

*Draft Regulations laid before the Assembly under section 138(6) of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 for approval by resolution of the Assembly*

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DRAFT STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

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**2014 No.**

**CRIMINAL LAW**

**The Sexual Offences Act 2003 (Notification Requirements) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014**

*Made - - - - - \*\*\*  
Coming into operation in accordance with Regulation  
1(2)*

The Department of Justice makes the following regulations, in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 83(5) and (5A), 84(1) and (5A), 85(5), 86 and 138(9) of the Sexual Offences Act 2003(1) and now vested in it(2).

In accordance with section 138(6) of that Act, a draft of these Regulations was laid before, and approved by a resolution of, the Assembly.

**Citation and commencement**

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Sexual Offences Act 2003 (Notification Requirements) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014.

(2) These Regulations shall come into operation on the day following the date on which they are approved by resolution of the Assembly.

**Interpretation**

2. In these Regulations—

“the 2003 Act” means the Sexual Offences Act 2003;

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(1) 2003 c.42. Section 83 was amended by section 142(1) of, and paragraph 54(1) of Schedule 26 to, the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 (c.4). Section 84 was amended by section 142(2) to (5) of the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008. Section 85 was amended by section 142 (6) to (9) of the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008. Section 86 was amended by section 149 of, and Part 4, of the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008.

(2) Section 138 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 conferred regulation making powers upon the Secretary of State. Article 12 of, and paragraph 77(3) of Schedule 14 to, the Northern Ireland Act 1998 (Devolution of Policing and Justice Functions) Order 2010 (S.I. 2010/976) inserted subsections (5) to (9) and transferred these powers to the Department of Justice in Northern Ireland.

“the 2004 Regulations” means the Sexual Offences Act 2003 (Travel Notification Requirements) Regulations 2004(3);

“banking institution” means a bank, building society or other institution which provides banking services;

“business” includes any trade, profession or vocation;

“child” means a person aged under 18 years;

“credit card” means a card which is a credit-token within the meaning of section 14(1)(b) of the Consumer Credit Act 1974(4);

“credit card provider” means a bank, building society or other institution which provides a credit card;

“debit card” means a card the use of which by its holder to make a payment results in a current account of the holder at a banking institution being debited with the payment;

“identity document” has the same meaning as in the Identity Documents Act 2010(5) but does not include a stamp or label; and

“relevant household” means a household or other place—

- (a) where a child resides or stays, and
- (b) to which the public do not have access (whether for payment or not).”.

#### **Transitional provision: travel notification requirements**

3. A relevant offender who intends to leave the United Kingdom for a period of less than three days, except where he intends to travel to the Republic of Ireland, is not required to give notification in accordance with regulation 5(1) of the 2004 Regulations if his intended date of departure is on or before the date 14 days after these Regulations come into force.

#### **Amendment of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 (Travel Notification Requirements) Regulations 2004**

4. The 2004 Regulations are amended in accordance with regulations 5 to 8 of these Regulations.
5. In regulation 5 of the 2004 Regulations—
  - (a) in paragraph (1) after “United Kingdom” insert “ except to travel to the Republic of Ireland” and omit “for a period of three days or longer”;
  - (b) after paragraph (1) insert “(2) A relevant offender who intends to leave the United Kingdom to travel to the Republic of Ireland for a period of three days or longer must give a notification under section 86(2) in accordance with these Regulations”;
  - (c) in paragraph (3) for “(3)” substitute “(4)” and for “24 hours” substitute “12 hours”.
6. For regulation 6 of the 2004 Regulations substitute—

#### **“Information to be disclosed in a notification under section 86(2)**

6. In addition to the information required by section 86(2)(a) and (b), a relevant offender to whom these Regulations apply must disclose, where he holds such information—

- (a) where he intends to travel to more than one country outside the United Kingdom, his intended point of arrival in each such additional country,

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(3) S.I.2004/1220.

(4) 1974 c.39.

(5) 2010 c.40.

- (b) the dates on which he intends to stay in any country to which he intends to travel,
  - (c) details of his accommodation arrangements in any country to which he intends to travel,
  - (d) the identity of any carrier or carriers he intends to use for the purposes of his departure from and return to the United Kingdom, and of travelling to any other point of arrival,
  - (e) in a case in which he intends to return to the United Kingdom on a particular date, that date, and
  - (f) in a case in which he intends to return to the United Kingdom at a particular point of arrival, that point of arrival.”.
7. In regulation 7 of the 2004 Regulations—
- (a) in paragraph (2) for “24 hours” substitute “12 hours”;
  - (b) after paragraph (2) insert —  
“3) The relevant offender may not give notification under paragraph (2) less than 24 hours before the date of his intended departure unless he has a reasonable excuse for being unable to give such notification before that time.”.
8. In regulation 8 of the 2004 Regulations—
- (a) in paragraph (3)(a) for “6(d)” substitute “6(e)”;
  - (b) in paragraph (3)(b) for “6(e)” substitute “6(f)”.

#### **Periodic notification of address where there is no sole or main residence**

9. For the purposes of section 85(5)(a) of the 2003 Act, the applicable period means the period of seven days.

#### **Notification to be given by relevant offender residing or staying at a relevant household**

10.—(1) The information set out in paragraph (2) is prescribed for the purposes of section 83(5)(h) of the 2003 Act in a case where a relevant offender (R) resides, or stays for a period of at least 12 hours, at a relevant household.

- (2) The information which R must notify is—
- (a) the date on which R begins to reside or stay at a relevant household,
  - (b) the address of the relevant household, and
  - (c) where R holds such information, the period or periods for which R intends to reside or stay at the relevant household.

11.—(1) The changes in circumstances set out in paragraph (2) are prescribed for the purposes of section 84(1)(ca) of the 2003 Act.

- (2) The changes of circumstances are where the relevant offender (R) –
- (a) resides, or stays for a period of at least 12 hours, at a relevant household in relation to which there has been no notification under section 83(1);
  - (b) ceases to reside or stay at a relevant household in relation to which there has been a notification under section 83(1).
- (3) A notification given under section 84(1) of the 2003 Act must disclose the date from which R resides or stays, or the date on which R ceases to reside or stay, at a relevant household.

## **Notification of information about bank accounts and credit cards**

**12.—**(1) The information set out in paragraphs (2) to (7) is prescribed for the purposes of section 83(5)(h) of the 2003 Act in a case where a relevant offender (R) holds –

- (a) an account with a banking institution in R’s name, or in R’s name and the name of another person, and in relation to each such account, the information specified in paragraph (2);
  - (b) an account with a banking institution in the name of an unincorporated business which is run by R, or run by R and another person, and in relation to each such account, the information specified in paragraph (3);
  - (c) a debit card in relation to any account of which notification is given in accordance with sub-paragraph (a) or (b), and in relation to each such debit card, the information specified in paragraph (4);
  - (d) an account with a credit card provider in R’s name, or in R’s name and the name of another person, and in relation to each such account, the information specified in paragraph (5);
  - (e) an account with a credit card provider in the name of an unincorporated business which is run by R, or run by R and another person, and in relation to each such account, the information specified in paragraph (6); or
  - (f) a credit card in relation to any account of which notification is given in accordance with sub-paragraph (d) or (e), and in relation to each such credit card, the information specified in paragraph (7).
- (2) The information specified for the purposes of paragraph (1)(a) is—
- (a) the name of each banking institution with which R holds an account;
  - (b) the address of the office at which each account is held and, if that office is outside the United Kingdom, the address of the principal office in the United Kingdom (if any) of the banking institution;
  - (c) the number of each account; and
  - (d) the sort code in relation to each account.
- (3) The information specified for the purposes of paragraph (1)(b) is—
- (a) the information specified in paragraph (2); and
  - (b) the name of the business in whose name the account is held.
- (4) The information specified for the purposes of paragraph (1)(c) is—
- (a) the card number in relation to each debit card;
  - (b) the validation date of each debit card;
  - (c) the expiry date of each debit card; and
  - (d) the name of the business (if any) in whose name the card is held.
- (5) The information specified for the purposes of paragraph (1)(d) is—
- (a) the name of each credit card provider with which R holds an account;
  - (b) the address of the office at which each account is held and, if that office is outside the United Kingdom, the address of the principal office in the United Kingdom (if any) of the credit card provider; and
  - (c) the number of each account.
- (6) The information specified for the purposes of paragraph (1)(e) is—
- (a) the information specified in paragraph (5); and
  - (b) the name of the business in whose name the card is held.

(7) The information specified for the purposes of paragraph (1)(f) is—

- (a) the card number in relation to each credit card;
- (b) the validation date of each credit card;
- (c) the expiry date of each credit card; and
- (d) the name of the business (if any) in whose name the card is held.

**13.**—(1) The changes in circumstances set out in paragraph (2) are prescribed for the purposes of section 84(1)(ca) of the 2003 Act.

(2) The changes of circumstance are where—

- (a) an account which a relevant offender (R) holds with a banking institution, as specified in regulation 12(1)(a) or (b), has been—
  - (i) opened, or
  - (ii) closed;
- (b) a debit card R holds in relation to any account specified in regulation 12(1)(a) or (b)—
  - (i) has been obtained by R, or
  - (ii) is no longer held by R;
- (c) an account R holds with a credit card provider, as specified in regulation 12(1)(d) or (e), has been—
  - (i) opened, or
  - (ii) closed;
- (d) a credit card R holds in relation to any account specified in regulation 12(1)(d) or (e)—
  - (i) has been obtained by R, or
  - (ii) is no longer held by R;
- (e) any information previously notified by R under regulation 12(1) has—
  - (i) altered, or
  - (ii) become inaccurate or incomplete.

(3) A notification given under section 84(1) of the 2003 Act must include the information specified in regulation 12(2) to (7) in relation to that account, or debit or credit card.

#### **Notification of information about passport or other form of identification**

**14.**—(1) The information set out in paragraph (2) is prescribed for the purposes of section 83(5)(h) of the 2003 Act in a case where a relevant offender (R) holds any passport, other identity document or (in a case where R does not hold any passport or other identity document) any other document in which R's full name appears.

(2) The information which R must notify is—

- (a) where R holds any passport, and in relation to each passport R holds—
  - (i) the passport number, and
  - (ii) R's full name as it appears in the passport;
- (b) where R does not hold a passport, in relation to any other identity document R holds—
  - (i) the description of the identity document,
  - (ii) the issue number (if any) of the identity document, and
  - (iii) R's full name as it appears in the identity document;

- (c) where R does not hold a passport or other identity document, in relation to another document R holds—
  - (i) the description of the document (including the name of any issuing authority),
  - (ii) the issue number (if any) of the document; and
  - (iii) R’s full name as it appears in the document.

**15.—**(1) The changes in circumstances set out in paragraph (2) are prescribed for the purposes of section 84(1)(ca) of the 2003 Act.

- (2) The changes of circumstance are where the relevant offender—
  - (a) obtains a passport, other identity document or other document in relation to which there has been no notification under section 83(1); and
  - (b) ceases to hold a passport, other identity document or other document in relation to which there has been a notification under section 83(1).

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Justice on xx xxxx xxxx.



Address

*David Ford*  
Minister of Justice

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## EXPLANATORY NOTE

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

Part 2 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 (“the 2003 Act”) imposes notification requirements on offenders convicted of certain sexual offences. These offenders are called “relevant offenders”. The 2003 Act requires relevant offenders to notify certain personal information to the police, both at the outset and periodically thereafter and to notify certain changes in circumstances.

These Regulations amend the Sexual Offences Act 2003 (Travel Notification Requirements) Regulations 2004 (SI 2004/1220) (“the 2004 Regulations”) and introduce new notification requirements under the 2003 Act.

Regulations 3 to 8 make provision about the application of, or amend, the 2004 Regulations. Regulation 3 contains transitional provision for the 14 day period immediately following the coming into force of these Regulations. Regulation 5 makes complete provision for relevant offenders who intend to travel outside the United Kingdom. It provides that relevant offenders are required to notify their personal details to the police under Part 2 of the 2003 Act in relation to any intended travel outside the United Kingdom, except when travelling to the Republic of Ireland, regardless of the length of the trip. Notification of travel outside of the United Kingdom to the Republic of Ireland must be made where the relevant offender intends to travel for a period of three or more days. Previously, the 2004 Regulations required relevant offenders to notify the police of intended travel outside the United Kingdom, but only where this related to travel for a period of three or more days. Additionally, Regulation 5 provides that relevant offenders are required to notify their intended travel not less than seven days before departure, or exceptionally not less than 12 hours before departure. Previously, the 2004 Regulations only permitted relevant offenders to exceptionally notify the intended travel not less than 24 hours before departure. Regulation 6 provides that relevant offenders must notify additional information about their intended travel. Regulations 7 and 8 make consequential amendments to the 2004 Regulations, including provision for relevant offenders to exceptionally notify a change to information previously notified by them less than 12 hours before departure.

Regulation 9 requires relevant offenders who have no sole or main residence to notify every seven days the address or location of a place in the United Kingdom where they can regularly be found. Previously, Part 2 of the 2003 Act required such a relevant offender to give notification once every year.

Regulations 10 and 11 require relevant offenders to notify the police when the relevant offender resides, or stays for at least 12 hours, at a relevant household. A relevant household is a household or other place at which a child (defined as a person aged under 18 years) resides or stays (whether with its parent, guardian or carer, with another child or alone) and to which the public do not have access. The information must include the date on which the relevant offender begins to reside or stay at the relevant household, its address and the period for which the relevant offender intends to reside or stay at that place.

Regulations 12 and 13 impose requirements on relevant offenders to notify information about their bank accounts, and debit and credit cards. It applies to accounts and cards held by relevant offenders in their own names or in the name of an unincorporated business run by them, and whether held singly or jointly with another person.

Regulation 12(1) requires relevant offenders to notify the police about whether they hold an account with a banking institution (defined as a bank, building society or any other institution providing banking services), a debit card in relation to such an account, a credit card account or a credit card.

If relevant offenders hold an account or card, they are required to notify the information specified in regulation 12(2) to (7).

Regulation 13 requires relevant offenders to notify a change in any of the circumstances prescribed by that regulation. These circumstances arise where an account is opened or closed, a debit or credit card is obtained, no longer held or has expired and information previously notified by the relevant offenders has altered or become inaccurate or incomplete.

Regulations 14 and 15 require relevant offenders, when giving initial notification under sections 83 to 85 of the 2003 Act, to give certain information in accordance with whether or not they hold a passport, other identity document (which has the meaning given in section 7 of the Identity Documents Act 2010) or other document. If the relevant offender holds a passport, the information must comprise the passport number and relevant offender's full name as it appears in the passport. If the relevant offender does not hold a passport but holds another identity document, the information must comprise the description of the identity document, its issue number (if any) and the relevant offender's full name as it appears in the identity document. If the relevant offender does not hold a passport or other identity document, but holds another document containing information which can verify the relevant offender's identification, the information must comprise the description of the document, its issue number (if any) and the relevant offender's full name as it appears in the document.