
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1976 No. 1042

Sex Discrimination (Northern Ireland) Order 1976

PART VI

GENERAL EXCEPTIONS FROM PARTS III TO V

Communal accommodation

47.—(1) In this Article “communal accommodation” means residential accommodation which includes dormitories or other shared sleeping accommodation which for reasons of privacy or decency should be used by men only, or by women only (but which may include some shared sleeping accommodation for men, and some for women, or some ordinary sleeping accommodation).

(2) In this Article “communal accommodation” also includes residential accommodation all or part of which should be used by men only, or by women only, because of the nature of the sanitary facilities serving the accommodation.

(3) Nothing in Part III or IV shall render unlawful sex discrimination in the admission of persons to communal accommodation if the accommodation is managed in a way which, given the exigencies of the situation, comes as near as may be to fair and equitable treatment of men and women.

(4) In applying paragraph (3) account shall be taken of—

- (a) whether and how far it is reasonable to expect that the accommodation should be altered or extended, or that further alternative accommodation should be provided; and
- (b) the frequency of the demand or need for use of the accommodation by men as compared with women [^{F1}; and]

[^{F2}(c) in respect of discrimination falling within [^{F3}Article 4A or 4B], whether and how far such discrimination is a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim.]

(5) Nothing in Part III or IV shall render unlawful sex discrimination against a woman, or against a man, as respects the provision of any benefit, facility or service if—

- (a) the benefit, facility or service cannot properly and effectively be provided except for those using communal accommodation, and
- (b) in the relevant circumstances the woman or, as the case may be, the man could lawfully be refused the use of the accommodation by virtue of paragraph (3).

(6) Neither paragraph (3) nor paragraph (5) is a defence to an act of sex discrimination under Part III unless such arrangements as are reasonably practicable are made to compensate for the detriment caused by the discrimination; but in considering under paragraph (5)(b) whether the use of communal accommodation could lawfully be refused (in a case based on Part III), it shall be assumed that the requirements of this paragraph have been complied with as respects paragraph (3).

(7) Article 26 shall not apply to sex discrimination within paragraph (3) or (5).

(8) This Article is without prejudice to the generality of [^{F4}Article 36(1) and (1C)].

Changes to legislation: *Sex Discrimination (Northern Ireland) Order 1976, Section 47 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 10 June 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

- F1** Words in art. 47(4)(b) inserted (6.4.2008) by [Sex Discrimination \(Amendment of Legislation\) Regulations 2008 \(S.I. 2008/963\)](#), regs. 1(1), 2(2), **Sch. 2 para. 14(a)(i)**
- F2** Art. 47(4)(c) inserted (6.4.2008) by [Sex Discrimination \(Amendment of Legislation\) Regulations 2008 \(S.I. 2008/963\)](#), regs. 1(1), 2(2), **Sch. 2 para. 14(a)(ii)**
- F3** Words in art. 47(4)(c) substituted (2.5.2016) by [The Sex Discrimination Order 1976 \(Amendment\) Regulations \(Northern Ireland\) 2016 \(S.R. 2016/191\)](#), regs. 1(1), **18**
- F4** Words in art. 47(8) substituted (6.4.2008) by [Sex Discrimination \(Amendment of Legislation\) Regulations 2008 \(S.I. 2008/963\)](#), regs. 1(1), 2(2), **Sch. 2 para. 14(b)**

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[View outstanding changes](#)

Changes and effects yet to be applied to :

- Instrument am. (prosp.) by [1998 c. 17 s.50Sch.4 para.13](#)
- Instrument am. (prosp.) by [1998 c. 32 s.74\(1\)Sch.4 para.12](#)
- Instrument rev. in pt. (saving) (prosp.) by [1998 c. 32 s.74\(2\)\(3\)Schs.56](#)

Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Order associated Parts and Chapters:

- Act amended by [1996 c. 46 s. 22](#)
- Act amended by [1996 c. 46 s. 22](#)

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Order (including any effects on those provisions):

- Sch.3 rev. (prosp.) by [1998 c. 47 ss .99 100\(2\) Sch.13 para.2\(4\). Sch.15](#)
- Sch.6 para.2 rev. (prosp.) by [1998 c. 47 s. 100\(2\)Sch.15](#)
- art.19(6)(aa) added (prosp.) by [1997 c. 50 s.134\(1\)Sch.9 para.37](#)
- art.19(6)(aa) added (prosp.) by [1997 c. 50 s.134\(1\)Sch.9 para.37](#)
- art.54(2)(3)(4) rev. (prosp.) by [1998 c. 47 ss .99 100\(2\) Sch.13 para.2\(3\)\(b\). Sch. 15](#)