



# Identity and Language (Northern Ireland) Act 2022

## 2022 CHAPTER 45

### PART 2

#### POWERS OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

#### 6 Concurrent powers and powers of direction

- (1) The Secretary of State may do anything that a Northern Ireland Minister or Northern Ireland department could do in the exercise of an identity and language function.
- (2) The Secretary of State may direct a Northern Ireland Minister, Northern Ireland department or identity and language authority to do or not do anything that the Minister, department or authority—
  - (a) could do in the exercise of an identity and language function;
  - (b) could otherwise do (but this is subject to [subsection \(3\)](#)).
- (3) The Secretary of State may give a direction under [subsection \(2\)\(b\)](#) if the Secretary of State considers the direction appropriate—
  - (a) for the purpose of ensuring the effective operation of an identity and language authority, or
  - (b) in relation to the exercise, by the Secretary of State, of another function under this section.
- (4) After giving a direction under [subsection \(2\)](#), the Secretary of State must—
  - (a) lay a copy of the direction before Parliament, and
  - (b) publish the direction.
- (5) In this Part—

“identity and language authority” means—

  - (a) the Office of Identity and Cultural Expression;
  - (b) the Irish Language Commissioner;

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*Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).*

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- (c) the Commissioner for the Ulster Scots and the Ulster British tradition;  
“identity and language function” means—
  - (a) a function conferred by or under Parts 7A to 7C of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 other than a power to make regulations or give a direction, or
  - (b) a function ancillary to such a function;
- “Northern Ireland Minister” includes the First Minister and deputy First Minister acting jointly.