
STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

2011 No. 407

**The Welfare of Animals (Slaughter or Killing)
(Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011**

Offences and penalties

5. After regulation 26, insert—

“Time limits for summary prosecutions

26A.—(1) Notwithstanding anything in Article 19(1) of the Magistrates’ Courts (Northern Ireland) Order 1981⁽¹⁾, a magistrates’ court may hear and determine a complaint relating to an offence under these Regulations if the complaint is made—

- (a) before the end of the period of three years beginning with the date of the commission of the offence, and
 - (b) before the end of the period of twelve months beginning with the date on which evidence which the prosecutor thinks is sufficient to justify the proceedings comes to their knowledge.
- (2) For the purposes of paragraph (1)(b)—
- (a) a certificate signed by or on behalf of the prosecutor and stating the date on which such evidence came to the prosecutor’s knowledge shall be conclusive evidence of that fact, and
 - (b) a certificate stating that matter and purporting to be so signed shall be treated as so signed unless the contrary is proved.”.