

**EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO  
THE NORFOLK (CORONERS' DISTRICTS) ORDER 2010**

**2010 No. 595**

1. This explanatory memorandum has been prepared by the Ministry of Justice and is laid before Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

This memorandum contains information for the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments.

2. **Purpose of the instrument**

- 2.1 This instrument seeks to amalgamate the two coroners' districts in the county of Norfolk (Greater Norfolk and Great Yarmouth) into one district to be named Norfolk.

3. **Matters of special interest to the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments**

- 3.1 None.

4. **Legislative Context**

- 4.1 Under section 4(2) of the Coroners Act 1988 local authorities have powers to submit to the Secretary of State draft orders for alterations to coroners' districts within England and Wales, subject to compliance with the requirements of the Coroners (Orders as to Districts) Rules 1927 as to advertising their intentions. The coroners' districts within Norfolk were last amended in 2007 (SI 2007 No 737) when the number of districts was reduced from three to two. The Secretary of State has power under section 4(2) of the 1988 Act to make such changes to the draft order submitted by the Council as he thinks fit and has done so in making this order.

5. **Territorial Extent and Application**

- 5.1 This instrument applies to England and Wales.

- 5.2 It affects only the County of Norfolk.

6. **European Convention on Human Rights**

- 6.1 As the instrument is not subject to any Parliamentary procedure and does not amend primary legislation no statement is required.

## **7. Policy background**

7.1 The need for amalgamation arises from the retirement of one of the current Coroners. It is also a long-established policy that coroners' districts should be amalgamated in order to create larger part-time or full-time districts. This is both to enable the coroners' service to benefit from any economies of scale and to give the coroner concerned greater experience in dealing with sudden deaths. The Ministry of Justice intends to continue this policy, and it is reflected in the provisions of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009. The new district of Norfolk is expected to have about 4,000 reported deaths a year.

## **8. Consultation outcome**

8.1 No objections to the purpose of the instrument have been received.

## **9. Guidance**

9.1 There is no requirement for guidance about the instrument.

## **10. Impact**

10.1 An Impact Assessment has not been prepared for this instrument as it has no impact on the private or voluntary sector.

## **11. Regulating small business**

11.1 The legislation does not apply to small business.

## **12. Monitoring & review**

12.1 There is no requirement for monitoring or review of the instrument.

## **13. Contact**

Nick Matthews at the Ministry of Justice Tel: 020 3334 6405 or e-mail: [nick.matthews@justice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:nick.matthews@justice.gsi.gov.uk) can answer any queries regarding the instrument.