

## **EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO**

### **[The Motor Vehicles (Driving Licences) (Fees) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009]**

**SR 2009 No. 344**

#### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1. This Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared by the Department of the Environment to accompany the Statutory Rule (details above) which is laid before the Northern Ireland Assembly.
- 1.2. The Statutory Rule is made under Article 13(1), and 19C(1) of the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1981 and is subject to the negative resolution procedure.
- 1.3. The rule is due to come into operation on 16th November 2009.

#### **2. Purpose**

- 2.1. The purpose of these Regulations is to further amend the Motor Vehicles (Driving Licences) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1996 by amending the fees for driving licences so as to mirror the fees set in GB and to account for increasing costs associated with licence production and administration.

#### **3. Background**

- 3.1. Under the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1981, the Department is responsible for the licensing of persons who drive motor vehicles in Northern Ireland. The licensing function ensures that legislative requirements in relation to driving competence, experience and, in certain aspects, conduct, are satisfied, and that the licence applicant meets the appropriate medical standards of fitness to drive. The proposed fees will bring NI into line with GB fees in accordance with an agreement in 2004 to maintain parity of driver licensing fees with GB.
- 3.2. These Regulations implement increases in the fees for a first application for a provisional licence, a licence reissued after revocation and an exchange licence from an overseas jurisdiction. All three will increase from £45 to £50 (11.1%). The fees for driving licence renewal after disqualification, and for high risk offenders after disqualification, will increase from £60 to £65 (8%) and from £85 to £90 (6%) respectively.

#### **4. Matters of Special Interest to the Environment Committee**

- 4.1. None

#### **5. Consultation**

- 5.1. DVA feels that a formal consultation process is unnecessary as the fees are required to maintain parity of driving licence fees throughout the UK. Following the introduction of Article 79 of the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 2007 (which came into force on 15th November 2007), approval for changes to fees from the Department of Finance and Personnel is no longer required.

## **6. Position in Great Britain**

- 6.1. The fees are being introduced to replicate those introduced in GB on 1st May 2008, which reflect the costs associated with licence production and administration.

## **7. Equality Impact**

- 7.1. The proposed legislation has been screened for equality issues and none have been identified.

## **8. Regulatory Impact**

- 8.1. A Regulatory Impact Assessment is not required for the proposed legislation as the proposal does not impose any costs or realise any savings for business, charities, social economy enterprises or the voluntary sector.

## **9. Financial Implications**

- 9.1. All expenditure would be recovered from fees.

## **10. Section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998**

- 10.1. The proposed Regulations are not incompatible with section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.

## **11. EU Implications**

- 11.1. Not applicable.]

## **12. Additional Information**

- 12.1. Not applicable.