

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO
The Northern Ireland Police Fund Regulations 2016

S.R. 2016 No. 14

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared by the Department of Justice to accompany the Statutory Rule (details above) which is laid before the Northern Ireland Assembly.
- 1.2. The Statutory Rule is made under section 11(2) of the Financial Provisions Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 and is subject to the negative resolution procedure.

2. Purpose

- 2.1. The Statutory Rule provides for the constitution, functions, procedures and financing of the Northern Ireland Police Fund (the Fund). The Fund was established to benefit members of the RUC, the RUC Reserve, the PSNI and the PSNI Reserve who have been killed or injured by terrorism, and their families and dependants, by the provision of financial assistance, advice, support and care to such persons.

3. Background

- 3.1. The Fund was originally established by the Northern Ireland Office as a company limited by guarantee. After the devolution of justice in 2010, the Department of Finance and Personnel conducted a review of arms-length bodies sponsored by the DoJ, and concluded that the Fund should be designated as an Executive non-Departmental Public Body (NDPB). This required that its funding be placed on a statutory basis, and that all subsequent appointments of chairperson and directors be made by the DoJ, and regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments for Northern Ireland.
- 3.2. The Financial Provisions Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 allows the DoJ to provide financial assistance to the Fund, and confers a regulation-making power. These regulations include provision for the status and constitution of the Fund; the term of office of its chairperson and directors; remuneration, allowances, and payments to and by the Fund; and its accounts and governance.

4. Consultation

- 4.1. The regulations have been drafted in consultation with the Fund. No wider consultation was considered necessary, given the technical nature of the regulations.

5. Equality Impact

- 5.1. An equality screening exercise was carried out and the draft rule was screened out as not requiring an equality impact assessment.

6. Regulatory Impact

- 6.1. The proposals have no negative impact on business, charities, social economy enterprises or voluntary bodies.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1. There will be no change to way the Fund is funded, so no financial implications are envisaged.

8. Section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998

- 8.1. The proposals are considered to be compliant with section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.

9. EU Implications

- 9.1. Not applicable.

10. Parity or Replicatory Measure

- 10.1. Not applicable.

11. Additional Information

- 11.1. Not applicable.