

National Insurance Contributions (Rate Ceilings) Bill

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Explanatory notes to the Bill, prepared by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, are published separately as Bill 54 – EN.

EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer has made the following statement under section 19(1)(a) of the Human Rights Act 1998:

In my view the provisions of the National Insurance Contributions (Rate Ceilings) Bill are compatible with the Convention rights.

National Insurance Contributions (Rate Ceilings) Bill

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TO

Set a ceiling on the main and additional primary percentages, the secondary percentage and the upper earnings limit in relation to Class 1 national insurance contributions.

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen’s most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

Rate ceilings

1 Main and additional primary percentages

- (1) In relation to primary Class 1 contributions payable in respect of any period in a tax year to which this section applies –
- (a) the main primary percentage shall not exceed 12%, and 5
 - (b) the additional primary percentage shall not exceed 2%.
- (2) This section applies to a tax year which begins after the day on which this Act comes into force but before the date of the first parliamentary general election after that day.
- (3) In this section, “main primary percentage” and “additional primary percentage” are to be construed in accordance with section 8(2)(a) and (b) of SSCBA 1992 and SSCB(NI)A 1992. 10

2 Secondary percentage

- (1) In relation to secondary Class 1 contributions payable in respect of any period in a tax year to which this section applies, the secondary percentage shall not exceed 13.8%. 15
- (2) This section applies to a tax year which begins after the day on which this Act comes into force but before the date of the first parliamentary general election after that day.
- (3) In this section, “secondary percentage” is to be construed in accordance with section 9(2) of SSCBA 1992 and SSCB(NI)A 1992. 20

3 Upper earnings limit

- (1) The upper earnings limit specified in regulations under section 5(1) of SSCBA 1992 and SSCB(NI)A 1992 for any tax year to which this section applies shall not exceed the weekly equivalent of the proposed higher rate threshold for that tax year. 5
- (2) This section applies to a tax year –
- (a) which begins after the day on which this Act comes into force but before the date of the first parliamentary general election after that day, and
 - (b) for which income tax is charged. 10
- (3) For the purposes of this section, the “proposed higher rate threshold” for a tax year is the sum of –
- (a) the basic rate limit for income tax for the tax year as proposed in the pre-budget proposals for that year, and
 - (b) the personal allowance for income tax for the tax year as so proposed. 15
- (4) For the purposes of this section, the weekly equivalent of a proposed higher rate threshold for a tax year is the amount produced by dividing that threshold by 52 and rounding up or down to the nearest pound.
- (5) In this section “pre-budget proposals” means the government’s pre-budget fiscal proposals for a tax year which are contained in a document presented to Parliament by the Chancellor of the Exchequer by Command of Her Majesty. 20

Final

4 Interpretation

In this Act –

“SSCBA 1992” means the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992; 25

“SSCB(NI)A 1992” means the Social Security Contributions and Benefits (Northern Ireland) Act 1992.

5 Extent, commencement and short title

- (1) This Act extends to England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. 30
- (2) This Act comes into force on the day on which it is passed.
- (3) This Act may be cited as the National Insurance Contributions (Rate Ceilings) Act 2015.

National Insurance Contributions (Rate Ceilings) Bill

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B I L L

To set a ceiling on the main and additional primary percentages, the secondary percentage and the upper earnings limit in relation to Class 1 national insurance contributions.

*Presented by Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer
supported by
The Prime Minister,
Secretary Iain Duncan Smith,
Secretary Sajid Javid, Greg Hands,
Mr David Gauke, Damian Hinds and
Harriett Baldwin.*

*Ordered, by The House of Commons,
to be Printed, 14th July 2015.*

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