

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO

The Civil Legal Services (Disclosure of Information) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

SR 2015 No. 202

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared by the Department of Justice to accompany the Statutory Rule (details above) which is laid before the Northern Ireland Assembly.
- 1.2. The Statutory Rule is made under Article 32(1) of the Access to Justice (Northern Ireland) Order 2003 ("the 2003 Order") and is subject to the draft affirmative resolution procedure.

2. Purpose

- 2.1. These Regulations make provision for the disclosure of information which is furnished to the Department of Justice (including the Director of Legal Aid Casework and staff in the Legal Services Agency Northern Ireland), or any court, tribunal or other person or body, in connection with the case of an individual seeking or receiving civil legal services under Articles 12A to 20A of the 2003 Order.

3. Background

- 3.1. With effect from 1 April 2015, civil legal services will be commenced under the 2003 Order. A suite of subordinate legislation is required to implement civil legal services, including this set of Regulations.

4. Consultation

- 4.1. The Department launched a consultation with key stakeholders on these Regulations in September 2014. It received responses from the Attorney General for Northern Ireland, the Law Society of Northern Ireland and the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission.

5. Equality Impact

- 5.1. The Regulations have been screened for their equality impact and none was found.

6. Regulatory Impact

- 6.1. The Regulations do not impose any restriction or burden on business. Consequently, an Impact Assessment is not required.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1. There are no financial implications.

8. Section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998

- 8.1. These Regulations are considered to be compatible with section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.

9. EU Implications

9.1. Not applicable.

10. Parity or Replicatory Measure

10.1. Similar provisions apply in England and Wales.

11. Additional Information

11.1. Not applicable.