EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations.)

These Regulations, are made under section 2(2) of the European Communities Act 1972 and further amend the Pesticides (Maximum Residue Levels in Crops, Food and Feeding Stuffs) (EEC Limits) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 ("the principal Regulations") (S.R. 1995 No. 33 amended by S.R. 1995 No. 461, S.R. 1996 No. 527, S.R. 1997 No. 244 and S.R. 1999 No. 114).

The Regulations specify maximum levels of pesticide residues which may be left in crops, food and feeding stuffs in implementation of Commission Directive 98/82/EC (O.J. No. L290, 29.10.98, p. 25) which sets for the first time Community maximum residue levels for the particular pesticides which may be left in tea (regulations 3 and 4 and Schedules 1 and 2) and replaces Community maximum residue levels which have been set previously (regulation 5 and Schedule 3).

The Regulations also amend Schedule 3 to the principal Regulations by introducing new subcategories for olives and sunflower seeds, which are listed as products in that Schedule, to reflect the categories specified in Directive 98/82/EC (regulation 6).

Maximum levels in these Regulations which are followed by * will, when inserted into Schedule 2 to the principal Regulations, connect with the explanation of that symbol given there.

Additionally, references in regulation 6 to or * will, when inserted into Schedule 3 to the principal Regulations, connect with the explanations of those symbols given there.