

**2005 No. 901**

**NORTHERN IRELAND**

**The Public Processions (Northern Ireland) Act 1998 (Code of  
Conduct) Order 2005**

<i>Made</i> - - - -	<i>23rd March 2005</i>
<i>Laid before Parliament</i>	<i>24th March 2005</i>
<i>Coming into force</i> - -	<i>15th April 2005</i>

Whereas—

(1) in pursuance of subsection (2)(a) of section 3 of the Public Processions (Northern Ireland) Act 1998(a) (“the 1998 Act”) the Parades Commission for Northern Ireland (“the Commission”) is required to keep under review the Code of Conduct issued under that section providing guidance to persons organising a public procession or protest meeting and regulating the conduct of persons organising, taking part in or supporting such a procession or organising or taking part in such a meeting(b);

(2) in pursuance of subsection (2)(b) of that section the Commission may from time to time revise the whole or any part of the Code of Conduct and issue the revised Code of Conduct;

(3) in pursuance of paragraph 5 of Schedule 2 to the 1998 Act(c), the Commission has prepared a draft of the revised Code of Conduct, submitted the draft to the Secretary of State and made such modifications to the draft as the Secretary of State, after consultation with the Commission, required;

(4) in pursuance of paragraph 7 of Schedule 2 to the 1998 Act, the Commission has sent the draft Code of Conduct to the Secretary of State who has laid the draft before each House of Parliament:

Now, therefore, the Secretary of State, in exercise of the powers conferred upon him by paragraph 8 of Schedule 2 to the 1998 Act, hereby makes the following Order:

**Citation and commencement**

**1.** This Order may be cited as the Public Processions (Northern Ireland) Act 1998 (Code of Conduct) Order 2005 and shall come into force on 15th April 2005.

---

(a) 1998 c.2.

(b) Section 3(1)(b) of the 1998 Act was amended by Article 3(2) of the Public Processions (Amendment)(Northern Ireland) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/857 (N.I. 2)) (“2005 Order”) to provide that the Code of Conduct should regulate the conduct of those supporting a public procession as well as the conduct of those organising or taking part in a public procession or protest meeting.

(c) Article 7 of the 2005 Order modifies the procedure in paragraphs 5 and 6 of Schedule 2 to the 1998 Act which the Parades Commission must follow for the first revision of the Code of Conduct, procedural rules and guidelines after the coming into operation of the 2005 Order to provide for a fast-track procedure in relation to this revision only.

## Revised Code of Conduct

2. The revised Code of Conduct laid in draft before Parliament on 24th March 2005 providing guidance to persons organising a public procession or protest meeting and regulating the conduct of persons organising, taking part in or supporting a public procession or organising or taking part in a protest meeting, in respect of any such public procession or protest meeting held, or proposed to be held, on or after 14th May 2005, shall come into operation on 15th April 2005.

## Revocation

3. The Public Processions (Northern Ireland) Act 1998 (Code of Conduct) Order 1999(a)(which brought into operation the draft Code of Conduct laid before Parliament on 30th June 1999), is hereby revoked with effect from 14th May 2005.

Northern Ireland Office  
23rd March 2005

*Ian Pearson*  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State

## EXPLANATORY NOTE

*(This note is not part of the Order)*

This Order appoints 15th April 2005 as the date on which the revised Code of Conduct under section 3(2) of the Public Processions (Northern Ireland) Act 1998 (“the 1998 Act”), which provides guidance to persons organising a public procession or protest meeting and regulates the conduct of persons organising, taking part in or supporting such a procession or organising or taking part in such a meeting, is to come into operation. Article 3(2) of the Public Processions (Amendment)(Northern Ireland) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/857 (N.I. 2)) amended section 3(1)(b) of the 1998 Act to provide for the Code of Conduct to regulate the conduct of persons supporting a public procession.

The revised Code, which is issued by the Parades Commission for Northern Ireland (“the Commission”), replaces the Code of Conduct which was brought into operation on 31st July 1999 by the Public Processions (Northern Ireland) Act 1998 (Code of Conduct) Order 1999 (S.I.1999/2116) (which is revoked by this Order).

The revised Code of Conduct is published by the Commission and copies may be obtained from the Commission at 12th Floor, Windsor House, Bedford Street, Belfast BT2 7EL.

---

(a) S.I.1999/2116.

£3.00

© Crown copyright 2005

Printed and published in the UK by The Stationery Office Limited  
under the authority and superintendence of Carol Tullo, Controller of Her Majesty’s  
Stationery Office and Queen’s Printer of Acts of Parliament.  
E0653 3/2005 150653T 19585

ISBN 0-11-072677-4



9 780110 726779