

SCHEDULES

SCHEDULE 2

Section 2(8).

CONVENTION ON FUTURE GOVERNMENT OF NORTHERN IRELAND

Composition and election

- 1 The Convention shall consist of—
 - (a) a chairman appointed by Her Majesty ; and
 - (b) seventy-eight persons (hereafter referred to as "Convention members ") elected in accordance with this Schedule.
- 2 The Convention members shall be elected by the constituencies which would return members to the Northern Ireland Assembly if a general election to the Assembly were held on the date appointed under paragraph 3 below; and the number of Convention members to be elected by each constituency shall be the same as the number of members of the Assembly to be returned for the constituency in such a general election.
- 3 The date of the poll for the election of Convention members shall be appointed by the Secretary of State by order made by statutory instrument; and any order under this paragraph may be varied or revoked by a subsequent order.
- 4 The persons entitled to vote on the poll mentioned in paragraph 3 above shall be those who would be entitled to vote on polls held on the date appointed under that paragraph at a general election to the Northern Ireland Assembly.
- 5 The following provisions of section 2 of the Northern Ireland Assembly Act 1973, that is to say—
 - (a) subsection (3) (voting to be by single transferable vote);
 - (b) subsection (4) (deposits by candidates);
 - (c) subsection (5) (power of Secretary of State by order to make provision as to conduct etc. of election),shall apply to the election under this Schedule as they apply to an election of members of the Northern Ireland Assembly.
- 6 Section 10 of the House of Commons Disqualification Act 1957 and section 3 of the said Act of 1973 (disqualification for membership of Northern Ireland Assembly) shall apply in relation to the Convention as they apply in relation to the Assembly.

Proceedings

- 7 The first meeting of the Convention shall be held on such day, and at such time and place, as the Secretary of State may by order direct; and any order under this paragraph may be varied or revoked by a subsequent order.
- 8 The Convention may appoint committees to assist it in the discharge of its functions.

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- 9 The chairman of the Convention shall not be entitled to vote in proceedings of the Convention or its committees.
- 10 The proceedings of the Convention and any committee appointed by it shall not be invalid because of any vacancy in the office of chairman or among the Convention members.
- 11 (1) Subject to the foregoing provisions, the Convention shall have power to regulate its procedure and that of its committees.
- (2) Subject to the foregoing provisions and any provision made by the Convention under sub-paragraph (1) above, the Secretary of State may give directions for regulating the procedure of the Convention and its committees.
- (3) Provision may, in particular, be made under this paragraph for preserving order in the proceedings of the Convention and its committees, including provision for the exclusion of Convention members from any such proceedings.
- 12 There shall be provided for the Convention and its members by the Secretary of State such accommodation, staff and services (including provision for the keeping of an official record of proceedings) as the Convention may with the approval of the Secretary of State determine or as may appear to him to be reasonably requisite.
- 13 For the purposes of the law of defamation the following shall be absolutely privileged—
- (a) the proceedings of the Convention and its committees ;
- (b) any official record of those proceedings ;
- (c) any report of the Convention under section 2(2) of this Act.

Remuneration and allowances of members

- 14 (1) There shall be paid by the Secretary of State to the chairman of the Convention such remuneration and allowance in respect of expenses as may be determined by the Secretary of State.
- (2) There shall be paid by the Secretary of State to each Convention member—
- (a) remuneration, at the rate of £2,500 a year, in respect of the period beginning with the date on which he first attends the Convention (or a committee thereof) and ending with the dissolution of the Convention or such later date (not more than six months after the dissolution) as the Secretary of State may determine ; and
- (b) such allowance as the Secretary of State may determine—
- (i) in respect of expenses incurred by the member in travelling to and from meetings of the Convention or its committees ; and
- (ii) to defray expenses incurred by the member on secretarial assistance in carrying out his duties as a member.
- (3) Any determination of the Secretary of State under sub-paragraph (1) or (2)(b) above shall require the consent of the Minister for the Civil Service.

Duration of Convention

- 15 (1) Subject to the following provisions of this paragraph, the Convention shall be dissolved—
- (a) on the date on which its final report is laid before Parliament; or

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- (b) on the expiration of the period of six months beginning with the date on which it first meets,
whichever is the earlier.
- (2) The Secretary of State may by order postpone or further postpone the date of dissolution of the Convention for such period (not exceeding three months at a time) as may be specified in the order.
- (3) Her Majesty may by Order in Council dissolve the Convention before the time when it would be dissolved under sub-paragraph (1) above.
- (4) If at any time within six months after the dissolution of the Convention (whether by virtue of the foregoing provisions or of those provisions as applied by sub-paragraph (5) below) it appears to the Secretary of State that it is desirable that any matter should be considered or further considered by the Convention, he may reconvene it as if it had not been dissolved ; and the Convention shall meet on such day, and at such time and place, as the Secretary of State may by order direct and consider (or further consider) and report on that matter accordingly.
- (5) Sub-paragraphs (1) to (3) above shall apply to the Convention after it has been reconvened under sub-paragraph (4) above as if the report made by it in accordance with that sub-paragraph were its final report and as if the date on which it meets in accordance with that paragraph were its first meeting.
- (6) Any order under sub-paragraph (2) above shall be made by statutory instrument subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament; and any order under sub-paragraph (4) above may be varied or revoked by a subsequent order.
- (7) Where the Convention has been reconvened under this paragraph—
- (a) paragraph 14(2)(a) above shall apply also in relation to the reconvened Convention ; and
 - (b) section 2(4) of this Act shall have effect as if the reference to the dissolution of the Convention were a reference to its dissolution after the occasion (or, if more than one, the last occasion) on which it was reconvened.