

IN CONFIDENCE

NORTHERN IRELAND ORDERS IN COUNCIL 1995-1997: PAPER BY HMG

Introduction

1. Following a brief discussion of law-making powers for a Northern Ireland Assembly at the Strand I meeting on Monday, 2 February, the Government undertook to provide a list of Northern Ireland Orders in Council over the past 3 years to illustrate the potential for a local administration to set its own policy approach in a range of areas currently covered by Northern Ireland Departments.
2. This paper fulfils that commitment.

Types of Orders in Council

3. By way of background, parties will recall that currently the 3 main categories of legislation for Northern Ireland can be summarised as follows:
 - (a) excepted matters - those matters which it would not be appropriate to devolve (for example, international relations and defence);
 - (b) reserved matters - those matters for which responsibility might at some point in the future be devolved to a Northern Ireland administration (for example, public order and the criminal law);
 - (c) transferred matters - those matters which fall into neither of the above 2 categories and, being virtually all the matters for which Northern Ireland Departments are currently responsible, could be legislated for by a local administration.
3. In the absence of a devolved administration, the Government legislates for the third category by way of an Order in Council under the Northern Ireland Act 1974. This constitutes the bulk of legislation for Northern Ireland.

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4. The parliamentary procedure for Orders in Council covering the functions of Northern Ireland Departments can be divided into 3 main types:

(a) **Affirmative Resolution**

A Proposal for a draft Order is first issued for consultation to the Northern Ireland political parties and various interested bodies. At the end of an agreed consultation period the Proposal for the draft Order is laid in Parliament (Commons and Lords) and debated.

(b) **Affirmative Resolution (Shortened)**

This is a fast-track procedure with a debate in Parliament but no consultation period. It is used for routine financial Orders where there is no scope for public discussion and, very occasionally, when an Order is deemed to be of pressing importance.

*Fair
Employment*

(c) **Negative Resolution**

The negative resolution procedure can only be used to replicate GB Bills. There is no consultation period and no debate unless "prayed against" in Parliament within a specified period (usually 40 sitting days) after being made.

Scope for Policy Variation

5. The attached Appendices provide broad details of Northern Ireland Orders-In-Council listed in the legislative programme from 1995 to 1997. They fall in to the following four broad categories:

- (a) those Orders which reflect particular local circumstances in Northern Ireland;

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- (b) those Orders which Ministers have decided should mirror or bring Northern Ireland closer into line with Government policy, although there is no legal or overriding policy imperative to do so;
 - (c) those Orders necessary to comply with EC Directives over which there is no local or national discretion possible but where separate Northern Ireland provision is required; and
 - (d) those Orders over which there is no local discretion (eg there is a UK-wide approach to social security) and Ministers are obliged to follow national policy.
6. In some cases an Order contains provisions which fall in to 2 or more of these categories. Where this is the case the Order has been located under the category which covers the majority of its provisions, although the accompanying text explains any divergence.
7. The Appendices illustrate scope for significant policy variation in a range of areas, at least in theory even if the practice has been somewhat different. In procedural terms, for example, some 35 out of an overall total of 51 Orders (which excludes Appropriation and Financial Provision Orders) were put out for full consultation in Northern Ireland, with a view to assessing and responding to local opinion where this was considered appropriate.
8. In terms of the categorisation in the Appendices, some 15 out of the overall total of 51 Orders (or at the very least some of the provisions of the Orders) introduced over the last three years give effect to a policy approach in Northern Ireland separate or distinct from the rest of the United Kingdom; and while a further 20 replicate GB legislation to varying degrees there could nevertheless have been room for local manoeuvre in either policy or administrative arrangements or both in the relevant areas under a local administration, depending in some instances on the flexibility of financial arrangements

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for the administration. A separate paper on finance is being tabled for participants' consideration.

9. There was little or no scope for manoeuvre in some 16 of the total, either because of the need to implement EC Directives (2 Orders) or because of an obligation to follow Government policy (14).

Conclusion

10. The Government hopes that participants will find this information helpful in further debate. We would be willing to bring forward a further more general paper on the scope for policy variation locally, if participants would find that helpful.

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IN CONFIDENCE**APPENDIX 1****Orders which reflect particular local circumstances in Northern Ireland****Street Works (Northern Ireland) Order 1995**

The purpose of this Order was to provide for improved management of the work of utilities on the public highway.

The Codes of Practice for the implementation of the terms of the Order, none of which has as yet been introduced, will reflect the different administrative arrangements which exist in Northern Ireland, in particular the existence of a single Northern Ireland Roads Authority.

Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (Northern Ireland) Order 1995

The purpose of this Order was to build on the Historic Monuments Acts (NI) of 1926, 1937 and 1971 and to introduce further provisions reflected in GB's Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.

There are certain different administrative arrangements in Northern Ireland. The Order confers on DOE (NI) (through its Environment and Heritage Service) responsibilities collectively shared in England by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport, English Heritage, the Royal Commission on Historic Monuments and Local Authority Archaeologists (all paralleled in Scotland and Wales).

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 1995

The main purpose of this Order was to facilitate the provision of street names and numbers in a language other than English.

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This is a provision peculiar to Northern Ireland. However, the Order also contains some financial provisions which brought Northern Ireland practice into line with equivalent practice in GB.

The Arts Council (Northern Ireland) Order 1995

The purpose of the Order was to establish in Northern Ireland institutions in accordance with Northern Ireland needs and arrangements.

It took account of the equivalent Arts Council in Great Britain but it was not a replication of the GB provisions.

Armagh Observatory and Planetarium (Northern Ireland) Order 1995

The purpose of this Order was to provide for the constitution and functions of the Governors of the Armagh Observatory and Planetarium. It covered a Northern Ireland institution in accordance with local needs and arrangements. There is no equivalent body or national policy which could have been replicated.

Ports (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) Order 1995

The purpose of this Order was to amend the Ports (NI) Order 1994 to allow the Department of Environment or the Department of Agriculture, if they choose, to reconsider the amount of levy assessed under Article 3 of that Order.

The power to make amendments to the original Order was a local provision inserted to allow departure from the corresponding GB Act where Northern Ireland circumstances made variations necessary or desirable.

IN CONFIDENCE**Licensing (Northern Ireland) Order 1996**

This Order was broadly similar to equivalent legislation in Great Britain.

There were, however, key differences in Northern Ireland with regard, for example, to categories of premises which may be licensed, licensing hours and the duration of licenses. The Order also reflected the different administrative structures in Northern Ireland. The mechanics of licensing is handled in Northern Ireland by the courts and in Great Britain by licensing justices.

Registration of Clubs (Northern Ireland) Order 1996

This Order was broadly similar to equivalent legislation in Great Britain.

There were, however, key differences in Northern Ireland with regard, for example, to the types of clubs which may be registered, the duration of certificates of registration, arrangements for the accounts and systems of control to be set up and maintained. The Order also reflected the different administrative structures in Northern Ireland - the mechanics of granting and renewing certificates of registration is handled in Northern Ireland by the courts and in Great Britain by licensing justices.

The Education (Northern Ireland) Order 1996

This Order contained 4 main provisions covering special educational needs (SEN), corporate punishment, school inspections and key stages and compulsory contributory subjects in KS Four.

The SEN provisions replicate quite closely the provisions in the England and Wales legislation. However, the decision to follow England and Wales was a free choice. The provisions on corporate punishment brought Northern Ireland legislation in grant-aided schools into line with the provisions of Article 28 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. As part of the United Kingdom it was necessary for Northern Ireland to introduce this

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provision but it could have gone further and abolished corporate punishment in independent schools as well. It was Government's view however that that was a matter for the proprietors of such schools. The provisions on schools inspections fulfilled a commitment to the Citizens Charter. The provisions on KS Four reflected the thrust of national arrangements but had many differences of detail to reflect local circumstances.

Business Tendencies (Northern Ireland) Order 1996

This Order gave effect to distinctive Northern Ireland policies in the area of business tendencies.

The policy in this Order differs from that in GB because there already existed a different legislative framework in Northern Ireland and the consultation undertaken in Northern Ireland supported a different approach in a number of key areas.

The Gas (Northern Ireland) Order 1996

The purpose of this Order was to provide for the supply of gas through pipes.

There are a number of key differences between it and the Great Britain Gas Acts, partly related to the need to establish an entirely new gas industry from scratch in as soon a time as possible and partly related to Northern Ireland's relatively small geographical size.

There are also differences concerning the duty placed on the General Consumer Council, rights of entry, exclusive licenses and the transfer and disposal of the assets of former town gas undertakings.

Fair Employment (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) Order 1996

The purpose of this Order was to remove the existing limit on the amount of compensation which the Fair Employment Tribunal could order a respondent to pay in a case of religious or political discrimination.

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Fair Employment legislation relating to religion is unique to Northern Ireland.

Waste Management and Contaminated Land (Northern Ireland) Order 1997

This Order introduced a new system of waste management controls and powers to deal with contaminated land, in line with EC Directives.

Under the Order local councils in Northern Ireland, like those in Scotland, may undertake waste management responsibilities themselves or may make arrangements with the private sector to do so on their behalf. In England and Wales, however, local authorities must employ the private sector directly or create stand alone waste disposal companies. The reason for the difference in Northern Ireland is that the number and relatively small size of local councils here could not support the creation of a large number of separate companies to carry out waste disposal and collection activities.

Responsibility for dealing with contaminated land follows arrangements in GB by conferring powers on both local councils and the Department of the Environment. However, it is possible for local councils to be given an enforcement role different from local authorities in GB because of differences in the scale and nature of problems associated with contaminated land in Northern Ireland.

Road Traffic Regulations (Northern Ireland) Order 1997

The purpose of this Order was to regulate the movement of vehicles on roads and the parking of vehicles and reflected the current Road Traffic Regulations law in GB.

Most of the differences which exist between the Northern Ireland and GB versions of the law are attributable to different administrative arrangements, to differences in the nature or extent of traffic problems faced and to the extent to which powers taken in GB appeared likely to be effective in Northern Ireland.

IN CONFIDENCE**Property (Northern Ireland) Order 1997**

This Order gave effect to distinctive NI policy in the area of ground rents and the creation of freehold covenants. Northern Ireland has a totally different property law system and legislative framework to Great Britain.

Appropriation Orders (2 to 3 per year)

These are technical orders rather than policy measures which are required to obtain Parliamentary (or Assembly) approval to voted expenditure.

Rates (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) Orders (one a year)

These Orders make amendments preparatory to or consequential on the non-domestic revaluation.

Since Northern Ireland has retained a rating system rather than introduce council tax/uniform business rates, the extent of rating legislation reflects distinctive Northern Ireland arrangements. There is, however, a UK constraint on policy relating to local government finance in Northern Ireland. HM Treasury has a direct interest in ensuring that Northern Ireland raises an appropriate amount through local taxation, since failure to do so would impose costs on the GB taxpayer.

IN CONFIDENCE**APPENDIX 2**

Orders which Ministers have decided should mirror or bring Northern Ireland closer into line with national policy, although there is no legal or overriding policy imperative to do so

Roads Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1995

The purpose of this Order was to review and update Northern Ireland's road traffic law relating to road safety and the construction and use of vehicles.

It brought Northern Ireland into line with provisions already existing in GB, although it would have been possible to take a different approach.

The Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995

This Order was closely modelled on the Children Act 1989 which covered England Wales.

There were a number of provisions which reflected the different administrative structures in Northern Ireland, that is the different structures and procedures in NI courts and the fact that Social Services are delivered through Boards and Trusts, not local authorities as in England and Wales.

Trade Union and Labour Relations (Northern Ireland) Order 1995

The purpose of this Order was to bring trade union law in Northern Ireland into line with that applying in Great Britain. The initial intention of the 1995 Order was to introduce corresponding provisions to those already in force in Great Britain.

A number of differences do still exist between Great Britain and Northern Ireland trade union law after the making of this Order. Moreover, while there are no provisions to reflect or provide for different administrative structures or arrangements for delivery of policy in

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Northern Ireland and current policy is to maintain broad parity with Great Britain on industrial relations and employment law matters, it remains theoretically possible for there to be some departure from national policy or administrative arrangements in the future.

Agriculture (Conservation Grants) (Northern Ireland) Order 1996

The main purpose of this Order was to replicate in Northern Ireland a power in GB's Environmental Act 1995 to make grants for purposes conducive to conservation.

When the Environmental Bill was proceeding through Parliament in 1995 it was not intended that it should apply to Northern Ireland but it was felt that the particular provision subsequently enacted would enable a comprehensive and coherent approach to be adopted to agri-environment legislation in Northern Ireland. Discretion was exercised with the introduction of the Order but there were no implications for administrative structures for delivery of the policy.

Road Traffic (Offenders) (Northern Ireland) Order 1996

The purpose of this Order was to introduce penalty points and extend driving tests for the most serious driving offences and provide for trials in the use of rehabilitation courses for drink drivers.

The legislation was modelled on GB's Road Traffic Act 1988 and harmonised Northern Ireland's laws dealing with the prosecution and punishment of road traffic offenders with the corresponding laws in GB. However, it would have been possible to take a different approach.

The Commissioner for Complaints (Northern Ireland) Order 1996 and the Ombudsman (Northern Ireland) Order 1996

Both these Orders consolidated, with some amendments, existing Northern Ireland legislation.

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In some respects, the Northern Ireland legislation differs from that of Great Britain - differences which have existed since the introduction of the original legislation in 1969 and which have been retained in the 1996 legislation. In some cases, the changes made through the Orders followed Great Britain and reflected the recommendations of the Select Committee which covers Northern Ireland and Great Britain. Overall Northern Ireland and Great Britain have proceeded in broadly the same direction on Ombudsman legislation, a strong factor being the existence of the UK-wide Select Committee.

**Employment Rights (Northern Ireland) Order 1996 and the
Industrial Tribunals (Northern Ireland) Order 1996**

These 2 Orders provided for the consolidation of the existing Northern Ireland legislation on individual employment rights and industrial tribunals.

Although Northern Ireland has its own separate legal and administrative framework of industrial relations legislation, it has generally followed the corresponding law in Great Britain. Current Government policy is one of parity in this area unless there are compelling local reasons justifying a departure. In addition, there are no provisions reflecting or providing for different administrative structures or arrangements for delivery of policy in Northern Ireland. However, it is theoretically possible for there to be some movement on either national policy or administrative arrangements.

Domestic Energy Efficiency Schemes (Northern Ireland) Order 1996

The purpose of this Order was to replicate in Northern Ireland certain provisions of the Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996. It did not give effect to a policy approach separate or distinct from the rest of the UK, although it was possible to do so.

IN CONFIDENCE**Industrial Tribunals (Northern Ireland) Order 1996**

This Order re-enacted provisions relating to Industrial Tribunals which were scattered throughout employment rights legislation.

The only provisions which give effect to a policy approach separate or distinct from the rest of the UK relate to appeals, which are made to Employment Appeals Tribunals in Great Britain and, because of the very small caseload, to the Court of Appeal in Northern Ireland. There are no provisions reflecting or providing for different administrative structures or arrangements for delivery of policy in Northern Ireland; and current policy is to maintain broad parity with Great Britain on industrial relations and employment law matters. However it is theoretically possible for there to be some departure from national policy or administrative arrangements.

The Deregulation and Contracting Out (Northern Ireland) Order 1996

Of the 6 deregulatory measures in this Order, 3 replicated measures contained in the Deregulation and Contracting Out Act 1994 and 3 were unique to Northern Ireland.

From a legislative point of view it would have been possible not to follow the GB approach.

Construction Contracts (Northern Ireland) Order 1997

The purpose of this Order was to replicate in Northern Ireland certain provisions of the Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996. It did not give effect to a policy approach separate or distinct from the rest of the UK, although it possible to do so.

Industrial Pollution Control (Northern Ireland) Order 1997

The purpose of this Order was to provide an improved system of control of pollution from industrial processes.

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As in GB, responsibility for enforcement is shared by a Chief Inspector (located within Environment Heritage Service) and local councils. However, Northern Ireland is slightly different in terms of administrative arrangements. The Chief Inspector has responsibility for control of some processes which in GB are controlled by local authorities. The reasons for this deviation are the different nature of the industrial base in Northern Ireland and the lack of capacity of local councils here to take on new responsibilities. In policy terms the Order does not give effect to an approach in Northern Ireland which is separate or distinct from the rest of the UK, although it would have been possible to do so.

The Shops (Sunday Trading etc) (Northern Ireland) Order 1997

This Order brought Northern Ireland shops law broadly into line with the corresponding law in England and Wales which was contained in the Sunday Trading Act 1994 and the Employment Rights Act 1996.

Northern Ireland does, however, differ from Great Britain in some important aspects, for example, the opening hours for large shops and the work required of local Councils which in Northern Ireland are not required to keep a register of large shops trading on Sundays. The Order did not reflect any provisions which provided for different administrative structures or arrangements for the delivery of policy in Northern Ireland. There was, however, provision for scope for departure from national policy or administrative arrangements in two main areas.

The first, handled by DHSS, relates to the regulation of Sunday trading hours. There was scope for departure from the law in England and Wales but a consultation exercise in 1995 produced a majority in favour of bringing Northern Ireland shops law into line with England and Wales. The second element of the Order relates to the employment protection measures of the legislation. Northern Ireland currently has a policy of maintaining parity in employment law and therefore the provisions of the Northern Ireland Order in this field are identical to legislation in England and Wales.

IN CONFIDENCE**Commissioner for Complaints (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) Order 1997**

This Order extended the Northern Ireland Commissioner's jurisdiction in line with GB's Health Service Commissioners (Amendment) Act 1996.

It is current policy to maintain broad parity with Great Britain in this area although the Northern Ireland Commissioner has a wider remit than in Great Britain and also covers numerous public and local government bodies.

The Further Education (Northern Ireland) Order 1997

This Order reflects and provides for different administrative structures and arrangements for the delivery of a policy in Northern Ireland which had already been introduced in Great Britain in 1993. However, it was a separate decision to implement this policy in Northern Ireland. The Order also reflects local arrangements and the distinctive features of the Northern Ireland education system.

Education (Northern Ireland) Order 1997

This Order has 2 main provisions covering pre-school education and open enrolment and school transport.

The open enrolment arrangements reflected broadly similar arrangements in Great Britain but these were adapted to take account of the selective system of education in Northern Ireland. The pre-school education provisions implemented the nursery voucher scheme in Northern Ireland as part of a national scheme. However, it would have been open to the Department of Education or a local administration to make different arrangements, in light of local circumstances.

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IN CONFIDENCE**Race Relations (Northern Ireland) Order 1997**

This legislation broadly follows the Race Relations Act 1976.

The main differences from Great Britain are the specific inclusion of the Irish Travellers as a separate ethnic minority group in the Northern Ireland legislation and provisions reflecting the separate pattern of central and local government structures here.

Deregulation (Northern Ireland) Order 1997

This Order contains 6 deregulatory measures which replicated action taken in Great Britain and 2 deregulatory measures unique to Northern Ireland.

Although the measures did have direct Great Britain read across it would have been possible not to deregulate.

Financial Provisions Orders (every 2 years approx)

These Orders provide for financial provisions of a technical, non-controversial nature. The provisions can either reflect parity with GB or a distinctive NI approach, depending on circumstances and/or policy.

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IN CONFIDENCE**APPENDIX 3****Orders necessary to comply with EC Directives and where there is no local or national discretion possible but where separate Northern Ireland provision is required****The Wildlife (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) Order 1995**

The main purpose of this Order was to bring the Wildlife (NI) Order 1985 into line with the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 so as to allow full implementation of the EC Wild Birds Directive.

The Order does not give effect to a policy approach in Northern Ireland separate or distinct from the rest of the UK and does not reflect or provide for different local administrative structures or arrangements.

Food Safety (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) Order 1996

The main purpose of this Order was to give DANI regulation making powers to enable it to implement various EC Meat Hygiene Directives. Other amendments brought Northern Ireland into line with GB's Food Safety Act 1990.

Legislation on food safety is mostly EC driven and made on a parity basis with GB. The Order did not, therefore, give effect to a policy approach in Northern Ireland separate or distinct from the rest of the UK and, as a consequence, did not reflect or provide for different local administrative structures or arrangements.

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IN CONFIDENCE**APPENDIX 4****Orders where there is no local discretion and Ministers are obliged to follow national policy****Child Support (Northern Ireland) Order 1995**

The purpose of this Order was to introduce into Northern Ireland those provisions contained in the Child Support Act 1995.

There were no provisions which reflected or provided for different administrative structures or arrangements for the delivery of policy in Northern Ireland. Furthermore, there was no scope for departure from national policy or administrative arrangements given the desire to maintain parity with the rest of the United Kingdom.

Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 1995

The purpose of this Order was to replicate in Northern Ireland the provisions of the Pensions Act 1995 which amended the law in Great Britain in relation to occupation, state and personal pensions.

In policy terms the Order does not give effect to an approach in Northern Ireland which is separate or distinct from the rest of the UK. Ministers are obliged to follow national policy.

Health and Personal Social Services (Amendment)(Northern Ireland) Order 1995

The purpose of this Order was to replicate in Northern Ireland certain provisions of the National Health Service (Amendment) Act 1995. There was no provision which gave effect to a policy approach in Northern Ireland separate or distinct from the rest of the United Kingdom.

Jobseekers Allowance (Northern Ireland) Order 1995**IN CONFIDENCE**

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The purpose of this Order was to replicate in Northern Ireland the provisions of the Jobseekers Act 1995, which introduced the Jobseeker's Allowance and replaced unemployment benefit and income support for unemployed people. It also made provision to promote the employment of the unemployed.

In policy terms the Order does not give effect to an approach in Northern Ireland which is separate or distinct from the rest of the UK. Ministers are obliged to follow national policy.

Polygamous Marriages (Northern Ireland) Order 1995

The purpose of this Order was to reflect parallel GB legislation.

The Order did not give effect to a policy approach in Northern Ireland separate or distinct from the rest of the UK.

Education (Student Loans)(Northern Ireland) Order 1996

The purpose of this order was to replicate in Northern Ireland provisions contained in the Education (Student Loans) Act 1996.

The Order provides for the payment of subsidies to private sector financial institutions which provide loans to students in higher education. There was no provision which gave effect to a policy approach in Northern Ireland separate or distinct from the rest of the United Kingdom.

Personal Social Services (Direct Payments)(Northern Ireland) Order 1996

The purpose of this Order was to replicate the Health and Personal Social Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1972 to enable the DHSS to make payments to persons in respect of their securing the provisions of personal social services. It did not give effect to a policy approach separate or distinct from the rest of the UK.

IN CONFIDENCE**Health and Personal Social Services (Residual Liabilities)(Northern Ireland) Order 1996**

This Order imposes a duty on the DHSS to exercise its statutory powers to transfer property, rights and liabilities of defunct health bodies to either itself or other Health and Social Services bodies. The Order did not give effect to a policy approach separate or distinct from the rest of the UK.

Housing Benefit (Payment to Third Parties) (Northern Ireland) Order 1996

The purpose of this Order was to replicate in Northern Ireland the provisions contained in s.120 of the Housing Act 1996.

Housing benefit policy, like social security policy, is applied uniformly throughout the UK.

Social Security (Recovery of Benefits) (Northern Ireland) Order 1997

The purpose of this Order was to introduce to Northern Ireland the provisions contained within the Social Security (Recovery of Benefits) Act 1997.

There were no provisions which reflected or provided for different administrative structures or arrangements for the delivery of policy in Northern Ireland. Furthermore, there was no scope for departure from national policy or administrative arrangements.

Health Services (Primary Care)(Northern Ireland) Order 1997

The purpose of this Order was to replicate in Northern Ireland certain provisions of the National Health Service (Primary Care) Act 1997. There was no provision which gave effect to a policy approach in Northern Ireland separate or distinct from the rest of the United Kingdom.

Health and Personal Social Services (Private Finance)(Northern Ireland) Order 1997

The purpose of this Order was to replicate in Northern Ireland certain provisions of the National Health Service (Private Finance) Act 1997. There was no provision which gave effect to a policy approach in Northern Ireland separate or distinct from the rest of the United Kingdom.

Social Security Administration (Fraud) (Northern Ireland) Order 1997

The purpose of this Order was to introduce into Northern Ireland the provisions contained within the Social Security Administration (Fraud) Act 1997.

Social security policy is administered on the basis of parity with the rest of the UK.

Succession (Northern Ireland) Order 1996

The purpose of this Order was to reflect certain parts of the Law Reform (Succession) Act 1995 which were appropriate to Northern Ireland.

It did not give effect to a policy approach separate or distinct from the rest of the UK.