**A REPORT ON DECISIONS TAKEN DURING AUGUST 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 August 2019.

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| **Decisions Taken by Northern Ireland Departments: August 2019**  |
| **Department** | **Description**  |
| **The Executive Office** | A decision was taken to extend the terms of appointment of the Chair and two Non-Executive Directors of the Strategic Investment Board for a 12 month period from 23 September 2019. |
| **Department** **of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs**  | A decision was taken to launch a public consultation on a proposed DAERA Science Strategy Framework.  |
| A decision was taken to proceed with an inter-departmental consultation exercise on a draft Clean Air Strategy for Northern Ireland, to be followed by the launch of a public discussion document. |
|  | A decision was taken to launch a public discussion document on the proposed Environment Strategy for Northern Ireland. |
|  | A decision was taken to progress and implement the Department’s Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication Strategy proposals, in relation to the four thematic areas of management: oversight and partnership working; tools and processes; herd health management; and research. |
|  | A decision was taken to initiate the disposal of approximately 17.7 hectares of surplus DAERA Forest Service land at Fews Forest, Co Armagh. |
|  | A decision was taken to extend the appointments of the Chair, Deputy Chair and seven members of the Council for Nature Conservation and the Countryside (CNCC) for a further period of six months in line with CPANI’s Code of Practice. This will extend the tenure of the Chair and seven Council members to 29 February 2020 and the Deputy Chair to 30 April 2020.  |
| **Department for Communities** | Decisions were taken to revoke and remake The Pension Schemes Act 2015 (Judicial Pensions) (Consequential Provision No. 2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019 and The Pension Schemes Act 2015 (Transitional Provisions and Appropriate Independent Advice) (Amendment No. 2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019, to ensure the UK-wide judicial pensions scheme remains compatible with Northern Ireland law. |
|  | A decision was taken to revoke The Local Government (Payments to Councillors) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012 and to make The Local Government (Payments to Councillors) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019.  |
|  | A decision was taken, in line with the Code of Practice on the management of records issued under Section 46 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, to release 530 Northern Ireland Office 1995 files in full, to redact 172 files before release and to hold 45 files for a longer period. |
|  | A decision was taken to provide a guarantee to the Northern Ireland Local Government Officers’ Superannuation Committee in respect of the pension liabilities of SportNI, in case of default. |
| **Department** **for the Economy** | A decision was taken to introduce The Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019. These Regulations revoke and supersede the Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2001.  |
| **Department of Finance** | A decision was taken to allocate additional funding to departments for No Deal Brexit preparation measures. Departments were notified and funding will be confirmed as part of the next 2019-20 financial exercise. |
| **Department of Health** | A decision was taken to proceed with the replacement of the Separated Minors and Intensive Support Unit at Glenmona Support Centre, Belfast. |
|  | A decision was taken to re-appoint, for a period of up to four years, three Non-Executive District Council Members of the Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service (NIFRS) Board. These reappointments are required in order to ensure that the quorum could be met and that the governance and accountability of the organisation is not compromised.  |
| **Department for** **Infrastructure** | The following decisions were taken in relation to public appointments: * To initiate a competition to appoint a chair to the Board of Londonderry Port and Harbour Commissioners; and
* To initiate a recruitment competition to make five public (non-executive director) appointments to the Board of Northern Ireland Water.
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|  | Decisions were taken to: issue a revised Notice of Opinion to approve a planning application for a solar farm near Kells, Co. Antrim; and to ‘call in’ two planning applications from Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council relating to a development proposal at the Londonderry Hotel in Portrush. |
|  | A decision was taken to make a Confirmation Order allowing the Department to carry out the Belfast Tidal Flood Alleviation Scheme. This confers various powers on the Department, including entering land and other such acts, as part of the scheme. |
|  | A decision was taken to extend to Northern Ireland possible Department for Transport primary legislation designed to address gaps in regulation-making powers which will emerge following EU exit. This covers areas where NI high priority gaps align with corresponding gaps in GB legislation.  |
|  | Decisions were taken to make eight Statutory Rules: The Passenger and Goods Vehicles (Tachographs) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019; The Waiting Restrictions (Clogher) Order (Northern Ireland) 2019; The Loading Bays on Roads (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2019; The Parking Places (Disabled Persons’ Vehicles) (Amendment No 3) Order ( Northern Ireland) 2019; The Monaghan Road, Armagh (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2019; The Tyndale Gardens, Belfast (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2019; The Millmount Road, Dundonald (Stopping-Up) Order (Northern Ireland) 2019; and The Central Reservations on the A1 Dromore By-Pass, Dromore and the A1 Dromore Road, Hillsborough (Stopping-Up) Order (Northern Ireland) 2019 [both Stopping-Up’ Orders were made under the Roads (Northern Ireland) Order 1993]. |
|  | A decision was taken to make a Direction to trial, for a period of 6 months, an experimental traffic control system involving measures to prevent collisions at the M2 Junction 11 off-slip/ Raceview Road /Broughshane Road junction in Ballymena. |
|  | A decision was taken to instruct an operation to remove bonfire material from a site at Victoria Place in the New Lodge, Belfast. |
|  | Decisions were taken to extend the current service agreement with the Northern Ireland Transport Holding Company (NITHC) for a further year until March 2022; and to approve NITHC’s Business Plan and Outline Corporate Plan for 2019-20. |
| **Department of****Justice** | A decision was taken to accept the recommendations of the Senior Salaries Review Body (SSRB) to increase the daily fee paid to legal chairs of devolved tribunals.  |
|  | Decisions were taken to make six Statutory Rules in relation to cost recovery: The Court of Judicature Fees (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2019; The Family Proceedings Fees (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2019; The Judgment Enforcement Fees (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2019; The Magistrates’ Courts Fees (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2019; The County Court Fees (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2019; and The Court of Judicature (Non Contentious Probate) Fees (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2019. |
|  | The following decisions were taken in relation to public appointments: * To agree the establishment of a complement of 10 temporary High Court Judges;
* To extend by one year the appointment of: a fee paid Disability Qualified member of the Appeals Tribunal; a fee paid Financially Qualified member of the Appeals Tribunal; and a fee paid Medical member (Consultant) of the Appeals Tribunal; and
* The appointment of new chairperson to the Northern Ireland Search and Rescue Practitioner’s Group.
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**THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE**

**SEPTEMBER 2019**