
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1995 No. 1980

**The Trade Union and Labour Relations
(Northern Ireland) Order 1995**

PART V

APPLICATION OF FUNDS FOR POLITICAL OBJECTS

The political fund

Rules as to political fund

57.—(1) The trade union's rules must provide—

- (a) that payments in the furtherance of the political objects to which this Part applies shall be made out of a separate fund (the “political fund” of the union);
- (b) that a member of the union who is not a contributor (see Article 59) shall not be under any obligation to contribute to it;
- (c) that a member shall not by reason of not being a contributor—
 - (i) be excluded from any benefits of the union, or
 - (ii) be placed in any respect either directly or indirectly under a disability or at a disadvantage as compared with other members of the union (except in relation to the control or management of the political fund); and
- (d) that contribution to the political fund shall not be made a condition for admission to the union.

(2) A member of a trade union who claims that he is aggrieved by a breach of any rule made in pursuance of this Article may complain to the Certification Officer.

(3) Where, after giving the member and a representative of the union an opportunity of being heard, the Certification Officer considers that a breach has been committed, he may make such order for remedying the breach as he thinks just under the circumstances.

(4) Any such order may, if a county court so orders, be enforced in the same way as an order of that court.

Assets and liabilities of political fund

58.—(1) There may be added to a union's political fund only—

- (a) sums representing contributions made to the fund by members of the union or by any person other than the union itself, and
- (b) property which accrues to the fund in the course of administering the assets of the fund.

(2) The rules of the union shall not be taken to require any member to contribute to the political fund at a time when there is no political resolution in force in relation to the union.

(3) No liability of a union's political fund shall be discharged out of any other fund of the union. This paragraph applies notwithstanding any term or condition on which the liability was incurred or that an asset of the other fund has been charged in connection with the liability.

Contributions to the political fund from members of the union

59.—(1) It shall not be lawful to require any member of a trade union to make any contribution to the political fund of a trade union unless he—

- (a) has given to the union notice in writing of his willingness to contribute to that fund; and
- (b) has not withdrawn that notice in accordance with paragraph (2).

(2) A member of a trade union who has given notice under paragraph (1)(a) may withdraw that notice by giving written notice of withdrawal to the union.

(3) A notice under paragraph (1)(a) and a notice of withdrawal under paragraph (2) may be given to a trade union—

- (a) by being delivered at the head office or a branch office of the union;
- (b) by being so delivered personally or by any authorised agent or by post;

and any such notice of withdrawal shall take effect for the purposes of this Part as from 1st January next following the giving of that notice to the union.

(4) All contributions to the political fund of a trade union from members of the trade union who are contributors to the fund shall be levied and made separately from any contributions to the other funds of the trade union.

(5) In this Part “contributor”, in relation to the political fund of a trade union, means a member who has given to the union the notice referred to in paragraph (1)(a) and not withdrawn it.