

*These notes refer to the Assembly Members (Independent Financial Review and Standards) Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 (c.17)*

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## **EXPLANATORY NOTES**

### **ASSEMBLY MEMBERS (INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL REVIEW AND STANDARDS) ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2011**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **BACKGROUND AND POLICY OBJECTIVES**

**Independent Financial Review Panel**

**Northern Ireland Assembly Commissioner for Standards**

#### **CONSULTATION**

**Independent Financial Review Panel**

**Northern Ireland Assembly Commissioner for Standards**

#### **OVERVIEW**

#### **COMMENTARY ON SECTIONS**

##### **PART 1: THE INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL REVIEW PANEL**

Section 1: Establishment and membership of the Panel

Section 2: Functions of the Panel

Section 3: Independence and openness

Section 4: Appointments to the Panel

Section 5: Panel: disqualifications

Section 6: Termination of membership of the Panel

Section 7: Code of conduct for Panel members

Section 8: Administration and finance

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Section 9: Annual report

Section 10: Meetings of the Panel

Section 11: Exercise of functions

Section 12: Contents of determinations: salaries and allowances

Section 13: Contents of determinations: pensions, gratuities and allowances

Section 14: Availability of determinations

Section 15: Meaning of “the Panel”

## **PART 2: THE NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY COMMISSIONER FOR STANDARDS**

Section 16: Establishment of the Commissioner

Section 17: Functions of the Commissioner

Section 18: Independence of the Commissioner

Section 19: Appointment of the Commissioner

Section 20: Commissioner: disqualifications

Section 21: Termination of the Commissioner’s appointment

Section 22: Further provision about the Commissioner

Section 23: Appointment of an Acting Commissioner

Section 24: Directions to the Commissioner

Section 25: Investigations by the Commissioner

Section 26: Further investigations

Section 27: Reports

Section 28: Power to call for witnesses and documents

Section 29: Witnesses and documents: notice

Section 30: Witnesses: oaths

Section 31: Offences

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Section 32: Protection from defamation actions

Section 33: Restriction on disclosure of information

### **PART 3: SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS**

Section 34: Transitional provisions

Section 35: Orders

Section 36: Consequential amendments

Section 37: Interpretation: general

Section 38: Commencement

Section 39: Short title

### **SCHEDULES**

Schedule 1: Disqualification from membership of the Panel

Schedule 2: Panel: administrative and financial arrangements

Schedule 3: Disqualification from being appointed or serving as the Commissioner

Schedule 4: Commissioner: further provision

Schedule 5: Consequential amendments

### **HANSARD REPORTS**