

**EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO**  
**THE WHOLE OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTS (DESIGNATION OF BODIES)**  
**ORDER (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2018 S.R. 2018 No. 94**

**1. General**

- 1.1 This Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared by the Department of Finance and is laid before the Northern Ireland Assembly.
- 1.2 This memorandum contains information for the Departmental Committee.

**2. Powers and Assembly control**

- 2.1 This Order is made under section 15(1) of the Government Resources and Accounts Act (Northern Ireland) 2001 (c.6 (N.I.)) and is subject to negative resolution.

**3. The “21 day Rule”**

- 3.1 This Order was made on 20 April 2018 and comes into operation on 14 May 2018. The 21 day rule has not been breached.

**4. Legislative Background**

- 4.1 The legislation is being made to designate bodies, for the financial year ended 31 March 2017, for the purposes of section 15 of the Government Resources and Accounts Act (Northern Ireland) 2001. The designation enables the Department to require those bodies to provide financial information in relation to that financial year and consequently an Order must be made annually for the relevant accounting period. The Department of Finance intends to pass the information provided by bodies designated in the Schedule to this Order, to HM Treasury for use in the preparation of the Whole of Government Accounts (WGA).

Like departmental resource accounts, WGA will be produced on an accruals basis and will use generally accepted accounting principles, adapted where necessary for government. These consolidated accounts will show the position of the UK Public Sector as if it were a single entity, by eliminating all significant transactions between public sector entities. The purpose of eliminating such transactions is to remove intra-group transactions that would otherwise misstate the financial position of the single entity i.e. the UK Public Sector.

## **5. Policy background**

The list of designated bodies in the Schedule to the Order has been agreed in consultation with departments and the NI Audit Office. In 2016/17 NICS departmental restructuring took place under the Departments Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 (c.5 (N.I)), which replaced the 12 existing departments with 9 new departments and the list of bodies has been updated to reflect this. No additional bodies have been added to the list of bodies previously designated in Schedule 1 to the Whole of Government Accounts (Designation of Bodies) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016 (S.R. 2016 No.87) (the 2016 Order).

Three bodies have ceased operations and have been removed from the list in Schedule 1 to the 2016 Order:

Culture Company 2013 Limited

Northern Ireland Memorial Fund

Southern Waste Management Partnership (SWaMP2008)

Minor updating amendments have been made to the names of seven bodies:

Ards and North Down Borough Council

Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council

Derry City and Strabane District Council

Driver and Vehicle Agency

Health and Social Care Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority

Livestock and Meat Commission for Northern Ireland

Public Prosecution Service for Northern Ireland.

## **6. Description of provisions**

6.1 Regulation 1 contains the citation and commencement provisions.

6.2 Regulation 2 designates the bodies listed in the Schedule to the Order in respect of the financial year ending with 31st March 2017.

6.3 The Schedule lists the bodies designated for 2016/17 for the purposes of providing financial information for that financial year. This information will be used by HM Treasury in the preparation of the Whole of Government Accounts (WGA).

## **7. Territorial Extent and Application**

7.1 This Order applies to Northern Ireland only.

## **8. Equality Impact**

8.1 There are no equality impact implications.

## **9. Regulatory Impact**

9.1 The order has no direct impact on departments and their bodies.

## **10. Financial Impact**

10.1 The order has no direct financial impact on departments and their bodies.

## **11. European Convention on Human Rights**

11.1 As the Order is subject to the negative resolution procedure and does not amend primary legislation, no statement is required.

## **12. Contact**

12.1 Joanne Warnock at the Department of Finance Tel: 028 91 277 683 or e-mail: [Joanne.Warnock@finance-ni.gov.uk](mailto:Joanne.Warnock@finance-ni.gov.uk) can answer any queries regarding this Order.