

UNIVERSAL CREDIT – RECIPROCAL ARRANGEMENTS WITH GREAT BRITAIN

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INTRODUCTION

1. This memo gives guidance on the Universal Credit (Great Britain Reciprocal Arrangements) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020¹. These regulations came into force on 24.7.20.

1 UC (GB Reciprocal Arrangements) Regs (NI) 2020

THE RECIPROCAL ARRANGEMENTS

2. These are reciprocal arrangements for Universal Credit between Northern Ireland and Great Britain (known as territories) and cover claimants moving from one territory to another. Parallel regulations are in place for Great Britain¹.

1 UC (NI Reciprocal Arrangements) Regulations 2020

3. Acts, omissions or events having effect in Northern Ireland or Great Britain for the purposes of the relevant legislation are to have corresponding effect in the other territory and in particular
 1. a claim for Universal Credit made in Northern Ireland or Great Britain has effect as if made in the other territory
 2. residence, presence or employment in Northern Ireland or Great Britain will have effect as if it were residence, presence or employment in the other territory

3. any period time served for any purpose in Northern Ireland or Great Britain has effect as if it were served for a corresponding purpose in the other territory¹.

1 UC (GB Reciprocal Arrangements) Regs (NI) 2020, Schedule, paragraph 2

4. A decision made in Northern Ireland or Great Britain can be revised, superseded or heard on appeal in whichever of the two territories the claimant is in¹.

1 UC (GB Reciprocal Arrangements) Regs (NI) 2020, Schedule, paragraph 3

Example

A person claims Universal Credit whilst in Northern Ireland but is disallowed. That person moves to Great Britain and appeals that decision. The appeal can be heard in Great Britain.

5. For a revision, supersession or appeal to take place in the other territory, the person must be “in” that territory. A casual presence is not enough¹.

1 R(S) 5/85

6. If the person is not “in” that territory, the revision, supersession or appeal must be decided in the territory the original decision was made.
7. None of the above shall confer a right to double benefit¹.

1 UC (GB Reciprocal Arrangements) Regs (NI) 2020, Schedule, paragraph 4

ANNOTATIONS

Please annotate the number of this memo (ADM Memo 16/20) against the following ADM paragraph:

C1001

CONTACTS

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