

New 65-year old benefit allows 'subsidiary employment'

COLMAN HIGGINS

The ability to continue in 'subsidiary employment' is included in the rules for payment of the new 65 year old benefit to bridge the pension 'age gap' to 66.

Operational guidelines for the new payment were published by the Department of Social Protection last week, following the introduction of the payment earlier this year, at the same rate as the standard jobseeker rate (*see IRN 06/2021*).

While those receiving the payment are required to have ceased employment or self-employment, including part-time or casual work, they are permitted to continue working in a "subsidiary employment".

Subsidiary employment is defined as one that "could ordinarily have been followed by them in addition to their usual employment" and "could ordinarily have been followed by them outside the ordinary working hours of their usual employment".

Also, the remuneration or profit from this subsidiary employment cannot exceed €7,500 on an annual basis or €144 on a weekly basis.

The guidelines add: "In general, it would be deemed appropriate to consider an occupation/employment as subsidiary where the above conditions are satisfied and where both employments were carried out concurrently for a period of approximately 6 months immediately prior to the date of claim."

Those in receipt of the new benefit are no longer required to be available for full-time work and are no longer required to sign on the Live Register or engage in labour activation (unless they choose to). They can also participate in a course of education.