



## 2009 CHAPTER 1

### *The Regional Agency*

#### **The Regional Agency for Public Health and Social Well-being**

**12.—**(1) There shall be a body corporate to be known as the Regional Agency for Public Health and Social Well-being.

(2) Schedule 2 applies in relation to the Regional Agency.

#### **Functions of the Regional Agency**

**13.—**(1) The Regional Agency shall exercise on behalf of the Department—

- (a) the health improvement functions mentioned in subsection (2); and
- (b) the health protection functions mentioned in subsection (3).

(2) The health improvement functions are—

- (a) developing and providing, or securing the provision of, programmes and initiatives designed to secure the improvement of the health and social well-being of, and reduce health inequalities between, people in Northern Ireland; and
- (b) health promotion, including in particular enabling people in Northern Ireland to increase control over and improve their health and social well-being.

(3) The health protection functions are the protection of the community (or any part of the community) against—

- (a) communicable disease, in particular by the prevention or control of such disease;

- (b) other dangers to health and social well-being, including dangers arising on environmental or public health grounds or arising out of emergencies.
- (4) For the purpose of the exercise of the health improvement or health protection functions the Regional Agency may—
- (a) engage in or commission research;
  - (b) obtain and analyse data and other information;
  - (c) provide laboratory and other technical and clinical services;
  - (d) provide training in relation to matters in respect of which the Regional Agency has functions;
  - (e) make available to any other body such persons, materials and facilities as it thinks appropriate;
  - (f) provide information, advice and assistance.
- (5) The Department may by order amend subsections (1) to (4) for the purposes of altering the functions of the Regional Agency.
- (6) In the exercise of its functions the Regional Agency must—
- (a) co-operate with other bodies which exercise functions relating to health improvement or health protection; and
  - (b) in particular, provide the Department, the Regional Board and Local Commissioning Groups with such information, advice and assistance as they may reasonably require in connection with the exercise of their functions.
- (7) A body mentioned in subsection (6)(a) must co-operate with the Regional Agency in the exercise by that body of any such functions as are mentioned there.
- (8) The disclosure of information to or by the Regional Agency in pursuance of a duty of co-operation under subsection (6) or (7) does not breach any restriction on the disclosure of information (however imposed); but this subsection does not authorise a disclosure of information which contravenes the Data Protection Act 1998 (c. 29).