

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO
THE PUBLIC ORDER (PRESCRIBED FORMS) REGULATIONS
(NORTHERN IRELAND)

2005 No. 904

1. This explanatory memorandum has been prepared by the Northern Ireland Office and is laid before Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

2. Description

2.1. The instrument prescribes a revised form of notice for a proposal to organise a public procession in Northern Ireland.

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

3.1. None.

4. Legislative Background

4.1. The regulations are made under Section 6(3) of the Public Processions (Northern Ireland) Act 1998, which enables the Secretary of State to prescribe the form of notice.

4.2. They are being laid with:

the Public Processions (Northern Ireland) Act 1998 (Procedural Rules) Order 2005,

the Public Processions (Northern Ireland) Act 1998 (Guidelines) Order 2005, and

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

all of which concern documents revised by the Parades Commission following changes to their powers made by the Public Processions (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) Order 2005

5. Extent

5.1. The regulations apply to Northern Ireland.

6. European Convention on Human Rights

6.1. Not applicable

7. Policy Background

7.1. The Public Processions (Northern Ireland) Act 1998, under which the Parades Commission regulates public processions in Northern Ireland, was amended by the Public Processions (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) Order 2005. That order gave the Commission power to impose conditions on supporters of a public procession and power to impose conditions on public protests.

7.2. The person proposing to organise a public procession must give notice to the police in a prescribed form.

7.3. The form has been revised to take account of the fact that supporters of a parade may now be made subject to conditions imposed by the Parades Commission.

8. Impact

8.1. A regulatory impact assessment has not been prepared for this instrument as it has no impact on business, charities or voluntary bodies. There is no impact on the public sector.

9. Contact

9.1. David McCann in the Northern Ireland Office –
David.McCann@nio.x.gsi.gov.uk can answer queries on this instrument.