

2007 No. 1163

NORTHERN IRELAND

CONSTITUTIONAL LAW

The Northern Ireland Act 2000 (Modification) Order 2007

Made - - - - *31st March 2007*
Coming into force - - *1st April 2007*

This Order is made in exercise of the powers conferred by paragraph 1(4) of the Schedule to the Northern Ireland Act 2000(a).

A draft of this Order has been laid before Parliament in accordance with section 7(4) of that Act and approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament.

Accordingly, the Secretary of State makes the following Order:

1.—(1) This Order may be cited as the Northern Ireland Act 2000 (Modification) Order 2007 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 in force, that period having commenced on 15th October 2002(b).

2. In relation to the current suspension period, paragraph 1(3) of the Schedule to the Northern Ireland Act 2000, as previously modified under paragraph 1(4) of that Schedule(c), is to have effect as if the number of months mentioned there were increased by six months.

Northern Ireland Office
31st March 2007

Peter Hain
One of Her Majesty’s Principal Secretaries of State

(a) 2000 c.1.
(b) Section 1 of the Northern Ireland Act 2000 was brought into force again on 15th October 2002 by S.I. 2002/2574.
(c) S.I. 2003/1155 modified paragraph 1(3) of the Schedule so that the number of months mentioned was increased by six months. S.I. 2003/2592, S.I. 2004/1105, S.I. 2004/2505, S.I. 2005/868, S.I. 2005/2046, S.I. 2006/1012 and S.I. 2006/2132 modified paragraph 1(3) of the Schedule so that the number of months was increased by seven further periods of six months.

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. The 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.

Section 1 of the 2000 Act was brought into force again by the Northern Ireland Act 2000 (Suspension of Devolved Government) Order 2002 (S.I. 2002/2574) on 15th October 2002. The six month period beginning on 15th October 2002 has been extended by seven further six months periods. This Order extends the period which would apart from this Order expire at the end of 14th April 2007 by a further six months i.e. until the end of 14th October 2007. The power to legislate by Order in Council will, however, lapse if the Assembly is restored before that date.

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