

*Draft Order laid before Parliament under section 7(4) of the Northern Ireland Act 2000 (c. 1) for
approval by resolution of each House of Parliament.*

DRAFT STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2003 No.

NORTHERN IRELAND

CONSTITUTIONAL LAW

The Northern Ireland Act 2000 (Modification) Order 2003

Made - - - - 2003
Coming into force - - 2003

Whereas a draft of this Order has been approved by resolution of each House of Parliament:
Now, therefore, the Secretary of State, in exercise of the powers conferred upon him by paragraph
1(4) of the Schedule to the Northern Ireland Act 2000(1) hereby makes the following Order:

1.—(1) This Order may be cited as the Northern Ireland Act 2000 (Modification) Order 2003
and shall come into force on the day after the day on which it is made.

(2) In Article 2, “the current suspension period” means the period during which section 1 of the
Northern Ireland Act 2000 continues to be in force, that period having commenced on 15th October
2002(2).

2. In relation to the current suspension period, paragraph 1(3) of the Schedule to the Northern
Ireland Act 2000 is to have effect as if the number of months mentioned there were increased by
six months.

Northern Ireland Office

2003

One of Her Majesty’s Principal Secretaries of
State

(1) 2000 c. 1.
(2) Section 1 of the Northern Ireland Act 2000 was brought into force again on 15th October 2002 by S.I. 2000/2754.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Order)

While section 1 of the Northern Ireland Act 2000 (“the 2000 Act”) is in force, with the effect that the Northern Ireland Assembly is suspended, paragraph 1 of the Schedule to the 2000 Act allows legislation by Order in Council for any matter for which the Assembly may legislate under the terms of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. This power to legislate by Order in Council is limited to the first six months of any period during which section 1 of the 2000 Act is in force but may be extended by Order for a further period of up to six months at a time.

The effect of this Order is to extend the six month period which started on 15th October 2002 (when section 1 of the 2000 Act was brought into force again by The Northern Ireland Act (Suspension of Devolved Government) Order 2002 (S.I.2002/2574)) and would, apart from this Order, expire on 14th April 2003 by a further six months i.e. until 14th October 2003. The power will, however, lapse if the Assembly is restored before that date.