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STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

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**1989 No. 2405**

**The Insolvency (Northern Ireland) Order 1989**

**PART V**

**WINDING UP OF COMPANIES REGISTERED  
UNDER [F1the Companies Act 2006]**

**CHAPTER X**

**MALPRACTICE BEFORE AND DURING LIQUIDATION; PENALISATION OF  
COMPANIES AND COMPANY OFFICERS; INVESTIGATIONS AND PROSECUTIONS**

*Investigation and prosecution of malpractice*

**Obligations arising under Article 182**

**183.**—(1) For the purpose of an investigation by the Department [F1in consequence of a report made to it under Article 182(3)], any obligation imposed on a person by any provision of [F2the Companies Act 1985] to produce documents or give information to, or otherwise to assist, inspectors appointed as mentioned in [F1Article 182(4)] is to be regarded as an obligation similarly to assist the Department in its investigation.

(2) An answer given by a person to a question put to him in exercise of the powers conferred by Article 182(4) may be used in evidence against him.

[F3(2A) However, in criminal proceedings in which that person is charged with an offence to which this paragraph applies—

- (a) no evidence relating to the answer may be adduced, and
- (b) no question relating to it may be asked,

by or on behalf of the prosecution, unless evidence relating to it is adduced, or a question relating to it is asked, in the proceedings by or on behalf of that person.

(2B) Paragraph (2A) applies to any offence other than an offence under Article 7 or 10 of the Perjury (Northern Ireland) Order 1979 (NI 19) (false statements made on oath otherwise than in judicial proceedings or made otherwise than on oath).]

(3) Where criminal proceedings are instituted by [F1the Director of Public Prosecutions for Northern Ireland] or the Department following any report or reference under Article 182, the liquidator and every officer and agent of the company past and present (other than the defendant) shall give to [F1the Director of Public Prosecutions for Northern Ireland] or the Department (as the case may be) all assistance in connection with the prosecution which he is reasonably able to give.

(4) In paragraph (3), “agent” includes any banker or solicitor of the company and any person employed by the company as auditor, whether that person is or is not an officer of the company.

(5) If a person fails or neglects to give assistance in the manner required by paragraph (3), the High Court may, on the application of the [F1Director of Public Prosecutions for Northern Ireland]

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**Changes to legislation:** *The Insolvency (Northern Ireland) Order 1989, Section 183 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 24 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*

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or the Department (as the case may be) direct the person to comply with that paragraph; and if the application is made with respect to a liquidator, the Court may (unless it appears that the failure or neglect to comply was due to the liquidator not having in his hands sufficient assets of the company to enable him to do so) direct that the costs shall be borne by the liquidator personally.

- F1** 2002 NI 6
- F2** Words in art. 183(1) substituted (1.10.2009) by [Companies Act 2006 \(Consequential Amendments, Transitional Provisions and Savings\) Order 2009 \(S.I. 2009/1941\)](#), arts. 2(1), 8, **Sch. 1 para. 111(31)** (with art. 10)
- F3** 2002 NI 6

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**Modifications etc. (not altering text)**

- C1** Pts. 1-5 applied (with modifications) (4.1.2024) by [S.I. 2021/716](#), **Sch. 1A para. 3** (as inserted by [The Payment and Electronic Money Institution Insolvency \(Amendment\) Regulations 2023 \(S.I. 2023/1399\)](#), reg. 1(2), **Sch. 1**)
- C2** Art. 183 applied (with modifications) (4.1.2024) by [S.I. 2021/716](#), **reg. 37A** (as inserted by [The Payment and Electronic Money Institution Insolvency \(Amendment\) Regulations 2023 \(S.I. 2023/1399\)](#), regs. 1(2), **12**)

**Changes to legislation:**

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**Changes and effects yet to be applied to :**

- Instrument amended by [1998 c. 11 s. 23 Sch. 5 Pt.1 Ch. 3 para. 40](#)
- Instrument amended (prosp) by [S.I. 1994/279 \(N.I.\) art. 26\(1\)Sch. 2 para. 15](#)

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

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

- Sch. 9 Pt. 2 para. 66 revoked by [1996 c. 23 s. 107\(2\)Sch. 4](#) (Amendment could not be applied. The relevant affected text is not available on [legislation.gov.uk](#))
- art. 2B inserted by [2016 c. 2 \(N.I.\) s. 2\(1\)](#)
- art. 208ZA applied (with modifications) by S.I. 2021/716, reg. 37A (as inserted) by [S.I. 2023/1399 reg. 12](#) (This amendment not applied to [Legislation.gov.uk](#). S. 208ZA is inserted by the Insolvency (Amendment) Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 (c. 2), s. 1(1) which is currently prospective.)
- art. 208ZA-208ZB inserted by [2016 c. 2 \(N.I.\) s. 1\(1\)](#)
- art. 208ZB applied (with modifications) by S.I. 2021/716, reg. 37A (as inserted) by [S.I. 2023/1399 reg. 12](#) (This amendment not applied to [Legislation.gov.uk](#). S. 208ZB is inserted by the Insolvency (Amendment) Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 (c. 2), s. 1(1) which is currently prospective.)
- art. 345A-345B inserted by [2016 c. 2 \(N.I.\) s. 1\(2\)](#)