

A REPORT ON DECISIONS TAKEN DURING MAY 2019 BY NORTHERN IRELAND DEPARTMENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GUIDANCE ISSUED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND (EXECUTIVE FORMATION AND EXERCISE OF FUNCTIONS) ACT 2018

On 5 November 2018 the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, in accordance with section 3(2) of the Northern Ireland (Executive Formation and Exercise of Functions) Act 2018, published guidance about the exercise of the functions of Northern Ireland departments during the period for Executive Formation. This guidance requires Northern Ireland departments to prepare a monthly summary report of decisions taken by senior officials using the guidance and to share this with the Secretary of State, who will in turn promptly make it available to Parliament and to the Northern Ireland political parties.

This Summary Report has been prepared by the Executive Office and provides information on the decisions taken by Northern Ireland departments in May 2019.

Decisions Taken by Northern Ireland Departments: May 2019

Department	Description
The Executive Office	A decision was taken to appoint a Chair and eight board members to the Community Relations Council for a three year period from 31 May 2019.
Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs	A decision was taken to extend the TB Eradication Partnership and to further extend the current tenure of the Chair and four members for a period of one year to 1 June 2020.
	A decision was taken to launch a public consultation on proposals to introduce vessel monitoring systems and catch recording for inshore sea fishing vessels.

A decision was taken to undertake an informal engagement with key external stakeholders on the draft DAERA Science Strategy.

A decision was taken that, in the continued absence of Ministers, DAERA should not make any direct financial payment to farmers affected by the flooding incident in August 2017.

**Department
For
Communities**

The following decisions were taken in relation to public appointments:

- To appoint a Chair and six members to the Ministerial Advisory Group for Architecture and the Built Environment for a four year term from 1 June 2019; to extend the appointments of two members for one month beginning on 1 May 2019; and to reappoint two members for a second term of four years from 1 June 2019;
- To reappoint seven councillors to the Board of Libraries NI for a second term from 2 May 2019 for four years, or until the date of the next Local Government Election; and
- To appoint the Chief Commissioner for the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland for a third term of two months beginning 1 June 2019; to appoint one Commissioner for a five year term beginning on 1 June 2019 and one Commissioner for a five year term beginning on 1 July 2019.

A decision was taken to extend the Social Fund loans write-off policy to maintain parity with GB in line with section 87 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.

A decision was taken to make The Occupational and Personal Pension Schemes (Investment and Disclosure) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019 to implement provisions of the Shareholders' Rights EU Directive 2017-18, ensuring the maintenance of a single system of pensions across GB and

Northern Ireland in line with section 87 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.

Decisions were taken to enable Newry, Mourne and Down District Council to dispose of, by way of a lease: property at Castlewellan Community Centre, ensuring the maintenance of sustainable and efficient public services; and land situated at Ballyholland to Ballyholland Harps GAC, consistent with the previous decisions of Ministers with responsibility for Local Government.

**Department
for the
Economy**

A decision was taken to fund InterTradeIreland's Innova Programme Phase III. This is an all-island programme which seeks to encourage businesses to engage in collaborative Research, Development, and Innovation on a cross-border basis. The Department for the Economy will provide funding of £1.8 million towards a total project cost of £10.4 million.

**Department of
Education**

Four decisions were taken on published Development Proposals seeking changes to the design of education provision. Three of the decisions approve increases to admission and enrolment numbers at Birches Primary School, Co Armagh; Belfast Model School for Girls; and Belfast Boys' Model School, to meet current and anticipated future demand for places. A decision was also taken to establish 26 additional part-time nursery places at Mill Strand Integrated Primary School in Portrush. All decisions are to have effect from 1 September 2019 or as soon as possible thereafter.

A decision was taken to grant additional places outside of the Temporary Variation Policy to maximise the number of children placed during the transfer procedure which concluded on 31 May 2019.

A decision was made to launch a public consultation on changes to the Supporting Newcomer Pupils policy. The consultation will run from 18 June until 15 October 2019 to accommodate responses from school leaders before and after the summer holiday period.

**Department of
Finance**

A decision was taken to make the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019 (SR 2019 No.76). These regularise the charging of fees for the lodgement of Energy Performance Certificates (EPC) and other documents onto the Northern Ireland domestic and non-domestic EPC registers.

Decisions were taken to appoint a chair to the Northern Ireland Building Regulations Committee (NIBRAC) for a period of 3 years from 15 April 2019; and to make two appointments to the Board of the Northern Ireland Authority for Utility Regulation, effective from 1 May 2019 for a term of 7 years.

**Department of
Health**

A decision was taken to make changes to the infant pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (pcv13®) schedule), reducing from three to two the number of doses of the vaccine given to infants as part of the childhood vaccination schedule, as recommended by The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI).

A decision was taken to formally approve and adopt the HSC Performance Management Framework. This sets out the direction of travel for the introduction of enhanced performance management arrangements to address a number of key issues fundamental to improving performance across the HSC.

A decision was taken to agree to the British Pharmacopoeia Commission arranging publication of British Pharmacopoeia publications. The British Pharmacopoeia provides authoritative official standards for pharmaceutical substances and medicinal products and makes an important contribution to protecting public health by setting publicly available standards for the quality of medicines.

A decision was taken to approve the Project Initiation Document and Project Board in respect of the development and consideration of options for a redress scheme for the patients of a consultant neurologist at the Belfast HSC Trust who have suffered harm as a result of misdiagnosis or incorrect treatment.

A decision was taken to make The Firefighters' Pension Scheme (Amendment and Transitional Provisions) Order (NI) 2019 which amends the Firefighters' Pension Scheme Order (NI) 2007. This aligns with similar changes that have been introduced to firefighters' pensions in GB to address potential age discrimination as a result of the introduction of the Employment Equality (Age) Regulations (NI) 2006.

Decisions were taken to approve the requests made by the Foods Standards Agency Chair (as required under the Food Standards Act 1999), to appoint:

- A new Chief Executive of the Food Standards Agency;
- A new Chair of the Advisory Committee on the Microbiological Safety of Food (ACMSF); and
- Eleven experts, five to the ACMSF; and six to the Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes (ACNFP).

The following decisions were taken in relation to public appointments:

- The reappointment of five Belfast Health and Social Care Trust Non-Executive Directors; and three NI Ambulance Service Non-Executive Directors, in order to ensure that quorums could be met and that the governance and accountability of the organisations is not compromised; and
- A 12 month extension to the term of the Non-Executive Chair of the Public Health Agency, whose 1st term of appointment ended on 31 May 2019. This extension was required to allow the Department to hold a competition for a new Non-Executive Chair.

Department for Infrastructure A decision was taken to amend Article 98A of the 1981 Road Traffic (NI) Order through inclusion in a statutory instrument by the Department for Transport (DfT). The amendment has the effect of ensuring that NI has met the provisions of the EU Motor Insurance Directive (2009/103/EC).

A decision was taken to initiate a recruitment competition for four public appointments to the Board of Londonderry Port and Harbour Commissioners.

A decision was taken to make The Dundrod Circuit (Admission Charges) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019, to provide for an increase in the fee for the spectator badge on the Dundrod Circuit. The Regulations were made on 18 June 2019 in order to be in place before the Ulster Grand Prix Bike Week which takes place on 8, 9 and 11 August 2019.

Decisions were taken to make The Road Races (Enniskillen Motorcycle Road Race) Order (Northern Ireland) 2019 and The

Road Races (Cairncastle Hill Climb) Order (Northern Ireland) 2019. These Orders were made on 5 June 2019 and will authorise the closing of specified public roads and permit their use for road racing on the days and during the times specified. The Orders also specify conditions which apply in respect of these road closures.

**Department of
Justice**

A decision was taken to increase the membership of the Mental Health Review Tribunal (MHRT) from 28 to 46 members. This is due to the partial commencement of the Mental Capacity Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 for the purpose of Deprivation of Liberty applications.

A decision was taken to consult on Technical Amendments to Legal Aid Remuneration.

The following decisions were taken in relation to public appointments:

- To appoint a member to the Northern Ireland Judicial Pension Board and Scheme Advisory Board;
- To initiate an appointment process for the post of Chief Inspector of Criminal Justice;
- To extend the post of the medically qualified member of the Appeals Tribunal for one year;
- To appoint a Chair and three Board Members to the Police Rehabilitation and Retraining Trust (PRRT); and
- To extend the appointment of a member of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Panel for one year.