

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO

The Police Service of Northern Ireland (Promotion) (Amendment) Regulations 2016

2016 No. 413

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 the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 1998 and is subject to the negative resolution procedure.

2. Purpose

These regulations replace a fast-track promotion scheme for police officers in the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), now closed to new candidates, with a revised version of an accelerated promotion scheme.

3. Background

3.1 Within the Police Service of Northern Ireland (Promotion) Regulations 2008 is access to a High Potential Development Scheme (HPDS) offering more rapid access to the ranks of sergeant and inspector.

3.2 The HPDS has closed to new entrants and been replaced by a revised streamlined scheme overseen by the College of Policing.

3.3 The Chief Constable wants access to the revised fast-track promotion scheme for suitable officers in the PSNI. Regulations have been changed to give PSNI officers access to the new arrangements.

4. Consultation

As required by the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 1998, the Department has consulted with the Northern Ireland Policing Board and the Police Association for Northern Ireland before making these regulations.

5. Equality Impact

Consideration has been given to compliance with section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 and no equality issues have been identified by the Department.

6. Regulatory Impact

The Department does not consider that there is a need for a regulatory impact assessment for this instrument as it has no impact on business, charities or voluntary bodies.

7. Financial Implications

The impact on the public sector is limited to the area of police provision. It is not anticipated to result in any additional costs.

8. Section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998

The proposed legislation is considered compatible with section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.

9. EU Implications

Not applicable.

10. Parity or Replicatory Measure

10.1 Similar amendments were made to the Police (Promotion) Regulations 1996 in England and Wales in 2014 to provide for similar access to the fast-track promotion scheme for constables serving in England and Wales.

10.2 Application of this programme is similar in Northern Ireland, and England and Wales with consistency in application and standards being overseen by the College of Policing.

11. Additional Information

Not applicable