**A REPORT ON DECISIONS TAKEN DURING JANUARY 2020 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 Northern Ireland Ministers.

This Summary Report has been prepared by the Executive Office and provides information on the decisions taken by Northern Ireland departments between 1 January 2020 and the Executive's formation on 11 January 2020.

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| **Decisions Taken by Northern Ireland Departments: 1-11 January 2020** | |
| **Department** | **Description** |
| **Department**  **of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs** | A decision was taken to amend the Code of Practice (COP) and Terms of Reference (TOR) for the UK Expert Committee on Pesticides (ECP). Following the UK’s exit from the EU, the amendments will enable the ECP to carry out a range of functions currently undertaken by the European Food Safety Authority. |
|  | A decision was taken that the arrangements for 2020 Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) Pillar 1 Direct Payments will remain the same as 2019 except where changes are required as a result of EU Exit. |
| **Department for Communities** | Decisions were taken to make the following public appointments to ensure the maintenance of sustainable and efficient public services:   * To extend the terms of appointment of two members of the Board of the NI Museums Council from 1 January 2020 until 30 June 2020; * To extend the appointments of two Commissioners to the Board of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland for a period of six months from 1 March 2020. * To appoint one Councillor Member to the Board of Libraries NI from 1 February 2020 until the date of the next Council elections. |
|  | A decision was taken to endorse payment of legacy Special Needs Management Allowance (SNMA) funding to nineteen registered Residential Care Homes to ensure the maintenance of sustainable and efficient public services. |
| **Department for the Economy** | Decisions were taken to make the following Statutory Rules:   * The Industrial Tribunals and Fair Employment Tribunal (Constitution and Rules of Procedure) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019. * The Employment Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 (Commencement No.3) Order (Northern Ireland) 2019, which is not subject to any procedure; * The Industrial Tribunals and Fair Employment Tribunal (Early Conciliation: Exemption and Rules of Procedure) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019, subject to negative resolution; and * The Industrial Tribunals (1996 Order) (Application of Conciliation Provisions) Order (Northern Ireland) 2019, subject to negative resolution. |
|  | A decision was taken to agree to the making of the Mines (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland 2020) and for notifying stakeholders of new workplace exposure limits in Directive (EU) 2017/2398. |
|  | A decision was taken to make the Seafarers (Collective Redundancies, Information and Consultation and Insolvency Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020. |
|  | A decision was taken to have a public Call for Evidence to invite engagement on the initial planning stage for a new Energy Strategy for NI. |
|  | A decision was taken to engage external consultants for audit and accountability support for HMS Caroline. |
| **Department of Education** | Decisions were taken on 10 school Development Proposals in the period 2 January 2020 to 8 January 2020 of which 7 were approved, one approved with modification and two not approved. |
| **Department of Health** | A decision was taken to proceed with a replacement Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS). LIMS perform a range of crucial functions enabling HSC Pathology services. These are considered service critical systems, whereby any compromise of system availability and accuracy of outputs could result in HSC being unable to support accurate and timely diagnosis for patients and users of its services. |
| **Department of**  **Justice** | A decision was taken to make and sign the Judicial Pensions (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020. |

**THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE**

**FEBRUARY 2020**