would be available to such claimants or partners if they applied for it1 **and**

**2.** payments which claimants or members of their family get or can get because they or their partners cannot or could not get Jobseeker’s Allowance because of being involved in a trade dispute2.

**Note:** Unlike the normal rules, refunds of tax are not income treated as capital3.

1 SS C&B (NI) Act 92, sec 125(5)(a)(ii); 2 sec 125(5)(a)(i); 3 IS (Gen) Regs (NI), reg 48(2)

Amount of Income Support

Weekly amount of Income Support

32649 The amount of Income Support claimants can get for a week if they or their partners cannot or could not get Jobseeker’s Allowance in that week because of being involved in a trade dispute is

**1.** nil if the weekly amount of Income Support is equal to or less than the relevant sum (Appendix 2)1 **or**

**2.** the difference between the

**2.1** weekly amount of Income Support **and**

**2.2** relevant sum

if **1.** does not apply2.

1 SS C&B (NI) Act 92, sec 125(5)(b)(i); 2 sec 125(5)(b)(ii)

Income Support for part-weeks

32650 The amount of Income Support claimants can get for a part-week if they or their partners cannot or could not get Jobseeker’s Allowance in that part-week because of being involved in a trade dispute is

**1.** nil if the amount of Income Support for the part-week is equal to or less than the amount of the relevant sum (Appendix 2) for the same number of days as there are in the part-week **or**

**2.** the difference between the amount of

**2.1** Income Support for the part-week **and**

**2.2** the relevant sum for the same number of days as there are in the part-week

if **1.** does not apply1.

1 SS C&B (NI) Act 92, sec 125(6); IS (Gen) Regs (NI), reg 77

32651 To work out the amount of the relevant sum for the part-week

**1.** divide the relevant sum by 7 **and**

**2.** multiply that figure by the number of days in the part-week.

32652 DMG 32650 does not apply to any part of a week when claimants or partners are not involved in a trade dispute. So it would not apply when working out what Income Support claimants can get for four days in a week if they

**1.** or their partners cannot or could not get Jobseeker’s Allowance because of being involved in a trade dispute for three days in that week **and**

**2.** can get Income Support for all of that week.

32653 – 32664

Special rules for income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance or Income Support

About the guidance

Income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance

32665 Decision makers should use this guidance to consider what income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance claimants can get if the decision maker has decided one or more members of the claimant’s family cannot or could not get Jobseeker’s Allowance because of being involved in a trade dispute. Decision makers should also use the guidance at DMG 32600 - 32608 to work out what income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance claimants can get if

**1.** the decision maker has decided the partner or the other member of the joint claim couple

**1.1** cannot or could not get Jobseeker’s Allowance because of being involved in a trade dispute **and**

**1.2** is not incapable of work **and**

**1.3** is not in the maternity period **and**

**2.** that person has not returned to work for the same employer after being involved in a trade dispute.

Income Support

32666 Decision makers should use this guidance and the guidance at DMG 32635 - 32652 to decide what Income Support claimants can get if the decision maker has decided claimants or partners

**1.** cannot or could not get Jobseeker’s Allowance because of being involved in a trade dispute **and**

**2.** are not incapable of work **and**

**3.** are not in the maternity period.

32667 Decision makers should use the guidance at DMG 32755 - 32817 to decide what Income Support claimants can get if clients or partners have returned to work for the same employer after being involved in a trade dispute.

The guidance

32668 In this guidance people or a person who cannot or could not get Jobseeker’s Allowance because of being involved in a trade dispute refers to

**1.** for income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance any member of the claimant’s family **and**

**2.** for Income Support claimants and partners

who cannot or could not get Jobseeker’s Allowance because of being involved in a trade dispute, unless otherwise stated.

32669 – 32674

Conditions of entitlement

Members of a joint–claim couple who do not have to satisfy certain conditions of entitlement

32675 For **Jobseeker’s Allowance**, a member of a joint-claim couple who cannot or could not get Jobseeker’s Allowance because of being involved in a trade dispute does not have to satisfy certain conditions of entitlement if the other member of the couple is not also involved in a trade dispute1. The member involved in a trade dispute does not have to

**1.** be available for employment2

**2.** enter into a jobseeker’s agreement3

**3.** be actively seeking employment4

**4** be capable of work5

**5** live in Northern Ireland6.

The member involved in a trade dispute can be in relevant education7.

1 JSA Regs (NI), reg 3D(1)(c); Sch A1, para 17; JS (NI) Order 95, art 3(2B)(b);  
2 art 3(2)(a); 3 art 3(2)(b); 4 art 3(2)(c); 5 art 3(2)(f); 6 art 3(2)(i); 7 art 3(2)(g)

Treated as engaged in remunerative work

32676 For **Jobseeker’s Allowance**, partners or the other member of a joint claim couple who cannot or could not get Jobseeker’s Allowance because of being involved in a trade dispute are treated as engaged in remunerative work for seven days from the date

**1.** the stoppage of work at their place of work started **or**

**2.** they first withdrew their labour in furtherance of a trade dispute if there is no stoppage of work

if income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance was not awarded for the period immediately before they stopped work or withdrew their labour1.

1 JSA Regs (NI), reg 52(2) & (2A)

32677 For **Income Support**, claimants or partners who cannot or could not get Jobseeker’s Allowance because of being involved in a trade dispute are treated as engaged in remunerative work for seven days following the date

**1.** the stoppage of work at their place of work started **or**

**2.** they first withdrew their labour in furtherance of a trade dispute if there is no stoppage of work

if Income Support was not awarded for the period immediately before they stopped work or withdrew their labour1.

1 IS (Gen) Regs (NI), reg 5(4)

32678 Partners or member of a joint claim couple (income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance) or claimants or partners (Income Support) are treated as engaged in remunerative work for seven days each time they stop work or withdraw their labour. This does not apply if the stoppage or withdrawal

**1.** is part of a series of stoppages or withdrawals **and**

**2.** the same trade dispute is involved.

32679 For **Jobseeker’s Allowance**, the seven days starts with the first date of the first stoppage of work or withdrawal of labour if the stoppage or withdrawal

**1.** is part of a series **and**

**2.** involves the same trade dispute.

So claimants who stop work on Friday of each week because of the same trade dispute are treated as engaged in remunerative work for a period of seven days from the first Friday they stop work.

32680 For **Income Support**, the seven days start with the first date following the first stoppage of work or withdrawal of labour if the stoppage or withdrawal

1. is part of a series **and**
2. involves the same trade dispute.

So claimants who stop work on Friday of each week because of the same trade dispute are treated as engaged in remunerative work for a period of seven days from the Saturday following the first Friday they stop work.

Not treated as engaged in remunerative work

32681 Partners or a member of a joint-claim couple (income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance) or claimants or partners (Income Support) are not treated as engaged in remunerative work for any period when they cannot or could not get Jobseeker’s Allowance because of being involved in a trade dispute1. This does not apply to any period when

**1.** DMG 32675 - 32678 applies **or**

**2.** they do any other work and that work is remunerative work2 **or**

**3.** for **Income Support** they are treated as engaged in remunerative work because of their earnings3.

1 JSA Regs (NI), reg 53(g) & 53(gg); IS (Gen) Regs (NI), reg 6(4)(b);  
2 JSA Regs (NI), reg 51; IS (Gen) Regs (NI), reg 5; 3 reg 5(5)

Prescribed categories of person

32682 For **Income Support**, prescribed categories of person include claimants and partners

**1.** who cannot or could not get Jobseeker’s Allowance because of being involved in a trade dispute **and**

**2.** for 15 days from the date they return to work if they

**2.1** have returned to work for the same employer after a period when they cannot or would not get Jobseeker’s Allowance because of being involved in a trade dispute **and**

**2.2** are not in remunerative work (DMG 32757)1.

1 SS C&B (NI) Act 92, sec 123(1)(e); IS (Gen) Regs (NI), reg 4ZA & Sch 1B, para 20

32683 – 32684

Capital treated as income

Health and Social Services Board or Health and Social Services Trust payments

32685 A payment of capital made by the Health and Social Services Board or Health and Social Services Trust under the Children Order1 is not disregarded2. The payment is capital which is treated as income if paid to a person who cannot or could not get Jobseeker’s Allowance because of being involved in a trade dispute3.

1 Children (NI) Order 95, art 18, 34C, 34D, 35A;  
2 JSA Regs (NI), Sch 7, para 22; IS (Gen) Regs (NI), Sch 10, para 17;  
3 JSA Regs (NI), reg 104(3); IS (Gen) Regs (NI), reg 41(3)

32686 Capital treated as income is disregarded indefinitely when working out what capital a person has1.

1 JSA Regs (NI), reg 108(2) & Sch 7, para 25; IS (Gen) Regs (NI), reg 46(2) & Sch 10, para 20

32687 – 32689

Income not treated as capital

Advance of earnings or loan from employer

32690 An advance of earnings or a loan from an employer is income which is taken into account as income if the person receiving it

**1.** is employed as an employed earner by that employer **and**

**2.** cannot or could not get Jobseeker’s Allowance because of being involved in a trade dispute1.

1 JSA Regs (NI), reg 110(5) & (6); IS (Gen) Regs (NI), reg 48(5) & (6)

Charitable or voluntary payments

32691 A charitable or voluntary payment is income which is taken into account as income if it is

**1.** not made or due to be made regularly **and**

**2.** paid to people who cannot or could not get Jobseeker’s Allowance because of being involved in a trade dispute1.

For **Income Support**, this also applies if the payment is made to a member of the family of a person who cannot or could not get Jobseeker’s Allowance because of being involved in a trade dispute2.

1 JSA Regs (NI), reg 110(9) & (10)(a); IS (Gen) Regs (NI), reg 48(9) & (10)(a); 2 reg 48(9) & (10)(a)

Holiday pay

32692 Holiday pay which is payable more than four weeks after the end or interruption of employment is taken into account as earnings if it is paid to a person who cannot or could not get Jobseeker’s Allowance because of being involved in a trade dispute1.

1 JSA Regs (NI), reg 110(3) & 98(1)(c); IS (Gen) Regs (NI), reg 48(3) & 35(1)(d)

32693 – 32699

Applicable amount

Housing costs

32700 **[See ADM Memo 4/18]** A member of the family who is not involved in a trade dispute is treated as wholly responsible for any housing costs if the other members of the family are people who cannot or could not get Jobseeker’s Allowance because of being involved in a trade dispute. Housing costs are not payable if all members of the family are involved in a trade dispute1.

1 JSA Regs (NI), reg 83(f); reg 84(1)(g); Sch 2, para 2(2);  
IS (Gen) Regs (NI), reg 17(1)(e); reg 18(1)(f); Sch 3, para 2(2)

32701 – 32704

Income disregarded

Payments from trade union

32705 Payments made by a trade union in any one week and paid to a person who cannot or could not get Jobseeker’s Allowance because of being involved in a trade dispute are disregarded up to the amount of the

**1.** prescribed sum (Appendix 1) for **income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance** **and**

**2.** relevant sum (Appendix 2) for **Income Support**1.

**Note:** That for **Income Support**, a different disregard can apply2.

1 JSA Regs (NI), reg 103(2) & Sch 6, para 36;  
IS (Gen) Regs (NI), reg 40(2) & Sch 9, para 34; 2 Sch 9, para 34

32706 For **Income Support**, if the claimant and partner get a payment from a trade union in any one week the amount of the payment made to the partner which is disregarded is

**1.** nil if all of the relevant sum has been disregarded from the payment made to the claimant **or**

**2.** the difference between

**2.1** the relevant sum **and**

**2.2** the amount disregarded from the payment made to the claimant

if **1.** does not apply1.

1 IS (Gen) Regs (NI), Sch 9, para 34

32707 The disregard does not apply to any payments made by the trade union on behalf of another organisation. So the disregard would not apply to payments made

**1.** by the trade union **and**

**2.** from money given to the union by another organisation to pay to those members.

32708 – 32714

Income not disregarded

Charitable or voluntary payments

32715 £20 of a charitable or voluntary payment which is made or due to be made regularly is not disregarded when working out what income a claimant has if it is paid to a person who cannot or could not get Jobseeker’s Allowance because of being involved in a trade dispute1.

1 JSA Regs (NI), reg 103(2) & Sch 6, para 15(3)(b)(i); IS (Gen) Regs (NI), reg 40(2) & Sch 9, para 15(3)(b)

32716 For **income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance**, £20 of a charitable or voluntary payment which is made or due to be made regularly is not disregarded if

**1.** it is paid to a member of the family of a person who cannot or could not get Jobseeker’s Allowance because of being involved in a trade dispute **and**

**2.** the payment is made because that person is involved in a trade dispute1.

1 JSA Regs (NI), reg 103(2) & Sch 6, para 15(3)(b)(ii)

Income in kind

32717 Income in kind is not disregarded when working out what income a claimant has if the payment in kind is made to a person who cannot or could not get Jobseeker’s Allowance because of being involved in a trade dispute1.

1 JSA Regs (NI), reg 103(2) & Sch 6, para 22(1)(a); IS (Gen) Regs (NI), reg 40(2) & Sch 9, para 21(1)

32718 For **income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance** income in kind is not disregarded if

**1.** the payment in kind is made to a member of the family of a person who cannot or could not get Jobseeker’s Allowance because of being involved in a trade dispute **and**

**2.** the payment is made because that person is involved in a trade dispute1.

1 JSA Regs (NI), reg 103(2) & Sch 6, para 22(1)(b)

32719 DMG 32717 and DMG 32718 do not apply if the payment in kind is made under the

**1.** Macfarlane Trust **or**

**2.** Macfarlane (Special Payments) Trust **or**

**3.** Macfarlane (Special Payments) (No. 2) Trust **or**

**4.** Fund **or**

**5.** Eileen Trust **or**

**6.** Independent Living Funds1.

1 JSA Regs (NI), reg 103(2) & Sch 6, para 22(2); IS (Gen) Regs (NI), reg 40(2) & Sch 9, para 21(2)

32720 The decision maker should work out the value of any payment in kind.

Health and Social Services Board or Health and Social Services Trust payments

32721 A payment of income made by the Health and Social Services Board or Health and Social Services Trusts under the Children Order1 is not disregarded when working out what income a claimant has if it is paid to a person who cannot or could not get Jobseeker’s Allowance because of being involved in a trade dispute2. See DMG 32685 - 32686 if a payment of capital is made by the Health and Social Services Board or Health and Social Services Trusts.

1 Children (NI) Order 95, art 18, 34C, 34D, 35A;  
2 JSA Regs (NI), reg 103(2) & Sch 6, para 29; IS (Gen) Regs (NI), reg 40(2) & Sch 9, para 28

32722 – 32724

Notional income

About the guidance

32725 This guidance applies to payments in kind made to a third party. It does not apply if the payment in kind is made to a third party under the

**1.** Macfarlane Trust **or**

**2.** Macfarlane (Special Payments) Trust **or**

**3.** Macfarlane (Special Payments) (No. 2) Trust **or**

**4.** Fund **or**

**5.** Eileen Trust **or**

**6.** Independent Living Funds1.

1 JSA Regs (NI), reg 105(10); IS (Gen) Regs (NI), reg 42(4)

Payment of benefit or pension in kind

32726 People who cannot or could not get Jobseeker’s Allowance because of being involved in a trade dispute are treated as having as income a payment in kind if the

**1.** payment in kind is

**1.1** made under social security law1 **or**

**1.2** war disablement pension **or**

**1.3** war widow’s pension **or**

**1.4** war widower’s pension **and**

**2.** payment

**2.1** is made to a third party for the person involved in a trade dispute **and**

**2.2** for **income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance**, would normally be made to that person **and**

**2.3** for **Income Support**, is not for a member of the third party’s family2.

1 JS (NI) Order 95; SS C&B (NI) Act 92; 2 JSA Regs (NI), reg 105(10)(a)(i); IS (Gen) Regs (NI), reg 42(4)(a)(i)

Payment in kind not benefit or pension

32727 People who cannot or could not get Jobseeker’s Allowance because of being involved in a trade dispute are treated as having as income a payment in kind if the

**1.** payment in kind is not

**1.1** made under social security law1 **or**

**1.2** war disablement pension **or**

**1.3** war widow’s pension **or**

**1.4** war widower’s pension **and**

**2.** payment

**2.1** is made to a third party for the person involved in a trade dispute **and**

**2.2** for **Income Support**, is not for a member of the third party’s family **and**

**3.** the payment in kind

**3.1** is

**3.1.a** food **or**

**3.1.b** ordinary clothing or footwear **or**

**3.1.c** household fuel

which is used by the person involved in a trade dispute or any member of that person’s family **or**

**3.2** is used to pay

**3.2.a** for household fuel **or**

**3.2.b** rent and in Income Support cases only rates for which housing benefit is payable **or**

**3.2.c** housing costs which are included in the applicable amount

which the person involved in a trade dispute or any member of that person’s family has to pay2.

1 JS (NI) Order 95; SS C&B (NI) Act 92  
2 JSA Regs (NI), reg 105(10)(a)(ii); IS (Gen) Regs (NI), reg 42(4)(a)(ii)

32728 The income the person involved in a trade dispute is treated as having is the

**1.** value of the food, clothing, footwear or household fuel **or**

**2.** cost of household fuel bought with the payment in kind **or**

**3.** the amount of rent, rates, housing costs, paid for with the payment in kind1.

The decision maker should work out the value of food, clothing, footwear or household fuel.

1 JSA Regs (NI), reg 105(10)(a)(ii); IS (Gen) Regs (NI), reg 42(4)(a)(ii)

**Example**

Robert is a pensioner. He receives a food parcel each week from a local pensioner’s club. The food collected is for the people who are on strike at a local factory. His daughter Lulu lives with him. She is one of the strikers and the parcel is for her.

The food is used by Lulu, her husband, their children and her father.

The cost of the food in the parcel if bought at the local supermarket is £20.00. Robert uses a fifth of the food from the parcel.

Robert also receives £5.00 vouchers each week which have to be used to pay his electricity bills. The vouchers are for Lulu because she is on strike and cannot afford to pay her father anything towards the electricity bills he has to pay.

Lulu cannot get Jobseeker’s Allowance because she is involved in a trade dispute. Her husband is getting Jobseeker’s Allowance.

The decision maker decides Lulu is treated as having notional income of £16.00 because

1. she cannot get Jobseeker’s Allowance because she is involved in a trade dispute **and**
2. the food parcel is a payment in kind made to her through a third party, her father which is for her **and**
3. the food parcel it is not a payment of benefit under social security law, war disablement pension or war widow’s pension or war widower’s pension.
4. The food parcel is made up of food given by local people **and**
5. some of the food is used by Lulu, her husband and their children **and**
6. amount of notional income is the value of the food used by Lulu, her husband and their children, which is 4/5 of £20.00 = £16.00.

Lulu is not treated as having notional income of £5.00 for the vouchers because her father and not Lulu has to pay the electricity bills.

Meaning of ordinary clothing or footwear

32729 Ordinary clothing or footwear means clothing or footwear for normal daily use but not

**1.** school uniforms **or**

**2.** clothing or footwear used only for sporting activities1.

1 JSA Regs (NI), reg 105(17); IS (Gen) Regs (NI), reg 42(10)

32730 Ordinary clothing or footwear for normal daily use is what people in general wear on a daily basis. So it does not include clothing or footwear which

**1.** people in general do not wear, such as orthopaedic shoes a disabled person might wear **or**

**2.** is not worn on a daily basis, such as wellington boots.

Payment made to person involved in a trade dispute

32731 People who cannot or could not get Jobseeker's Allowance because of being involved in a trade dispute are treated as having as income a payment in kind which is

**1.** made to them **and**

**2.** for a third party, but not if the third party is the claimant or any member of that claimant’s family1.

1 JSA Regs (NI), reg 105(10)(b); IS (Gen) Regs (NI), reg 42(4)(b)

32732 The income people involved in a trade dispute are treated as having is the value of the payment in kind

**1.** kept by them **or**

**2.** used by them **or**

**3.** used by them for the claimant or any member of the claimant's family1.

The decision maker should work out the value of the payment in kind which is kept or used.

1 JSA Regs (NI), reg 105(10)(b); IS (Gen) Regs (NI), reg 42(4)(b)

32733 – 32744

When Income Support is paid

32745 Income Support is paid in advance to claimants who cannot or could not get Jobseeker's Allowance because of being involved in a trade dispute

**1.** are getting Retirement Pension1 **or**

**2.** are over pension age and they

**2.1** are not getting Incapacity Benefit or Severe Disablement Allowance **and**

**2.2** were getting Income Support before the trade dispute2 **or**

**3.** are getting Widows Benefit and they

**3.1** are not supplying **and**

**3.2** do not have to supply

evidence that they are incapable of work3.

If this does not apply Income Support is paid in arrears4.

1 SS (C&P) Regs (NI), reg 26(1) & Sch 7, para 2(a); 2 reg 26(1) & Sch 7, para 2(b);  
3 reg 26(1) & Sch 7, para 2(c); 4 reg 26(1) & Sch 7, para 1

32746 – 32749

When the award ends

32750 An award ends if the conditions of entitlement are not met or income is more than the applicable amount or capital exceeds the prescribed amount. The award income-based Jobseeker's Allowance or Income Support if

**1.** the claimant is a member of a married or unmarried couple **and**

**2.** the partner income-based Jobseeker's Allowance or the claimant or partner Income Support cannot or could not get Jobseeker's Allowance because of being involved in a trade dispute when the claim was made **and**

**3.** the person involved in a trade dispute returns to work for the same employer1.

**Note:** This applies even if the work the person returns to is not remunerative.

1 SS (C&P) Regs (NI), reg 17(1)(A)

32751 – 32754

Special rules - return to work

General

About the guidance

32755 This guidance sets out the special rules which apply to decide what Income Support claimants can get when claimants or partners return to work for the same employer after being involved in a trade dispute. There are no special rules for income-based Jobseeker's Allowance.

When the rules apply

32756 Special rules apply for 15 days from the date claimants or partners return to work if

**1.** they have returned to work for the same employer after being involved in a trade dispute even if the dispute has not ended **and**

**2.** the decision maker has considers claimants or partners

**2.1** were not incapable of work (DMG 32510 - 32514) or in the maternity period (DMG 32530 - 32534) **and**

**2.2** cannot or could not get Jobseeker's Allowance because of being involved in a trade dispute (DMG 32550 - 32554) immediately before they returned to work **and**

**3.** they are not in remunerative work1.

1 SS C&B (NI) Act 92, sec 126(a) & (b)

Not in remunerative work

32757 People are not in remunerative work for 15 days from the date they return to work if they

**1.** return to work for the same employer after being involved in a trade dispute **and**

**2.** are a member of a couple and the other member is not in remunerative work1.

1 SS C&B (NI) Act 92, sec 126(b)

Assuming the applicable amount

32758 Decision makers cannot assume the applicable amount is reduced or disregarded if they cannot decide immediately whether claimants or partners were involved in a trade dispute before the return to work. Such an assumption can only be made if claimants or partners have not returned to work (DMG 32580 - 32584).

32759 – 32779

Special rules

Prescribed categories of person

32780 Prescribed categories of person include clients and partners

**1.** who cannot or could not get Jobseeker's Allowance because of being involved in a trade dispute **and**

**2.** for 15 days from the date they return to work if they

**2.1** have returned to work for the same employer after a period when they cannot or could not get Jobseeker's Allowance because of being involved in a trade dispute **and**

**2.2** are not in remunerative work (DMG 32757)1.

1 SS C&B (NI) Act 92, sec 123(1)(e); IS (Gen) Regs (NI), reg 4ZA & Sch 1B, para 20

Capital treated as income

32781 A payment of capital made by the Health and Social Services Board and Health and Social Services Trusts under the Children Order1 is not disregarded2. The payment is capital which is treated as income if it is paid

**1.** to claimants or partners who have returned to work for the same employer after a period when they cannot or could not get Jobseeker's Allowance because of being involved in a trade dispute **and**

**2.** during the 15 day period starting with the date they return to work3.

See DMG 32788 if a payment of income is made by the Health and Social Services Board and Health and Social Services Trusts.

1 Children (NI) Order 95, art 18, 34C, 34D, 35A;  
2 JSA Regs (NI), Sch 7, para 22; IS (Gen) Regs (NI), Sch 10, para 17;  
3 JSA Regs (NI), reg 104(3); IS (Gen) Regs (NI), reg 41(3)

32782 A refund of tax which

**1.** claimants or partners have been paid under the pay as you earn scheme **and**

**2.** is paid to them during the 15 day period starting with the date they return to work after being involved in a trade dispute

is capital which is taken into account as income1.

1 IS (Gen) Regs (NI), reg 41(4)

32783 Capital which is treated as income is disregarded indefinitely when working out what capital a person has1.

1 IS (Gen) Regs (NI), reg 46(2) & Sch 10, para 20

Income not treated as capital

32784 An advance of earnings or a loan from an employer is income which is taken into account as income if given

**1.** to claimants or partners who have returned to work for the same employer after a period when they cannot or could not get Jobseeker’s Allowance because of being involved in a trade dispute **and**

**2.** during the 15 day period starting with the date they return to work1.

1 IS (Gen) Regs (NI), reg 48(5) & (6)

32785 A charitable or voluntary payment is income which is taken into account as income if it is

**1.** not made or due to be made regularly **and**

**2.** paid to

**2.1** claimants or partners who have returned to work for the same employer after a period when they cannot or could not get Jobseeker’s Allowance because of being involved in a trade dispute **or**

**2.2** a member of their family **and**

**3.** paid during the 15 day period starting with the date claimants or partners return to work1.

1 IS (Gen) Regs (NI), reg 48(9) & (10)(a)

32786 Holiday pay which is payable more than four weeks after the end or interruption of employment is taken into account as earnings if it is paid

1. to claimants or partners who have returned to work for the same employer after a period when they cannot or could not get Jobseeker’s Allowance because of being involved in a trade dispute **and**

**2.** during the 15 day period starting with the date they return to work1.

1 IS (Gen) Regs (NI), reg 48(3) & 35(1)(d)

Income not disregarded

32787 £20 of a charitable or voluntary payment which is made or due to be made regularly is not disregarded when working out what income a claimant has if it is paid

**1.** to claimants or partners who have returned to work for the same employer after a period when they cannot or could not get Jobseeker’s Allowance because of being involved in a trade dispute **and**

**2.** during the 15 day period starting with the date they return to work1.

1 IS (Gen) Regs (NI), reg 40(2) & Sch 9, para 15(3)(b)

32788 A payment of income made by the Health and Social Services Board or Health and Social Services Trusts under child care law1 is not disregarded when working out what income a claimant has if it is paid

**1.** to claimants or partners who have returned to work for the same employer after a period when they cannot or could not get Jobseeker’s Allowance because of being involved in a trade dispute **and**

**2.** during the 15 day period starting with the date they return to work2.

See also DMG 32781 if a payment of capital is made by the Health and Social Services Board or Health and Social Services Trusts.

1 Children (NI) Order 95, art 18, 34C, 34D, 35A;  
2 IS (Gen) Regs (NI), reg 40(2) & Sch 9, para 28

Amount of Income Support

32789 The amount of Income Support which is paid is

**1.** nil if

**1.1** the amount awarded by the decision maker is less than £5 **and**

**1.2** Income Support is not paid with another benefit, such as Retirement Pension1 **or**

**2.** the amount awarded if **1.** does not apply.

1 SS (C&P) Regs (NI), reg 26(4)

When Income Support is paid

32790 Income Support is paid

**1.** in advance only for the 15 day period if claimants have returned to work for the same employer after a period when they cannot or could not get Jobseeker's Allowance because of being involved in a trade dispute1 **or**

**2.** in advance if

**2.1** DMG 32745 **1.**, **2.** or **3.** applies to the claimant2 **and**

**2.2** the claimant has not returned to work for the same employer after a period when the claimant cannot or could not get Jobseeker’s Allowance because of being involved in a trade dispute **or**

**3.** in arrears if **1.** and **2.** do not apply3.

1 SS (C&P) Regs (NI) reg 26(1) & Sch 7, para 2(d); 2 reg 26(1); Sch 7, para 2(a), 2(b) & 2(c);  
3 reg 26(1) & Sch 7, para 1

32791 – 32809

Recoverable Income Support

General

32810 Any Income Support paid for the 15 day period is recoverable as it is awarded because claimants or partners return to work for the same employer after a period when they cannot or could not get Jobseeker’s Allowance because of being involved in a trade dispute. The Income Support paid is recoverable from

**1.** the claimant **or**

**2.** the other member of a couple if the claimant is a member of such a couple1.

1 SS C&B (NI) Act 92, sec 126(c)

Deduction from earnings

32811 The Department can recover by deductions from earnings any Income Support which is recoverable. A deduction notice is sent to the employer which includes details of the recoverable amount and the protected earnings. The protected earnings is the amount of earnings below which the employer cannot make a deduction. The decision maker decides the protected earnings1.

1 SS (POR) Regs (NI), Part VIII

Protected earnings

32812 The decision maker should decide the amount of the protected earnings if Income Support is awarded for the 15 day period and include in the decision

**1.** the amount of Income Support awarded **and**

**2.** a statement which says

**2.1** any Income Support paid on the award is recoverable **and**

**2.2** why it is recoverable (DMG 32810)1 **and**

**3.** the amount of the protected earnings **and**

**4.** a statement which tells claimants that they should2 tell the Department within ten working days of2

**4.1** stopping work - their address and the date they stopped work if

**4.1.a** a deduction notice has been sent to their employer **and**

**4.1.b** all of the Income Support which was paid on the award for the 15 day period has not been paid back **and**

**4.2** starting remunerative work again - their employer’s name and address if they start work for the employer in **4.1** or some other employer3.

1 SS C&B (NI) Act 92, sec 126; 2 SS (POR) Regs (NI), reg 28; 3 reg 19(1) & (2)

32813 The protected earnings is £27 plus the claimants weekly applicable amount less any

**1.** housing costs and transitional element included in the applicable amount **and**

**2.** Child Benefit which is taken into account when working out the claimant’s income1.

1 SS (POR) Regs (NI), reg 19(3), (4) & (5)

32814 The decision maker can revise or supersede the protected earnings if the original decision

**1.** is not legally correct **or**

**2.** was made in ignorance of a material fact **or**

**3.** is based on a material fact which is not correct.

Income Support increased

32815 The award of Income Support for the 15 day period may be increased on

**1.** revision/supersession by a decision maker or a tribunal **or**

**2.** appeal to the Social Security Commissioner or Court of Appeal or House of Lords.

32816 If the award of Income Support is increased the decision at DMG 32812 should be read as if the

**1.** amount of Income Support awarded on revision/supersession or appeal is the recoverable amount **and**

**2.** protected earnings is the figure produced if those earnings are revised/ superseded1.

1 SS (POR) Regs (NI), reg 23

32817 The decision maker should revise or superseded the protected earnings if the reasons for the increased award of Income Support are also grounds to revise or supersede the protected earnings (DMG 32814).

32818 – 32999

Appendix 1

Prescribed sum

**From £**

7.10.96 26.00

then from the first day of the first benefit week (see   
DMG 25052) on or after

7.4.97 26.50

6.4.98 27.00

12.4.99 27.50

10.4.00 28.00

9.4.01 28.50

8.4.02 29.00

7.4.03 29.50

12.4.04 30.00

11.4.05 30.50

10.4.06 31.00

9.4.07 32.00

Appendix 2

Relevant sum

**From £**

the first day of the first benefit week (see DMG 25053) on or after

11.4.88 17.70

10.4.89 18.50

9.4.90 19.50

8.4.91 21.00

6.4.92 22.50

12.4.93 23.50

11.4.94 24.50

10.4.95 25.00

8.4.96 26.00

7.4.97 26.50

6.4.98 27.00

12.4.99 27.50

10.4.00 28.00

9.4.01 28.50

8.4.02 29.00

7.4.03 29.50

12.4.04 30.00

11.4.05 30.50

10.4.06 31.00

9.4.07 32.00