BUDGET (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER 2003

S.I. 2003 420

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

COMMENTARY ON ARTICLES

12. Article 1: Title and commencement:

Article 2: Interpretation

Article 3: Issue of Sum out of the Consolidated Fund for year ending 31st March 2003 and appropriation of that sum.

Paragraph (1) authorises the issue out of the Consolidated Fund of Northern Ireland of the supplementary sum of £421,576,000 for 2002-2003.

Paragraph (2) appropriates that sum for the purposes specified in Schedule 1.

Article 4: Revised limit on the use of resources (other than accruing resources) for year ending 31st March 2003.

This article authorises the use of resources amounting to £10,503,229,000 for 2002-2003, for the purposes specified in column 1 of Schedule 2

Paragraph (4) provides authority for the resources limits set by the Budget Act (Northern Ireland) 2002 and the Budget (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2002 to be superseded by the amounts specified in column 2 of Schedule 2 of the Budget (Northern Ireland) Order 2003.

Article 5: Revised limits on use of certain accruing resources in year ending 31st March 2003 Paragraph (1) This article sets relevant limits on the total amount of accruing resources, including both operating and non-operating accruing resources that may be directed to be used for certain specified purposes as shown separately in the Estimates for 2002-03.

Paragraph (2) provides authority for the direction of accruing resources as specified in column 3 of Schedule 2 for the purposes specified in the corresponding entries in column 1 of that schedule. Paragraph (3) provides authority for the accruing resources limits set by the Budget (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2002 to be superseded by the amounts specified in column 3 of Schedule 2 of the Budget (Northern Ireland) Order 2003.

Article 6: Issue of sum out of the Consolidated Fund for year ending 31st March 2004 and appropriation of that sum.

Paragraph (1) authorises the issue out of the Consolidated Fund of Northern Ireland of the sum of £4,195,167,000 for 2003-04.

Paragraph (2) appropriates that sum for the purposes specified in Schedule 3.

Article 7: Power of the Department of Finance and Personnel to borrow

This article authorises the temporary borrowing by the Department of Finance and Personnel of approximately half the aggregate sum covered by Article 3 (1) and Article 6 (1). This is a normal safeguard against the possibility of a temporary deficiency arising in the Northern Ireland Consolidated Fund.

Article 8: Use of resources (other than accruing resources) for year ending 31st March 2004 This article authorises the use of resources amounting to £4,761,612,000 for 2003-2004, for the purposes specified in column 1 of Schedule 4.